

## USC General Education Requirements Fall 2025 - Summer 2026

The 2025 - 2026 USC GE is required of all students who started college Summer 2015 or later. This includes students who took college classes prior to high school graduation. Students that started college before Summer 2015 must use the GE Pattern for the year they enrolled in college.

### What kind of credit can I receive for college courses I took while in high school?

**Transfer Requirements:** There are six Core Literacy categories, in which eight courses are required. All students must complete one course in each of the Arts, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Quantitative Reasoning, and two courses in each of Humanistic Inquiry and Social Analysis. Several of these requirements can be met with approved transfer courses, but all students must complete at least two Core Literacy classes (in Categories GE-A through GE-F) at USC. All General Education courses at USC carry four units of credit. To be eligible for transfer, a course taken at another institution must be articulated for a minimum of 2 and 2/3 units of USC credit, with an earned grade of C minus or higher.

Once a student begins enrollment at USC, all general education Core Literacy requirements must be met with courses taken at USC. The Global Perspective requirements may be met with approved transfer courses taken over the summer after enrolling at USC. Transfer students who began college elsewhere before Fall 2015 should consult the USC catalogue for information about their general education requirements at USC.

Transfer students are not required to complete a General Education Seminar (GESM).

Students may view approved transfer courses on the USC Office of Articulation website located at: [www.usc.edu/transferecredit](http://www.usc.edu/transferecredit).

<b>CATEGORY A: THE ARTS</b> (1 course required)	<b>CATEGORY B: HUMANISTIC INQUIRY</b> (2 courses required)	<b>CATEGORY C: SOCIAL ANALYSIS</b> (2 courses required)
<b>Art History:</b> 1; 2; 3; 5; 6; 11; 15; 17; 18; 21; 22; 52; 71; 72 <b>Dance:</b> 2; 5; 6 <b>English:</b> 45; 55 <b>Film Studies:</b> 1; 2; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 11 <b>Music:</b> 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 36; 37; 39 <b>Philosophy:</b> 11 <b>Photography:</b> 52 <b>Theatre Arts:</b> 2; 5	<b>Chinese:</b> 9 <b>English:</b> 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 14; 15; 17; 18; 26; 34; 38; 39; 40; 41; 49; 50; 51; 52; 53; 54; 56; 57; 58; 59; 62; 63; 64 <b>Environmental Studies:</b> 20 <b>History:</b> 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 11; 12; 16; 19; 21; 22; 24; 25; 26; 27; 29; 33; 34; 38; 39; 41; 53; 55 <b>Humanities:</b> 9A; 26 <b>Japanese:</b> 9 <b>Korean:</b> 9 <b>Philosophy:</b> 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 10; 20; 22; 23; 24; 48; 51; 52 <b>Political Science:</b> 51; 52 <b>Religious Studies:</b> 51; 52	<b>Anthropology:</b> 2; 3; 7; 14; 20; 21; 22 <b>Economics:</b> 5; 6; 15 <b>Environmental Studies:</b> 7; 14; 22; 32 <b>Ethnic Studies:</b> 1; 7 <b>Geography:</b> 2; 7; 8; 11; 14 <b>Global Studies:</b> 5; 10; 11 <b>History:</b> 10; 13; 14; 15; 20; 28; 32; 42; 43; 52; 62 <b>Political Science:</b> 1; 3; 5; 7; 8; 14; 21; 22; 23; 47 <b>Sociology:</b> 1; 15; 2; 25; 12; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34 <b>Urban Studies:</b> 8 <b>Women's, Gender, Sexuality Studies:</b> 10; 20; 30; 40
<b>CATEGORY D: LIFE SCIENCES</b> (1 course required)	<b>CATEGORY E: PHYSICAL SCIENCES</b> (1 course required)	<b>CATEGORY F: QUANTITATIVE REASONING</b> (1 course required)
<b>Anthropology:</b> 5* <b>Biology:</b> 3; 10; 15*; 21 <b>Physiology:</b> 3	<b>Astronomy:</b> 3*; 4* <b>Chemistry:</b> 9*; 11; 19 <b>Geography:</b> 5* <b>Geology:</b> 4*; 5* <b>Physics:</b> 6; 8; 14; 21	<b>Economics:</b> 1; 2; 4; 8 <b>Environmental Studies:</b> 4 <b>Mathematics:</b> 2; 4; 7; 8; 11; 21; 26; 28; 29 <b>Philosophy:</b> 9 <b>Statistics:</b> C1000 <b>Women's, Gender, Sexuality Studies:</b> 8
<b>*NOTE:</b> SMC offers these courses in different modalities. Courses which include online labs will not be accepted effective Fall 2022 and after for categories D and E. Hybrid courses where the lecture is online and the lab is fully on-ground will be accepted. Proof of section enrollment may be requested upon transfer to receive credit for GE.		
USC accepts some AP exams with a score of 4 or 5 (including foreign language). Go to the following link for details: <a href="http://www.usc.edu/dept/ARR/articulation/">http://www.usc.edu/dept/ARR/articulation/</a>		

### GENERAL EDUCATION GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES:

Students may fulfill GE Global Perspectives with transfer courses taken before entering USC, or in summer terms after starting at USC. For those students taking courses before starting at USC, courses in the Global Perspectives categories can be used to satisfy requirements in the Core Literacies as well. A single course can satisfy one Global Perspective and one Core Literacy requirement. The transfer institution department name and appropriate course number or numbers are listed.

