

## Summary of the UCRC Report on the GEC

*Disclaimer: The following represents an extremely simplistic summary of the recommendations contained in the Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee report. It is intended solely to remind those who have already read the report of its contents. Any assessment of the report that does not include reading it in its entirety is bound to be poorly informed and potentially misguided.*

### I. Curricular Recommendations

Features	Current GEC	Proposed GEC
Credit hours	105 for ASC BA 110 for ASC BS 60-98 for other majors	98 for ASC BA & BS (includes BS “drop-a-course option”) other majors negotiate
How GEC is configured	credit hours	courses
<b>Embedded Competencies</b>	none	all GEC courses will document how they improve a) writing OR speaking skills b) critical listening and reading c) logical thinking
<b>Basic Competencies</b>		
Writing	English 110, 2nd writing course, 3rd writing course (few non-ASC majors require this)	English 110, 2nd writing course, 3rd writing course (cannot “proficiency” out of this)
Math	proficiency in two courses	proficiency in two higher courses
Foreign Language	proficiency through 104 (almost all majors outside ASC do not require this)	proficiency through 104 (but this almost certainly won’t be implemented outside ASC)
<b>The Intellectual Core</b>		
Natural Science (“Science and Technology” in proposed GEC)	20 credits in Physical & Biological Sciences including one lab course and one 2-course sequence	4 courses in Physical & Biological Sciences including one lab course and one 2-course cluster*
Humanities and the Visual and Performing Arts	1 course in Literature 1 course in Visual & Performing Arts 1 more course in this category	same
Social Sciences	5 credits each in 3 categories	3 courses with one 2-course cluster
Historical Survey	10 credits of a 2-course sequence	2 courses in a 2-course cluster*
Diversity (overlaps—no additional credits required)	3 5-credit courses: one in US, two in Int’l (one of the Int’l courses must be non-western)	3 5-credit courses: one in US, one in Int’l, 3rd can come from either category
Capstone	1 5-credit capstone course	1 capstone OR a third writing course from above

\* By the word “cluster,” we mean two courses that have an important relationship to each other. Examples might be: 1) two courses, the first of which provides information or skills necessary to the second course, as in the case of a prerequisite; 2) two courses, the second of which extends the

presentation, either in chronology or in depth, of the first, or 3) two courses that treat some common element of either substance or method from differing perspectives. (The Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts requirement is not subject to clustering because, in our view, this requirement is grounded precisely in the necessity to expose students to the breadth within these disciplines.)

## **II. Ancillary Recommendations**

- 1) Address inaccurate perceptions about general education in general and the GEC in particular
- 2) Publicize the GEC petition process
- 3) Encourage faculty-taught GEC courses
- 4) Improve Graduate Teaching Associate training
- 5) Offer more sections of oversubscribed GEC courses
- 6) Increase the variety of times courses are offered
- 7) Streamline the GEC course approval process
- 8) Encourage the addition of upper-level courses to the GEC lists
- 9) Enforce the University Rule requiring 15 hours of free electives in all programs
- 10) Develop a web-based tool to help students navigate the GEC
- 11) Identify and publicize advising “best practices”
- 12) Experiment with more effective means of communicating GEC requirements to students
- 13) Continue to explore a four-year graduation plan
- 14) Continue to allow Honors students flexibility in meeting GEC requirements
- 15) Establish a permanent oversight committee for the GEC

## **III. Time to Degree**

The committee recommends, after the extensive research included in Appendix E (pp. 96-170), that OSU retain its current hours-to-graduation requirement.

