



Policy Title:	General Education
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Approved by:	Board of Governors
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Contact for Policy Interpretation:	Vice President Academic Experience

1.0 - Policy Overview

Fleming College is committed to offering General Education courses that enable students to explore disciplines outside their vocational field of study and enhance their understanding of the diversity and complexity of social and cultural experience and enable them to become engaged citizens who can make positive contributions to their local and global communities.

2.0 - Purpose

This policy and associated operating procedure will provide the mechanism for complying with the Minister's Binding Policy Directive: Framework for Programs of Instruction. The Ministry requires that graduates of Ontario College Diploma and Advanced Diploma programs be exposed to at least one discipline outside of their vocational field of study.

3.0 - Definitions and Acronyms

The following definitions apply in this policy

Academic Council: A group of college stakeholders which consults on academic matters and whose terms of reference are created by the Vice President, Academic Experience.

Elective General Education Courses: A general education course that students may select from an approved pool of General Education courses. These courses must meet the general education standard.

General Education Course: A course that meets the General Education curriculum requirement as defined in the Minister's Binding Policy Directive. Such courses must: 1) expose graduates to at least one discipline outside their vocational field of study; 2) be offered and designed entirely separately from vocational courses; 3) have learning outcomes consistent with at least one of the General Education themes, as set down in Appendix C1 of the Minister's Binding Policy Directive; 4) strengthen students' Essential Employability skills, such as critical

thinking, problem-solving, and communication, in the context of an exploration of topics with broad-based personal and/or social importance; 5) emphasize theoretical and conceptual understanding rather than applied skills. Both mandatory and elective General Education courses fall within the descriptor “General Education course.”

General Education Themes: The following themes, defined in Appendix C of the binding directive are used to provide direction to colleges in the development and identification of courses that are designed to fulfill the General Education requirement for programs of instruction:

- Arts in Society
- Civic Life
- Social and Cultural Understanding
- Personal Understanding
- Science and Technology

Mandatory General Education Course: A general education course which meets the criteria for general education and which is required for students within a particular program of study. Like all General Education Courses, Mandatory General Education Courses cannot meet program Vocational Learning Outcomes.

Minister’s Binding Policy Directive, Framework for Programs of Instructions: this binding policy directive applies to all colleges of applied arts and technology and defines expectations for all programs of instruction offered by colleges regardless of the funding source, except for ministry-funded apprenticeship training.

Ontario College Credential Programs: Ontario College Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, and Graduate Certificate Programs.

Recognized Post-Secondary Institution: External institution that is recognized by Fleming College as a member of the provincial, national, or international authority or another accrediting body as appropriate.

Transfer Credit: Refers to a course taken at another recognized accredited post-secondary educational institution that is credited toward a program of study at Fleming College.

4.0 - Scope

This policy applies to courses within programs of study for Ontario college credentials at Fleming College for the following credential types:

- Ontario College Diploma
- Ontario College Advanced Diploma
- Ontario College Certificates
- Fleming College Certificates

5.0 - General Principles

- 5.1 General Education courses shall be delivered as discrete courses designed to address one or more of the five General Education Themes.
- 5.2 In keeping with the provincial directive, between three to five General Education courses in a discipline beyond the vocational field of study must be present in programs leading to either an Ontario College Diploma or Advanced Diploma. General Education courses cannot meet program Vocational Learning Outcomes.
- a) At least one of the courses taken by each student in an Ontario College Diploma or Advanced Diploma must be taken as an *elective* general education course.
 - b) Students shall choose elective general education courses from a pool of courses, approved by the General Education Committee.
- 5.3 It is recommended, but not required, that Ontario College Certificate programs and Local Board Approved Certificates programs include at least one General Education course in a discipline beyond the vocational field of study which could be mandated or elective, as appropriate.
- 5.4 The General Education Committee, a sub-committee of Academic Council, will review General Education courses against established criteria to ensure that college programming meets provincial requirements.
- 5.5 General Education courses can require as prerequisite an introductory General Education to ensure depth requirement is met; however, General Education courses shall not require a vocationally-specific course as a prerequisite.
- 5.6 During program review, the Academic Quality Office will ensure that any proposed curriculum changes are in compliance with the General Education policy.

6.0 - Related Documents

- *Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act (2002)*
- Minister's Binding Policy Directive: Framework for Programs of Instruction
- General Education Operating Procedure 2-212
- Terms of Reference of Academic Council

History of Amendments/Reviews

Original Approval November 2002
Reviewed and Revised Jan 2010; Mar 2022