

General Education Program 2012-2013

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:

- Are engaged and committed citizens aware of the global effect of social, political, and economic change.
- Understand the nature of tradition and world cultures, understand the impact of the past on the present, and respond sensitively in culturally diverse environments.
- Are aware of ethical issues and think critically to make informed and responsible decisions.
- Use empirical and logical reasoning to assess evidence, evaluate data, make decisions, and solve problems.
- Understand scientific principles and contemporary developments in science and technology and their impact on human life and the environment.
- Communicate clearly and effectively in writing and speech and understand the theoretical and stylistic strategies that impact diverse audiences for various purposes.
- Can locate access, critically evaluate, and use information ethically and efficiently for a variety of purposes, and engage in independent investigations and research.
- 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 to:

- Demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills and use current technology to create a final written or oral product.
- Recognize, analyze, and evaluate ethical issues and defend their positions through reasoned argument.
- Use logical and mathematical reasoning to analyze quantitative data and solve problems for personal and professional purposes.
- Use appropriate tools to access information, evaluate sources, and conduct independent research.
- Respect the contributions of multicultural contexts that enhance human experience, and to appreciate the interdependence of the global community to facilitate coexistence in multicultural environments.
- Understand the historical contexts and variety of artistic forms, the nature and norms of creative processes that shape creative works, and the ability to engage in creative production of original artifacts.
- Employ the basic concepts of ethics or one of the social sciences to analyze a contemporary issue.
- Recognize, analyze and resolve scientific problems through the application of scientific methods.
- 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

All students are required to take the course MEST 100: Introduction to Islam in World Culture (3 Credits) and UNIV 100: University Freshman Transition (1 Credit).

I. Skills Development

Students complete four to five courses (15-17 credits) in this area. 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)

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
ENGL 100/101	Composition - English	3
COMM 100	Public Speaking	3
COMM 101	Interpersonal Communication & Group Interaction	3
ENGL 302	Advanced Composition - English	3

2. Empirical and mathematical reasoning (6-8 credits)

a. Mathematics (3-4 credits)

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
MATH 101	Numbers & Data Interpretation	3
MATH 102	Mathematics & Civilization	3
MATH 105	Pre-Calculus	3
MATH 108	Introductory Calculus with Business Applications	3
MATH 113	Analytic Geometry & Calculus I	4

b. Information Technology (3-4 credits)

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
CISC 112	Introduction to Computer Programming	3
CISC 113	Introduction to Computer Programming Lab	1
ITEC 103*	Introduction to Computing	3
ITEC 104	Information, Technology & Society	3

* Students have the opportunity to test out of ITEC 103 and substitute it with another general education course.

II. Areas of Knowledge

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

1. Creative and aesthetic understanding (minimum 3 credits)

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
ARTT 100	Introduction to the Visual Arts	3
ENGL 201	Literature across Cultures	3
COMM 102	Reading Image & Film	3

2. Cross-cultural and global perspectives (minimum 3 credits)

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
HIST 282	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization II	3
GLST 100	Topics in Global Perspectives, Problems & Prospects	3
GLST 200	Clash of Civilizations	3

3. Social and ethical understanding (minimum 3 credits)

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
PHIL 100	Ethics in Today's World	3
PSYC 100	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSYC 102	Self & Society	3
SOCI 100	Introduction to Sociology	3
ECON 103	Principles of Microeconomics	3

4. Science of the natural and physical worlds (minimum 3- 4 credits)

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
BIOL 100	Humankind in a Biological World	3
BIOL 108	Cell Structure and Function	3
BIOL 109	Cell Structure and Function Lab	1
BIOL 110	Animal Biology	3
BIOL 111	Animal Biology Lab	1
ENVS 100	Energy & Environmental Science	3
ENVS 101	Energy & Environmental Science Lab	1
CHEM 100	Chemistry in Everyday Life	3
CHEM 101	Chemistry in Everyday Life Lab	1
PHYS 110	Physics I	3
PHYS 111	Physics I Lab	1

Total Credits: 37-40

