

2011 – 2012
General Education Program

Students in all academic programs at AURAK must complete the general education program, which complements and contributes to the fulfillment of the mission of the university. Students are required to take a set of courses outside their major to develop their understanding of broad disciplinary areas and the connections between and among them. Courses approved for general education stress experimental and activity-based learning and the application of knowledge to concrete situations.

Program Objectives

The General Education Program aims to develop self-directed individuals who:

1. are engaged and committed citizens aware of the global effect of social, political, and economic change.
2. understand the nature of tradition and world cultures, understand the impact of the past on the present, and respond sensitively in culturally diverse environments.
3. are aware of ethical issues and think critically to make informed and responsible decisions.
4. use empirical and logical reasoning to assess evidence, evaluate data, make decisions, and solve problems.
5. understand scientific principles and contemporary developments in science and technology and their impact on human life and the environment.
6. communicate clearly and effectively in writing and speech and understand the theoretical and stylistic strategies that impact diverse audiences for various purposes.
7. can locate, access, critically evaluate, and use information ethically and efficiently for a variety of purposes, and engage in independent investigations and research.
8. can interpret the meaning of different forms of artistic expression within historical and theoretical contexts and respond to works of art.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation the student will be able:

1. To demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills and use current technology to create a final written or oral product.
2. To recognize, analyze, and evaluate ethical issues and defend their positions through reasoned argument.
3. To use logical and mathematical reasoning to analyze quantitative data and solve problems for personal and professional purposes.
4. To use appropriate tools to access information, evaluate sources, and conduct independent research.
5. To understand multicultural diversity and the interdependence of nations and cultures.
6. To appreciate creativity and the variety of artistic forms.
7. To employ the basic concepts of ethics or one of the social sciences to analyze a contemporary issue.
8. To approach scientific problems analytically and with an understanding of the scientific method.
9. To use computers for academic purposes, to incorporate technology into academic content, and to access information efficiently.

Degree Requirements

To achieve these outcomes, the General Education Program requires students to take 37-40 credits in the following six skill development and knowledge areas:

1. Effective communication
2. Empirical and mathematical reasoning
3. Creative and aesthetic understanding
4. Cross-cultural and global perspectives
5. Social and ethical understanding
6. Science of the natural and physical worlds

Skills Development

A minimum of four courses (12-13 credits) is required in this area. Most students will need to take five courses (15-17 credits). Students who successfully test out of ITEC 103 may take any other 3 or 4 credit course approved for general education.

1. Effective communication (9 credits)
 - a. ENGL 101, Composition (English) (3)
 - b. ENGL 302, Advanced Composition (English) (3)
 - c. COMM 100, Public Speaking (3) or
 - d. COMM 101, Interpersonal Communication (3)
2. Empirical and mathematical reasoning (6-8 credits)

Mathematics (3-4 credits)

- a. MATH 101, Numbers and Data Interpretation (3)
- b. MATH 102, Mathematics in Civilization (3)
- c. MATH 105, Pre-Calculus (3)
- d. MATH 108, Introductory Calculus with Business Applications (3)
- e. MATH 113, Analytic Geometry and Calculus I (4)

Information Technology (0-4 credits)

- a. CISC 112, 113 Introduction to Computer Programming (4)
- b. ITEC 103, Introduction to Computing (3) (students have the opportunity to take out this course and substitute another general education course)
- c. ITEC 104, Information, Technology, and Society (3)

Areas of Knowledge

Students must complete a 18 – 22 credits from the following four categories, completing at least one course in each group.

1. Creative and aesthetic understanding (minimum 3 credits)
 - a. ARTT 101, Introduction to the Visual Arts
 - b. ENGL 201, Literature across Cultures

- c. ENGL 203, Contemporary Arabic Literature
 - d. COMM 102, Reading Image and Film
2. Cross-cultural and global perspectives (minimum 3 credits)
- a. MEST 100, Islamic Culture (required)
 - b. HIST 282, Middle Eastern History or
 - c. GLST 100, Topics in Global Perspectives, Problems and Prospects
 - d. GLST 200, Clash of Civilizations
3. Social and ethical understanding (minimum 3 credits)
- a. PHIL 100, Ethics in Today's World
 - b. PSYC 100, Introduction to Psychology
 - c. PSYC 102, Self and Society
 - d. SOCI 100, Introduction to Sociology
 - e. ECON 103, Principles of Microeconomics
4. Science of the natural and physical worlds (minimum 4 credits)
- a. BIOL 100, Humankind in a Biological World (3)
 - b. BIOL 108, 109, Cell Structure and Function (4)
 - c. BIOL 110, 111, Animal Biology (4)
 - d. ENVS 100, 101, Energy and Environmental Science (4)
 - e. CHEM 100, 101, Chemistry in Everyday Life (4)
 - f. PHYS 110, 111, Physics I (4)

Total Credits: 37-40