# Comparative General Education Requirements for Major Programs in Arts and Sciences

*(These figures come from the revision of Appendix C in the Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee GEC report. All figures are from the university web sites or, in eight out of approximately 500 cases, from telephone calls to advisors in the college office in question. UCRC is happy to share the web site print-outs and advisor names and telephone numbers on which these data are based with anyone who would like to see them).*

## **Ohio State University** (as recommended in UCRC report)

<b>BA</b>	<b><u>98</u></b>
<b>BS (including “drop-a-course” option)</b>	<b><u>98</u></b>
<b>College of the Arts Tagged Degrees (currently, will negotiate)</b>	<b><u>60-88.5 (avg 76)</u></b>

## **Benchmark and Top-Twenty Public Universities** **91**

U Arizona*	114	U Michigan*	97
UC Berkeley	75	U Minnesota*	90
UC Davis	55	U North Carolina	96
UC Irvine	106	Penn State*	112.5
UCLA*	68	U Texas*	106.5
UC Santa Barbara	64	U Virginia	75
U Florida	80	U Washington*	109.5
U Georgia	99	U Wisconsin*	111
U Illinois*	83		

## **\*Benchmark Universities** **99**

Note: The University of California San Diego’s colleges are structured according not to academic disciplines but rather to educational and/or ideological philosophies or proclivities (eg. the Thurgood Marshall College specializes in public service, the John Muir College in environmental concerns, and so on). Thus, in both these charts, UCSD is excluded because its unorthodox organization makes it impossible to compare it to other more traditional curricula.

# Comparative General Education Requirements for Major Programs Outside Arts and Sciences

## Ohio State University

The following data are taken from Appendix B, Table III of the UCRC report. The number of GEC credit hours listed is that given in the table minus any hours that the unit has added above and beyond the ASC GEC model (eg. the extra credits in math and/or science for science or professional school majors and history for Music History majors). Also, if a major lists a range of credit hours, the number below is an average of the high and low ends of that range.

AHR	BS Arch	78.5	ENG	CSE	68
	BS Larch	74.5		EE	66
AMP	BS AMP	75		Environ	68
BUS	BSBA			Eng Physics	68
	all but Int'l Bus	84.5		FABE	68
	Int'l Bus	104.5		Geomatics	68
DHY	BS	84.5		ISE	68
EDUC	EMCE	80		Materials Sci	68
	Exercise Science	80		Mechanical	68
	Special Ed	80		Metallurgical	68
	Sport & Liesure	85		Welding	68
	Tech Ed & Tmg	80	FAES	BS Agr	84
	Technol Ed	84.5		BS Food Sci	85
ENG	Aero & Astro	68		BS Nutrition	90
	Aviation	68		BS Nat Res	90
	Ceramic	66	HEC	BS HEC & HM	83.5
	Chemical	68		BS Nutrition	88.5
	Civil	68	NUR	BSN	79.5
			SWK	BSSWK	75

Average GEC Hour Requirements for Major Programs Outside ASC **76**

## Benchmark and Top-Twenty Public Universities

(per Revised Appendix C, averaged, in quarter hours)

U Arizona*	70.5	U Michigan*	78
UC Berkeley	81	U Minnesota*	64
UC Davis	63	U North Carolina	78
UC Irvine	96	Pennsylvania State U*	77
UCLA*	57	U Texas*	69
UC Santa Barbara	61	U Virginia	69
U Florida	54	U Washington*	78
U Georgia	99	U Wisconsin*	81
U Illinois*	77		

Average GEC Requirements for Non-ASC Major Programs **74**

\*Average GEC Requirements for Benchmark Non-ASC Major Programs **72**

*Note:*

*The 500-some figures in the following appendix all come from the web sites of the universities in question. I have downloaded these materials and would be happy to make the hard copies available to anyone who would like to see them. In approximately eight cases, however, the figures were not accessible on the web sites and I had to call and/or e-mail the college advising offices (for instance, the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia and the School of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan). Again the names and telephone numbers of the people with whom I spoke are in my files and anyone is welcome to see them.*

*Marilyn Blackwell*

## **Appendix C: General Education Requirements At Benchmark and Top-Twenty Public Universities**

The following is a summary of requirements that are comparable to OSU's GEC at the benchmark and top twenty publics universities according to U.S. News and World Report's rankings. Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of this data. Three institutions that fall into the top twenty--Georgia Institute of Technology, The College of William and Mary, and Texas A & M— are not represented here because either their extremely specific academic missions or their size render them, in our view, inappropriate as comparison universities.

