

CANADORE COLLEGE
OPERATIONAL POLICY MANUAL

TITLE: General Education Policy

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 19, 2019

1. SCOPE

1.1 Authority

This policy is issued under the authority of the President.

1.2 Application

This policy applies to college certificate, Ontario college certificate, Ontario college diploma, and Ontario college advanced diploma programs at Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology (hereafter referred to as “Canadore” or “the College”).

2. PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

2.1 Purpose

- 2.1.1 The College is accountable to ensure that all approved programs meet the General Education requirements for programs as stipulated in the Minister’s Binding Policy Directive *Framework for Programs of Instruction*. This policy provides guidance to ensure compliance with the Binding Policy Directive.
- 2.1.2 The purpose of General Education in the Ontario college system is to contribute to the development of citizens who are conscious of the diversity, complexity, and richness of the human experience; who are able to establish meaning through this consciousness; and, who, as a result, are able to contribute thoughtfully, creatively, and positively to the society in which they live and work. This policy provides guidance to ensure that the College’s General Education courses are consistent with the Ministry’s stated purposes.

2.2 Principles

- 2.2.1 General Education strengthens students’ generic skills, for example, critical analysis, problem solving, and communication, in the context of an exploration of topics with broad-based personal and/or societal importance.
- 2.2.2 General Education is an essential and integral element of effective and comprehensive college programming.

2.2.3 General Education courses are designed to enhance students' learning experiences.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 General Education Course

A diploma-level course designed to enhance essential skills, including critical thinking, quantitative and qualitative reasoning, and communication. It will expand the knowledge and understanding of courses that fall into *Arts and Humanities*, or *Sciences and Social Sciences*.

3.2 General Education Elective Course

A course that is chosen by students enrolled in a College certificate, diploma or advanced diploma program and is available to students from a variety of programs.

3.3 General Education Mandated Course

A course that all students in a College certificate, diploma or advanced diploma program must complete.

4. POLICY

4.1 General Education courses are equivalent to approximately 42 hours.

4.2 General Education courses should not have pre-requisites, nor should they be pre-requisites to other courses in the program.

4.3 Postsecondary programs of study comply with Ministry policies by including General Education courses using a combination of mandated and elective courses. A minimum of one elective course is required in diploma and advanced diploma programs.

General Education Requirement	Program Credential				
	College Certificate	Ontario College Certificate	Ontario College Diploma	Ontario College Advanced Diploma	Ontario College Graduate Certificate
Number of courses required using a combination of mandated and elective courses	0	1*	3 to 5	3 to 5	0

* may be mandated or elective

4.4 Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet Canadore's General Education requirements.

- 4.5 Each General Education course, whether mandated or elective, undergoes an approval process to ensure that it meets the criteria for a General Education course.
- 4.6 The College publishes a list of approved General Education courses mapped to the Ministry Mandated Themes:
- Arts in Society
 - Civic Life
 - Social and Cultural Understanding
 - Personal Understanding
 - Science and Technology
- 4.7 The College recognizes clusters of General Education courses in specific disciplines to support focused learning while recognizing learner achievement.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 President

The President is responsible for the overall management and operation of the College. The President will ensure that the policy is implemented and that compliance is monitored.

5.2 Vice President, Academic

The Vice President, Academic is responsible for the effective implementation of this policy and to resolve any disputes arising over policy interpretation.

6. EVALUATION

This policy will be evaluated every five years or earlier if required.

7. RELATED MATERIALS

Minister's Binding Policy Directive *Framework for Programs of Instruction*