

UGEC Criteria for the Social Sciences Menu

A. Courses included in the general education menu of courses must meet these general criteria:

Courses that satisfy ACU's University Requirements (General Education) will normally have lower-level numbering, be free of prerequisite and co-requisites, appeal to more than one or two majors, and "not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession" (SACS 2.7.3). Departments may request exceptions to the first three criteria.

B. Courses approved for inclusion in the Social Sciences menu should meet the following criteria:

1. Disciplines

For the university requirements, the social science menu includes the following disciplines: anthropology, economics, family studies, geography, history, international studies, philosophy, political science, psychology, and sociology. (The UGEC can consider requests from other disciplines.)

2. Definition

A course in the social sciences will focus on human function include the basic assumptions about humans, their behaviors, and the dynamics of human interaction; the relationships between humans and their physical environment; the creation and interaction with institutions of power and governance, and/or the study of how people produce, distribute and consume goods and services. A course in the social sciences should involve the study of human functioning at the level of the individual, small group, institution, organization, community, or larger population. The course will address at least one of the following:

- a. At the individual level, this course may involve the study of behavioral factors such as cognition, memory, language, perception, personality, emotion, motivation, and others;
- b. At higher levels of aggregation, this course may involve the study of social variables such as the structure and dynamics of small groups (e.g., couples, families, work groups, etc.); institutions and organizations (e.g. schools, religious organizations, etc.); communities (defined by geography or common interests); and larger demographic, political, economic, and cultural systems;
- c. This course may involve the study of the interactions within and between these levels of aggregation, such as the influence of sociocultural factors on cognitive processes and emotional responses or the reciprocal influence between small groups and larger communities;
- d. The course may focus on the interpretation of past practices or the history of human functioning over time.

3. Course Content

Courses that satisfy the requirements in Social Sciences should either:

- a. Introduce students to a particular disciplines within the social sciences, with an emphasis on its basic methods of inquiry, significant research findings, influential theories, key concepts and terminology, and the major topics common to the discipline; or
- b. Introduce students to a particular period of history with an emphasis on event timelines, historical biographies, and the critical debates associated with their interpretation.

C. Each course satisfying a University Requirement must be assessed to demonstrate how that course contributes to the overall student learning outcomes of the University as reflected through the relevant

General Education Competency. For courses approved for inclusion in the Social Sciences menu, their assessment should reflect how students demonstrate:

Overall Student Learning Outcome 2: Deep understanding of and hands-on experience with the inquiry practices of disciplines that explore the natural, socio-cultural, aesthetic, and religious (or theological or spiritual) realms - achieved and demonstrated through studies that build conceptual knowledge by engaging learners in concepts and modes of inquiry that are basic to the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, arts, and Christian faith (or theology);

General Education Competency 2: Knowledge and inquiry practices of natural, socio-cultural, aesthetic, and religious disciplines.

- A. Knowledge: Demonstrate an understanding of the basic knowledge, terminology, or elements appropriate to the discipline.
- B. Inquiry: Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental elements (methodology or theoretical framework) for sound inquiry and analysis appropriate to the discipline.

To be approved for inclusion in the Social Sciences menu, courses must designate the appropriate assessment method for the general education competency and the relevant goal level for the student achievement of that outcome in this format:

Course Name & Number	
University Requirement menu	
General Education Competency	
Assessment Method	
Acceptable Goal	
Ideal Goal	
Results for this year	

The first six rows must be completed in order for the course to be approved by the University General Education Council. Only the data for the final row needs to be reported annually. Adjustments to the appropriate competency, assessment method and goals can be made in consultation with the General Education Office as needed.