Comparability: Achieving true comparability between and among institutions so varied in their curricular structures is virtually impossible. In this group of nineteen institutions, various considerably different models prevail. Among them are:

- An Arts and Sciences-based model on the basis of which individual colleges establish their own sets of requirements (as is the case at OSU)
- A reasonably broad university-wide requirement onto which colleges (especially but not exclusively arts and sciences colleges) impose additional “breadth” requirements
- A university-wide requirement to which individual majors add further breadth requirements
- A bare-bones core curriculum on top of which either individual colleges or individual majors add breadth requirements
- No university-wide requirement, but rather individual discipline-based college requirements
- No university-wide requirement, but rather individual non-discipline-based college requirements
- Two sets of general education requirements, one for arts and sciences and one for non-arts and sciences colleges

In addition to these variations, there are considerable discrepancies in how colleges of arts and sciences requirements are structured: in some institutions, arts and sciences BA and BS general education requirements are the same; in others they differ, sometimes markedly.

Given this miasma of curricular structures, it is impossible to speak of a single general education requirement equivalent that applies to all these institutions. Furthermore, as chapter II indicates, OSU itself does not have a unitary GEC; rather we have multiple GECs that range from 60 to 105 credit hours. Nonetheless, the committee presents here approximate GEC equivalents for both colleges of arts and sciences and colleges outside the arts and sciences.

Foreign language requirement listings: Like OSU, most of these universities have a proficiency-based rather than a credit hour foreign language requirement. So, the University of Illinois, for example, which has a university-wide third semester proficiency requirement and where each foreign language course is worth four credit hours, is listed as requiring 12 credit hours.

**University of Arizona**  
(semester system)

**University-Wide General Education and Foundations Requirements:**

I. Tier One (to be taken by end of second year):

Individuals and Societies	6 credits
Natural Sciences	6
Traditions and Cultures	6
Tier One Total:	18*

II. Tier Two (to be taken by graduation):

Arts	3
Humanities	3-4
Individuals and Societies	3-4
Natural Sciences	3-4
Tier Two Total:	12-15**

III. Gender, Race, Class, Ethnicity, or non-Western Area Studies 0

IV. Foundations:

Composition (2-3 courses) + proficiency exam + a writing emphasis course	3-6
Mathematics	3
Foreign Language (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester proficiency for non-BAs)	8
Foundations Total:	14-17

**UNIVERSITY-WIDE GE REQUIREMENTS: 44-50 (66-75 QH)**

**Bachelor of Liberal Arts Additional Requirements:**

Foreign Language (4 <sup>th</sup> semester proficiency)	8
Writing and Oral Communication	3
Technology and Environmental and Social Impact	3
Politics, Philosophy, and Economics	3
Civilization Sequence	6
Capstone	<u>3</u>
Total Additional BLA Requirements	26

**TOTAL BLA GE REQUIREMENTS: 70-76 (105-114 QH)**

\* Majors in the College of Engineering and Mines, the College of Science, and the School of Health Professions, as well as most majors in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are allowed to satisfy Tier One Natural Sciences with their required chemistry and physics course work.

\*\* Majors in the College of Engineering and Mines, the College of Science, and the School of Health Professions will take one course each in “Individuals and Societies” and “Natural Science” and 3 units in “Arts and Humanities. One study area must be completed by a major course.

**University of California-Berkeley**  
(semester system)

System-Wide requirements

Subject A (reading and writing skills)	4*
American History & American Institutions	8-12*

\* as throughout the California system, these are expected to be taken in high school but nonetheless are consistently referred to as “university requirements.” They are not included here or for any of the other California system schools in the credit hour total.

**University-Wide Requirements**

American Cultures	3
<b>Total University-Wide Requirements:</b>	<b>3</b>

**College of Letters and Sciences GE Requirements:**

Reading and Composition	6
Foreign language (2nd semester proficiency)	10
Quantitative Reasoning	3
Breadth of Knowledge**	
Arts and Literature	4
Biological Science	4
Historical Studies	4
International Studies	4
Philosophy and Values	4
Physical Science	4
Social and Behavioral Science	<u>4</u>
<b>Letters and Sciences Additional Requirements:</b>	<b>47</b>

\*\* These requirements are expressed as “one course in” where the minimum credit is two units. Most courses that fulfill these “Breadth of Knowledge” requirements are four units, so that is used above.

