Policy Title: General Education

**Purpose:**
To define General Education and to denote General Education distribution requirements for all programs.

**Definitions:**
None

**Policy:**
General education is the knowledge, skills, concepts, and attitudes that serve as the foundation to success within all programs of study. General education prepares students for living, learning, working and serving throughout life.

General Education courses help students gain competence in the exercise of independent intellectual inquiry and also stimulate their examination and understanding of personal, social, and civic values. These courses encompass the humanities, mathematics, natural sciences and social sciences.

General Education includes, but is not limited to, the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC).

**Goal Area 1: Written and Oral Communication**
**Goal Area 2: Critical Thinking**
**Goal Area 3: Natural Sciences**
**Goal Area 4: Mathematics and Logical Reasoning**
**Goal Area 5: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences**
**Goal Area 6: The Humanities and Fine Arts**
**Goal Area 7: Human Diversity**
**Goal Area 8: Global Perspective**
**Goal Area 9: Ethical and Civic Responsibility**
**Goal Area 10: People and the Environment**

- Some General Education courses will not meet MnTC curriculum requirements.

**M State’s General Education Distribution Requirement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree/Award Level</th>
<th>General Education Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate of Arts Degree (A.A.)</td>
<td>A minimum of 40 credits in the MnTC Goal Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate of Science Degree (A.S.)</td>
<td>A minimum of 30 credits from six of the MnTC Goal Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate of Fine Arts (A.F.A)</td>
<td>A minimum of 30 credits from six of the MnTC Goal Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.)</td>
<td>A minimum of 15 credits from three of the MnTC Goal Areas</td>
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Diploma 61 credits or more
A minimum of 9 General Education credits
Diploma 45-60 credits
A minimum of 6 General Education credits
Diploma 31 - 44 credits
A minimum of 3 General Education credits
Certificates 30 credits or less
General Education credits are not required.
A certificate program may require General Education courses per advisory board recommendation.

*Exceptions to this requirement may include program accreditation requirements or board/state regulatory policies or statues. Programs requesting an exception to the general education policy must submit a request, rationale, and supporting documentation to Academic Affairs and Standards Committee for an official decision.

Associated Policies:

Associated Procedures:
Minnesota State Community and Technical College Curriculum Approval and Review

Policy History:

Policy Owner: Chief Academic Officer
Policy Author: Carrie Brimhall
Date of Adoption: 2/4/2011
Date of Implementation: 5/17/2017
Date and Subject of Revision: February 4, 2011 initial policy; May 17, 2017 policy update;

Policy Group Assignment: Educational

Procedure Written: Not Needed