



ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
INTER-COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

**CRITERIA & GUIDELINES FOR
GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE REVIEW**

General Education courses are intended for the entire RIT student population. All proposed courses must meet the following criteria to be eligible for General Education consideration.

Criterion #1: New York State Liberal Arts and Sciences Guidelines[®]

The New York State liberal arts and sciences guidelines will apply to all RIT general education courses. The New York State's general definition of such courses is:

“Courses of a general or theoretical nature that are designed to develop judgment and understanding about human beings’ relationship to the social, cultural, and natural facets of their total environment.”

Furthermore, all RIT general education courses must not violate the New York State corollaries for liberal arts and sciences courses:

- Independent of specific application
- Theoretical understandings as opposed to practical application
- Breadth and scope in principle covered
- Not definitely directed toward particular career or specific professional objectives
- Not chiefly “how to” in manipulative skills or techniques
- Not “applied” aspects of a field

Criterion #2: RIT Liberal Learning Goals:

RIT students will acquire those foundation skills essential for success in the professional fields for which RIT prepares graduates. All RIT general education courses must provide at least one of the following skills:

- expressive and receptive communication (oral, written, or visual);
- critical thinking and problem solving;
- mathematics and quantitative reasoning;
- technology-based design and information discovery, processing, distribution, and presentation.

Additionally, all RIT general education courses must also be one of the following:

- humanities
- mathematics (including computer science)
- natural sciences
- social sciences

Criterion #3: Qualified Faculty

Departments must show that they have the faculty qualified to teach the specific course. A general education course, like every other, must be taught by individuals with the proper background and knowledge to meet the goals and objectives of the course.

Review Process:

A college wishing to have a course considered for General Education credit must submit their request to the Inter-College Curriculum Committee with the following supporting documentation:

- A) A cover memo affirming that the proposal has been reviewed by all appropriate department and college curriculum committees.
- B) An outline for the course being reviewed.
- C) A brief narrative justifying how the course being considered for general education approval is satisfying the above outlined criteria.
- D) Optionally a letter of support from the college curriculum committee offering a course of this type (i.e. COLA for social science and humanities, COS for mathematics and science and GCCIS of computer science). Although not required, a letter of support will assist the ICC in expediting the review process.

The ICC will evaluate each course based upon the above outlined criteria and pass on all recommendations to the Provost. The Provost will have final approval of all requests.

[⊗] see www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/liberalarts.htm