**TOTAL CLS GE REQUIREMENTS: 50 (75 QH)**

**College of Environmental Design**

Reading and Composition	6
Math	4
7-course breadth requirement (see above)	28
6 courses outside the major	20
<b>CED Requirements</b>	<b>58</b>

**College of Engineering**

Reading and Composition	6
6 courses of breadth requirements	24
Additional OSU equivalent 20 hours in Science & Math covered by major at this institution	20
<b>Engineering Requirements</b>	<b>50</b>

**AVERAGE NON-ASC MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: 54 (81 QH)**

**University of California-Davis**  
(quarter system)

System-Wide requirements (usually satisfied in high school)	
Subject A (reading and writing skills)	4
American History & American Institutions	8-12

**University-Wide Requirements**

Topical Breadth (6 courses in the two areas in which the student is not majoring):	24
Arts and Humanities	
Science and Engineering	
Social Sciences	
Social-Cultural Diversity (1 course) (may double-count)	0
Writing Experience (3 courses) (two of these may double-count)	4

**TOTAL UNIVERSITY-WIDE GE REQUIREMENTS: 28 QH**

**AB & BAS Additional Requirements:**

a minor, a “mini-minor,” or 3 approved courses outside the major	12
Foreign language (3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter proficiency, not applicable to BS)	15
Upper Division English Composition Exam	
<b>Additional AB/BAS Requirements</b>	<b>27</b>

**TOTAL AB/BAS GE REQUIREMENTS: 55 QH**

**College of Engineering Requirements**

Expository writing	4
Social-Cultural Diversity	
General Education in Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences	24-33
Gen Ed courses may <b>not</b> relate to major. Thus equivalent of OSU’s Science and Math requirements covered in UC-D’s major:	30
<b>TOTAL ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS:</b>	<b>58-67</b>

**College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (same as Engineering) 58-67**

**AVERAGE NON-AB/BAS GE REQUIREMENTS: 63 QH**



**University of California-Los Angeles**  
(quarter system)

System-Wide requirements (usually satisfied by high school)	
Subject A (reading and writing skills)	6
American History & American Institutions	8-12

**University-Wide General Education Requirements: 48**

Foundations of Knowledge (including two writing courses)	
Arts and Humanities (3 5-unit courses, one each from the following):	
Literary and Cultural Analysis	
Philosophical and Linguistic Analysis	
Visual and Performance Arts Analysis & Practice	
Society and Culture (3 5-unit courses, one each from the following)	
Historical Analysis	
Social analysis	
Scientific Inquiry (4 courses, 2 from each subgroup; 1 course must be a laboratory course or fulfill a writing requirement)	
Life Sciences	
Physical Sciences	

**Total University GE Requirements: 48**

**College of Letters and Sciences Additional Requirements:**

Quantitative Reasoning (one course)	5
Foreign Language (third quarter)	15

**TOTAL CLS GE REQUIREMENTS: 68 QH**

**School of Arts and Architecture Additional Requirements**

Foreign Language (third quarter)	15
Computing, Math, and Statistics (one course)	<u>4</u>
School of Arts and Architecture Total Requirements	<b>67</b>

**School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Additional Reqs**

12 hours of Math & Science included in the majors that are comparable OSU's GEC Science and Math requirements	<u>12</u>
School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Total Reqs	<b>50</b>

**School of Nursing** eleven courses **48**

**School of Theatre, Film, and Television Additional Requirements**

Foreign Language (third quarter)	<u>15</u>
	<b>63</b>

**AVERAGE NON-CLS GE REQUIREMENTS: 57 QH**

**University of California-San Diego**  
(quarter system)

System-Wide requirements (usually satisfied by high school)	
Subject A (reading and writing skills)	6
American History & American Institutions	8-12

There are five undergraduate colleges but they are not organized according to traditional disciplines. Each has its own set of General Education Requirements.

