



THE USC GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

GE Categories

Effective Fall 2026



(Students who are first-time college freshman in FALL 2015 or later will follow this USC GE program)

USC's six Core Literacy categories are described below. Students should take at least one course from each category. Please note that you must take at least 2 courses from the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences after starting at USC.

Category	Fullerton College Courses	C	IP	R
A The Arts (1 course)	Courses in this category enable students to engage with the arts by teaching them to create and analyze works of art, understanding the context of their creations and their connections to cultural issues. Art History C1100; C1200 or C1200H; 100 F; 105 F; 115 F; 120 F; 125 F; 130 F; 135 F; 140 F; 145 F; 160 F; 165HF Cinema Radio Television 126AF; 126BF; 131 F Dance 100 F; 120 F; 200 F; 210 F English 203 F; 208 F Music 113 F; 116 F; 118 F; 119 F; 120 F; 165HF Theatre Arts 100 F; 104 F; 105 F; 108 F; 165HF			
B Humanistic Inquiry (2 courses)	Courses in this category cultivate a critical appreciation for various forms of human expression by teaching students to evaluate works of literature, philosophy, and the arts, to think critically and formulate informed opinions about ideas and values. English C1002 or C1002H; 204 F; 207 F; 211 F or 211HF; 212 F or 212HF; 221 F or 221HF; 222 F or 222HF; 224 F or 224HF; 225 F or 225HF; 234 F or 234HF; 239 F; 240 F; 243 F or 243HF; 245 F; 246 F; 248 F; 249 F; 251 F History C1001 or C1001H; C1002 or C1002H; 110 F or 110HF; 111 F or 111HF; 112 F or 112HF; 113 F or 113HF; 120 F; 121 F; 127 F; 151 F; 152 F; 154 F; 160 F; 161 F; 165 F or 165HF; 190 F; 275 F Philosophy & Rel Studies 100 F or 100HF; 101 F or 101HF; 105 F or 105HF; 160 F; 202 F or 202HF; 210 F; 220 F or 220HF; 250 F; 270 F or 270HF Political Science 120 F			
C Social Analysis (2 courses)	Courses in this category explore the causes and consequences of social phenomena by teaching students to apply the quantitative and qualitative methods of the social sciences to understand how people behave and influence the world through institutions and other cultural forms. Anthropology 102 F or 102HF; 103 F or 103HF; 105 F or 105HF; 106 F; 107 F or 107HF; 209 F or 209HF; 211 F or 211HF; 215 F Ethnic Studies 101 F or 101HF; 129 F or 129HF; 130 F or 130HF; 131 F; 150 F; 151 F; 152 F; 153 F or 153HF; 159 F; 160 F; 170 F; 171 F; 202 F; 235 F or 235HF Geography 100 F or 100HF; 160 F History 191 F Political Science C1000 or C1000H; 110 F or 110HF; 216 F; 230 F; 250 F Psychology 225 F Social Sciences 130 F Sociology 101 F or 101HF; 102 F; 201 F; 230 F or 230HF; 250 F; 275 F or 275HF; 277 F or 277HF; 285 F or 285HF; 290 F or 290HF Women's Studies 100 F or 100HF			
D Life Sciences (1 course)	Courses in this category provide a scientific understanding of a full range of living systems, from molecules to ecosystems, by teaching students to understand how data is generated, presented and interpreted and how scientific discovery spurs technological growth and impacts society. A matching lab is required. Anatomy & Physiology 240 F Biology 102 F with 102LF; 170 F; 190 F with 190LF; 222 F Environmental Science 105 F with 105LF			
E Physical Sciences (1 course)	Courses in this category analyze natural phenomena through quantitative description and synthesis, teaching students to solve scientific problems and to understand the processes by which scientific knowledge is obtained, evaluated and placed in the context of societal relevance. A matching lab is required. Chemistry 111AF Earth Sciences 101 F with 101LF; 103 F; [116 F or 116HF] with 116LF; [130 F or 130HF] with 130LF Physics 130 F; 205 F; 210 F; 221 F			

Category	Fullerton College Courses	C	IP	R
F Quantitative Reasoning (1 course)	Courses in this category teach students to use a set of formal tools (such as logical or statistical inference, probability or mathematical analysis) to pose and evaluate hypotheses, claims, questions or problems within a formal mode of thought. Economics C2001 or C2001H; C2002 F or C2002H Mathematics 100 F; 129 F; 130 F; 131 F; 141 F or 141HF; 143 F; 151 F or 151HF; 152 F or 152HF; 251 F Psychology 161 F or 161HF; 202 F or 202HF Social Sciences 120 F; 125 F Statistics C1000 or C1000E or C1000H			

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES (2 COURSES)

Courses in the Global Perspectives categories can be used to satisfy requirements in the Core Literacies as well. A single course can satisfy one Global Perspective and one Core Literacy requirement.

G	Citizenship in a Global Era (1 Course) Ethnic Studies 101 F or 101HF; 129 F or 129HF; 131 F; 150 F; 152 F; 159 F; 160 F; 170 F; 171 F; 235 F or 235HF Political Science 230 F Theatre Arts 108 F Women's Studies 100 F or 100HF			
H	Traditions and Historical Foundations (1 course) Anthropology 209 F or 209HF Art History C1100; C1200 or C1200H; 105 F; 115 F; 120 F; 125 F; 135 F; 140 F; 145 F History C1001 or C1001H; C1002 or C1002H; 110 F or 110HF; 111 F or 111HF; 112 F or 112HF; 113 F or 113HF; 120 F; 121 F; 160 F; 161 F; 190 F Philosophy & Religious St. 202 F Political Science 120 F			

Requirements	Fullerton College Courses	C	IP	R
Writing	Any course below fulfills the lower division writing requirement <u><i>if completed after graduating from high school and before starting at USC.</i></u> These courses are also listed in Part II as equivalent to WRIT 130, which is the same as the WRIT 150 course offered at USC. Must be taken as a letter grade. English C1001 or C1001H; C1003 Philosophy & Religious St. 172 F			
Foreign Language	Many majors require a third-semester foreign language course or equivalent. Courses that fulfill foreign language levels have to <u><i>be completed after graduating from high school.</i></u> Students will be <u><i>required</i></u> to take a foreign language placement exam to continue in language courses at USC. Chinese 101 F; 102 F German 101 F; 102 F Italian 101 F; 102 F; 203 F; 204 F Portuguese 101 F; 102 F Spanish 101HF; 102HF			

NOTE: Credit presumes courses are taken in a traditional classroom format on campus.

The College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and some other USC majors must complete the third semester (or fifth quarter) of a college-level foreign language with a passing grade (C- or higher), or pass USC's placement examination at a level equivalent to third semester competency. Students who do not finish their third semester (or fifth quarter) before transferring to USC must take USC's placement examination to determine their level of competency.

Minimum requirements for admission	- Intermediate algebra (non-transferable college course), unless you took advanced algebra in high school. - Lower division writing requirement (course equivalent to WRIT-130). - There is no minimum number of transfer units you must complete. However, if you have fewer than 30 units, the Office of Admissions will focus primarily on your high school records and SAT results.
Policies Regarding GE Courses	- Courses must receive at least a grade of C- (or pass or credit) to transfer. - No more than four (4) semester units of GE (one course) can be taken for pass/no pass. The lower division writing course cannot be taken pass/no pass. No more than 24 units total can be taken pass/no pass (including courses taken at USC). - Once a student enrolls in USC, he/she must complete all remaining GE and writing requirements at USC.

For more information, visit the Transfer Student page at:
<https://admission.usc.edu/apply/transfer-students/>

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