<b>CATEGORY G: CITIZENSHIP IN A GLOBAL ERA</b>	<b>CATEGORY H: TRADITIONS AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS</b>
<b>Economics:</b> 5 <b>Environmental Studies:</b> 22; 32 <b>Ethnic Studies:</b> 1 <b>Global Studies:</b> 5; 10 <b>History:</b> 10; 32 <b>Philosophy:</b> 5 <b>Political Science:</b> 5; 7; 22; 47 <b>Women's, Gender, Sexuality Studies:</b> 10; 30	<b>Art History:</b> 1; 2; 5; 6; 15; 17; 18; 21; 22 <b>English:</b> 50 <b>History:</b> 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 11; 12; 22; 24; 25; 26; 27; 29; 33; 34; 38; 39; 53 <b>Music:</b> 30; 31 <b>Philosophy:</b> 3; 4; 22 <b>Political Science:</b> 51 <b>Theatre Arts:</b> 5

**NOTE:** This information has been prepared by the SMC General Counseling and Transfer Services and is subject to immediate change. Please check with USC to verify these

**MATH REQUIREMENT FOR ADMISSION**

Math 18, 20, 50 or completion of high school Intermediate Algebra with a grade of “C” or higher.

**NOTE:** ACCTG/BUS 45 *is not* acceptable.

**LOWER DIVISION WRITING REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS FOLLOWING THE GE PLAN**

Any course below (or two courses, if indicated by “with”) fulfills the lower-division writing requirement *if completed after graduating from high school and before starting at USC*. These courses are also listed in Part II as equivalent to WRIT 130, which is the same as the WRIT 150 course offered at USC.

English: 2; 31
----------------

**COURSES THAT FULFILL FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEVELS**

Many majors require a third-semester foreign language course or equivalent. (The International Relations major requires the equivalent of a fourth semester.) Courses that fulfill foreign language levels if completed after graduating from high school are listed below. Students will be **required** to take a foreign language placement exam to continue in language courses at USC.

Chinese 2, 3, 4; German 2, 3, 4; Hebrew 2, 3, 4; Italian 3, 4; Persian 1, 2; Portuguese 1; 2; Russian 1, 2; Turkish 1
---

**Note:** Credit listed here presumes courses are taken in a traditional classroom format on campus, **online courses are not accepted Fall 2022 and after**. Restrictions on foreign language credit may apply to non-traditional versions, study abroad, summer or inter-session classes. Please refer to part III of this agreement for specific limitations or any special instructions regarding language courses.

**COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS AND SCIENCES MAJORS**

DEPARTMENTS AND SCHOOLS IN THE HUMANITIES	DEPARTMENT IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS	DEPARTMENT AND SCHOOLS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
Art History Classics Comparative Literature East Asian Languages and Cultures English French and Italian German Linguistics Philosophy Religion Slavic Languages and Literatures Spanish and Portuguese	Biological Sciences Chemistry Earth Sciences Exercise Science Mathematics Physics and Astronomy	Anthropology Economics Geography History International Relations (level 4 required) Political Science Psychology Sociology
<b>Special Programs:</b>	<b>Special Programs:</b>	<b>Special Programs:</b>
American Language Institute American Studies and Ethnicity Center for Feminist Studies East Asian Studies Center Expository Writing Program Judaic Studies	Environmental Studies Ocean Sciences Psychobiology	Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics Law and Society Peace and Conflict Studies Political Economy and Public Policy Gender Studies

**GE PLAN POLICIES**

- A single course may be used to fulfill both a GE requirement and the diversity requirement (category A, B or C).
- No more than four (4) semester units of pass/no pass credit may be applied to GE requirements.
- Once a student following the GE plan enrolls at USC, he or she may no longer take courses elsewhere to fulfill GE or writing requirements. However, student may take transfer courses to fulfill diversity or language.
- A limit of 64 units including general education and subjects in preparation for your major may be accepted for transfer toward your degree at USC.

**MAJORS THAT HAVE A 3 SEMESTER FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**

- All majors in the College of Letters, Arts, & Sciences
  - Majors that have some version of a foreign language, i.e.: B.S. Gerontology; B.S. Nursing; Physician's Assistant; B.M. String and Vocal Arts, B.S. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.
- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| -B.A. Fine Arts<br>-B.A. Gerontology<br>-B.S. General Studies | -B.A. Music<br>-B.A. Dramatic Arts<br>-B.A. Cinema-Production and Critical Studies | -B.S. Computer Science<br>-B.A. Annenberg School of Communication & Journalism<br>-B.A. International Relations-requires level |
|---|--|--|