**Revelle College**

Interdisciplinary humanities program (sequence includes intensive writing)	20	
Fine arts	4	
Social sciences	12	
Math (including calculus)	12	
Physical and biological sciences	20	
Foreign language (fourth quarter proficiency)	16	
Plus 3 courses unrelated to major or minor	12-28	
		<b>Total 100-112 QH</b>

**Thurgood Marshall College**

Dimensions of culture (3-course sequence includes 2 courses of intensive writing)	12	
Public service (4 courses (optional))	0-16	
Biology, chemistry, physics	12	
Math (or statistics + computing or logic)	8	
Humanities	8	
Disciplinary Breadth	16	
Fine arts	4	
		<b>Total 60-76 QH</b>

**Earl Warren College**

Writing	8	
Calculus, symbolic logic, computing, statistics	8	
Ethics and Society	4	
Programs of Concentration (48 units unrelated to major or—for Engineering students only—24 units unrelated to major and to each other)	24-48	
Cultural Diversity (can cross-count)		
		<b>Total 44-68 QH</b>

**Eleanor Roosevelt College**

Making of the Modern World	24
Fine arts	8
Foreign language (4 <sup>th</sup> quarter proficiency)	16
Quantitative Methods/ Formal Skills	8
Natural sciences	8
Specialization in one region of the world	18
Upper-Division Writing (can cross-count)	

**Total 82 QH****John Muir College**

Writing	8
Social Sciences	12
Natural Sciences and Math	12
Humanities, Fine Arts, and Foreign Language	24

**Total 56 QH**

**University of California-Santa Barbara**  
(quarter system)

System-Wide Requirements (usually satisfied by high school)

Subject A (reading and writing skills)	6
American History & American Institutions	8-12

There is no university-wide general education requirement at UC-Santa Barbara.

**College of Letters and Sciences (BA, BS, BFA, B Music)**

General Education Requirements	BA	BS	Others
Area A: English Reading and Comprehension	8	8	8
Area B: Foreign Language (3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter proficiency)	12	12	12
Area C: Science, Mathematics, and Technology	12	12	8
Area D: Social Science	12	8	8
Area E: Civilization and Thought*	12	8	8
Area F: Arts	8	4	8**
Area G: Literature	8	4	4
<u>Ethnicity Studies</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	72	56	56

**TOTAL BA/BS/BFA/BMUSIC GE REQUIREMENTS: 56-72 QH**

\* One course in a non-western culture and at least one course that focuses on the history and cultural, intellectual, and social experience of designated U.S. ethnic groups is required.

\*\* Covered in the major

**College of Creative Studies**

Area A	8
2 courses outside but related to field of emphasis	8
8 courses broadly distributed, unrelated to emphasis	32
Equivalent of 8-12 credits covered here by major but at OSU by GEC	8-12
<b>Total Creative Studies General Education Requirements</b>	<b>56-60</b>

**College of Engineering**

Writing	8
From Areas D, E, F, and G	23-30
Equivalent of OSU's Math & Science requirements covered here by major	30
<b>Total Engineering General Education Requirements</b>	<b>61-68</b>

**AVERAGE CLS GE REQUIREMENTS: 61 QH**

**University of Florida**  
(semester system)

**University-Wide General Education Requirements:**

Composition	3
Mathematical Sciences	6
Humanities	9
Social and Behavioral Sciences	9
Physical and Biological Sciences	9

**UNIVERSITY-WIDE GE REQUIREMENTS: 36 (54 QH)**

**College of Letters and Sciences Requirements (BA & BS)\***

Composition	6
Mathematical Sciences	6
Humanities	9
Social and Behavioral Sciences	9
Physical Sciences	6
Biological Sciences	6
Science Laboratory	1
Foreign Language (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester proficiency)	10

\*includes University General Education Requirements

**CLS GE REQUIREMENTS: 53 (80 QH)**

**University of Georgia**  
(semester system)

**I. University-Wide Core Curriculum:**

At least 60 hours

Area A: Essential Skills	9-10
English and math courses common throughout the university system	
Area B: Institutional Options	4-5
Area C: Humanities/Fine Arts	6
Area D: Science, Mathematics and Technology	10-11
(two science courses and one mathematics/technology course)	
Area E: Social Sciences	12
(four courses which may also satisfy a history & constitution requirement)	
Area F: Courses Related to the Program of Study*	18

\* This is course work that supports the major but is not a part of it, e.g. foreign language (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> semester proficiency) for the Journalism, Social Work, and International Business majors as well as for most arts and sciences BA/BS degrees and many Education degrees.

