

University of Illinois-Chicago
(An Aspirational Peer Institution)

Note: Most of this information is taken directly from the UIC web site.
<http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/gened/requirements.html>

I. The Current General Education Program

A. Goals

The General Education Program at UIC is designed to serve as a foundation for lifelong learning and preparation for the outside world in which students need the following skills:

- think independently.
- understand and critically evaluate information.
- analyze and evaluate arguments.
- develop and present cogent written and oral arguments.
- explore one's own culture and history as well as those of others.
- understand, interpret, and evaluate the arts.
- think critically about how individuals influence and are influenced by political, economic, cultural, and family institutions.

B. Two Primary Requirements

1. Core Courses - clustered around **six themes** and sets of required proficiencies.

- The six themes are:
1. Analyzing the Natural World,
 2. Understanding the Individual and Society,
 3. Understanding the Past,
 4. Understanding the Creative Arts,
 5. Exploring World Cultures,
 6. Understanding U.S. Society.

The specific requirements vary from college to college. All colleges, however, require a minimum of 24 semester hours of credit with at least one course in each of the six categories of General Education. The Course Catalog indicates which, if any, of the six themes are satisfied by that course. For example, the catalog description for Microeconomics, course 120 in the Econ Dept., indicated *U.S. Society* and *Individual and Society*.

2. Writing Proficiency - proficiency in writing (as demonstrated by successful completion of two specific courses, English 160 and 161, or by certain scores on placement or other tests). A student may be required to take a prep course as a prerequisite to English 160 if his or her score on a writing placement test indicates a need.

II. History

A. Current Program is New

Effective Fall 2007 generally (later for transfer students). Current program replaced a distribution req. among 4 different areas: humanities, social sciences, natural sciences (including math), and cultural diversity.

B. How Accomplished: Great Detail and Historical Docs on UIC web site.

1. **Planning** - 13 member steering committee comprised of faculty and Deans, including graduate college, plan and implementation over a 3-4 year period. **See attached, somewhat daunting, flowchart!**

2. Series of 3 **Conversations** on campus (summarized on line).

Conversations within units or policy-making divisions of units: (1) What is the hallmark of UIC General Education? (2) What do we want our graduates to have in terms of Gen Ed? (3) How do we know our students have what we want them to have?

3. Followed by drafting of program, conversations with Deans of Units and Faculties of Units, ratification.