**Core Curriculum Requirements: 60**

**Additional University-Wide Requirements:**

Environmental Literacy Requirement (1 course) 3  
Examinations on the Constitutions of the US and the State of Georgia\*

Examinations on United States and Georgia History\*

\* If the student cannot pass these exams, he or she must take 3 hours 0-6  
of specific History courses--2111 or 2112

**Additional University-Wide Requirements: 3-9**

**TOTAL UNIVERSITY-WIDE GE REQUIREMENTS: 63-69 (avg 99 QH)**

**University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign**  
(semester system)

**University-Wide General Education Requirements:**

Composition I	6
Advanced Composition	3
Social and Behavioral Sciences	6
Humanities and the Arts	6
Western Culture	3
Non-Western or American Minority Culture	3
Foreign Language (3 <sup>rd</sup> semester proficiency)	12
Natural Sciences and Technology	6
Quantitative Reasoning	6

**TOTAL UNIVERSITY-WIDE GE REQUIREMENTS: 51 (77 QH)**

BA/BS degrees in arts and sciences require an additional course to equal  
4<sup>th</sup> semester foreign language proficiency 4

**TOTAL BA/BS GE REQUIREMENTS: 55 (83 QH)**

**University of Michigan**  
(semester system)

**College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Requirements BA/BS degrees:**

Introductory Composition and Upper Level Writing	6-10
Race and Ethnicity	3-4
Foreign Language (4 <sup>th</sup> semester proficiency)	16
Quantitative Reasoning (one-two courses)	6-8
30 credits in:	30
Humanities	
Natural Sciences	
Social Sciences	

**TOTAL CLSA GE REQUIREMENTS: 61-68 (92-102 QH)**

**College of Architecture and Urban Planning** **46**

**College of Business: same as CLSA** **61-68**

**College of Education: same as CLSA** **61-68**

<b>College of Engineering</b>	20	
courses taken in major at UM but in GEC at OSU	20	
<b>College of Engineering</b>		<b>40</b>

<b>School of Music</b>		
Non-Music course work	30	
Equivalent of OSU's VPA taken in major	3.33	
<b>School of Music</b>		<b>33.33</b>

**College of Pharmacy: same as CLSA** **61-68**

**AVERAGE NON-CLSA REQUIREMENTS: 52 (avg 78 QH)**

**University of Minnesota**  
(semester system)

**University-Wide Diversified Core Curriculum:**

Physical and Biological Sciences	8
Social Sciences	6
Humanities (at least one literature)	6
Historical Perspectives	3
Mathematical Thinking	3
Designated Themes: at least 3 credits in each:	
Cultural Diversity	3
International Perspectives	3
Environment	3
Citizenship and Public Ethics	3
Freshman Writing (1 or 2 courses)	3-6
Writing Intensive (4 courses, 2 upper division; cross count)	

**TOTAL UNIVERSITY-WIDE GE REQUIREMENTS: 41-44 (avg 64 QH)**

**College of Liberal Arts**

BA, BFA, and BIS require a total of 60 distribution credits including  
4<sup>th</sup> semester foreign language proficiency

**TOTAL BA/BFA GE REQUIREMENTS: 60 (90 QH)**

**University of North Carolina**  
(semester system)

**University-Wide General Education Requirements**

General Education Basic Skills

English Composition and Oral Communication	6
Foreign language (4 <sup>th</sup> semester proficiency)	12
Mathematical Sciences	6

General Education Perspectives

Aesthetic (one literature, one fine arts)	6
Natural Sciences (minimum of one lab course)	7
Philosophical Perspective	3
Social Sciences (in two different departments)	6
Western Historical/Non-Western/Comparative (two different areas)	6

First-Year Seminar (can cross-count)

Cultural Diversity Requirement (can cross-count)

**TOTAL UNIVERSITY-WIDE GE REQUIREMENTS: 52 (78 QH)**

**BA degree** requires an additional four upper-level GE Perspectives      12

**TOTAL BA GE REQUIREMENTS: 64 (96 QH)**

**(No College of Engineering)**

**Pennsylvania State University**  
(semester system)

**University-Wide General Education Requirements**

Skills	
Writing/Speaking	9
Quantification	6
Knowledge Domains	30
Natural Sciences (minimum 9)	
Arts (minimum 6)	
Humanities (minimum 6)	
Social and Behavioral Sciences (minimum 6)	
Other	
Health and Physical Activity	1-3
First-Year Seminar	1
Intercultural and International Competence	3
Writing Across the Curriculum	

**TOTAL UNIVERSITY-WIDE GE REQUIREMENTS: 50-52 (avg 77 QH)**

**Requirements for a BA/BS in addition to the universal requirements:**

Foreign Language (4 <sup>th</sup> semester proficiency)	12
Arts	3
Humanities	3
Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
Other Cultures	3

**TOTAL BA/BS GE REQUIREMENTS: 74-76 (111-114 QH)**

**University of Texas-Austin**  
(semester system)

**University-Wide Basic Education Requirement:**

English composition	3
Substantial writing component (cross count)	
Literature	3
Foreign language (2nd semester proficiency)	10
American and Texas government	6
American history	6
Social science	3
Mathematics	3
Natural science (in 2 disciplines)	9
Fine arts/ humanities	3

**TOTAL UNIVERSITY-WIDE GE REQUIREMENTS: 46 (69 QH)**

**Arts and Sciences BA/BS further requires:**

	<b>BA</b>	<b>BS</b>
Writing	3	
Literature	3	
Foreign language (4 <sup>th</sup> semester proficiency for BA or foreign culture courses for BS)	10	8-10
Social Sciences	3	3
Science	3	3
Humanities	3	3
Fine Arts	3	3
<b>Total Additional BA/BS Requirements</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20-22</b>

**TOTAL BA/BS GE REQUIREMENTS: 68-74 (102-111 QH)**

**University of Virginia**  
(semester system)

**College of Arts and Sciences General Education Requirements**

A. Competency Requirements

First Writing	6
Second Writing (cross counts)	
Foreign Language (4 <sup>th</sup> semester proficiency)	14

B. Area Requirements

Social Sciences	6
Humanities	6
Historical Studies	3
Non-western Perspectives	3
Natural Sciences and Mathematics	12

**TOTAL BA/BS GE REQUIREMENTS: 50 (75 QH)**

**College of Business General Education: same as CAS 50**

**College of Education General Education: same as CAS 50**

**College of Engineering**

Writing	3
Humanities Writing course (220 level)	3
Six HISS electives	18
Math and Science courses taken in major at UVA but in GEC at OSU (SH)	20
<b>Engineering General Education</b>	<b>44</b>

**College of Architecture General Education 39**

**AVERAGE NON-CAS GE REQUIREMENTS: 46 (69 QH)**

**University of Washington**  
(quarter system)

**College of Arts and Sciences BA/BS General Education Requirements**

English Composition	15
Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning	4-5
Foreign Language (3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter proficiency)	15
Areas of Knowledge	40
Visual, Literary and Performing Arts	
Individuals and Societies	
The Natural World*	

\* Excepting scientific and technical majors, most non-Arts and Sciences majors require 10-20 quarter hours of “Natural World” courses.

**TOTAL BA/BS GE REQUIREMENTS: 74-75 QH**

**General Education Outside the College of Arts and Sciences**

**Architectural Studies and Urban Planning**

Architectural Studies	82
Community and Environmental Planning	80
Construction Management	88
Landscape Architecture	79-80

**Business Administration** 80

**Engineering** 84-90

**Forest Resources** 74-77

**Medicine**

MEDEX	57
Medical Technology	75
Occupational Therapy	75
(includes foreign language proficiency through third quarter)	
Physical Therapy	71
Prosthetics and Orthotics	81

**Nursing** 81

**Oceanography and Fishery Sciences**

Aquatics and Fishery Sciences	85
Oceanography	100

**Public Health** 121

**Social Work** 110

(includes foreign language proficiency through third quarter)

**AVERAGE NON-CAS GE REQUIREMENTS: 84 QH**

**University of Wisconsin**  
(semester system)

**University-Wide Core Curriculum:\***

General Education

Communication	3-5/6
Quantitative Reasoning	3-6
Ethnic Studies	4
Breadth	
Natural Science	6
Humanities/Literature/Arts	6
Social Studies	3
Ethnic Studies	3

**\* Each college adds additional general education requirements.**

**Total Core Curriculum Requirements: 28-34 (42-51 QH)**

**College of Letters and Science**

Core Curriculum

Communication	6
Quantitative Reasoning	6-9
Foreign Language (BA: 4 <sup>th</sup> semester proficiency, 12-16 BS: 3 <sup>rd</sup> semester proficiency)	
Breadth Requirements	40
Ethnic Studies	3

**College of Letters and Science Total: 64-74 (96-111 QH)**

**TOTAL CLS GE REQUIREMENTS: 64-74 (96-111QH)**

**GE Requirements Outside Arts and Sciences**

<b>College of Agriculture</b> Core Curriculum + Breadth Requirements	67-70
<b>School of Business</b> Core Curriculum + Breadth Requirements (includes 3 <sup>rd</sup> semester foreign language proficiency)	51-57
<b>College of Engineering</b> Core Curriculum + Breadth Requirements	41-45
<b>School of Human Ecology</b> Core Curriculum + Breadth Requirements	40
<b>School of Nursing</b> Core Curriculum + Breadth Requirements	61-66

**AVERAGE NON-CLA GE REQUIREMENTS: 54 (81 QH)**

## **Time to Bachelor's Degree at Ohio State University**

A. There have been many studies of the time-to-degree issue at OSU. A number of them are included as appendices in the UCRC report. Typical results are

Average number of credit hours earned per quarter: 14

Average number of excess credit hours at graduation: 20

α of students graduate in 12 or 13 quarters

α of students graduate in 15 or 16 quarters

α of students graduate with some other number of quarters

For graduation in 12 quarters, it is necessary to average 16 credits per quarter. Students who graduate in 4 years do so by taking up to 20 credits per quarter a few times or by enrolling for at least one summer quarter. They also don't drop or fail courses very much.

B. Surveys of the reasons that many students earn too few credit hours per quarter show that

1. Many students drop and repeat classes

2. Some students enroll in fewer classes in order to protect their GPA

3. Many students work too many hours to take a full course load.

Among students who work extensively, some do so out of economic necessity, while others do so to improve their life style.

C. A study of average credit hours earned in each major showed almost no correlation with the average time to degree in that major. This suggests that, at some point, most students select a target degree date and take the number of courses per quarter to accomplish that, plus a few more.

D. At OSU there seems to be an unusually loose relationship between the number of credit hours assigned to a course and the amount of average student effort required for the course. This statement is based on student input from:

1. UCRC focus groups

2. Student comments to UCRC faculty members

3. Student comments to Dean Martha Garland

4. Student input to the ad hoc calendar committee

A more accurate assignment of credit hours to courses would make it easier for students to know when they could take an additional course in a given quarter.

E. Many other factors contribute to lengthening the time to degree, such as changing majors late in one's career, mistakes in advising, internships, and the lack of availability of particular courses. Some of these can be quite frustrating to students, and the University continues to try to alleviate those problems that are under its control. Studies indicate, however, that none of these factors is widespread enough to affect the average time to degree.

F. OSU students in the Arts and Sciences currently need a minimum of 38 courses (if all courses are 5 credits) to graduate. At other quarter-system universities, the number of required courses is 40-45 and most courses are less than 5 credits. Until it is established that the common 5-credit courses at OSU require more student learning than corresponding courses at other universities with fewer credits, it does not seem advisable to decrease the minimum required credit hours in Arts and Sciences below the present 191.