

## Simplification of General Education–Tier One Study Area Requirements

Approved by the Faculty Senate, 5/11/15

### Revised Requirements (see accompanying diagram):

- The three Tier One Study Areas—Individuals/Societies, Traditions/Cultures, and Natural Sciences—will be fulfilled with two courses, regardless of the category (designated by A, B, C, D) within each Study Area.
- In other words, students will satisfy the Tier One requirements by taking any two 150 courses, any two 160 courses, and any two 170 courses.
- The current course numbers (150, 160, 170) and category letters (A, B, C, D) will remain for the Course Catalog and UAccess system identification purposes.

Approved Revision to the Catalog Policy, [http://catalog.arizona.edu/2014-15/gened\\_tiers.html#tier1](http://catalog.arizona.edu/2014-15/gened_tiers.html#tier1) (changes in red font)

### Tier One Requirements:

*Tier One courses introduce students to fundamental issues and concepts pertinent to three study areas. Courses in each study area have a department prefix but the same number, as shown below. To complete each study area, students must take two courses ~~in different subareas or categories, designated by a letter (A, B, C) following the 3-digit course number.~~*

#### Tier One Study Areas:

Individuals & Societies (xxxx150)

Traditions & Cultures (xxxx160)

Natural Sciences (xxxx170)

#### Required Breadth:

2 - 150 courses ~~with different letters (A, B, C)~~

2 - 160 courses ~~with different letters (A, B, C, D)~~

2 - 170 courses ~~with different letters (A, B, C)~~

Total: 6 courses

~~The first course taken in a study area category (e.g., ARC 160D1) will count toward the Tier One requirement; a second course taken in the same study area category—identical course number and letter (e.g., JUS 160D1)—will count as general elective credit. If a student takes an additional course in one of the study areas (e.g., a third xxxx150 course), it will count as general elective credit. Note: Tier One courses cannot apply toward the major or minor.~~

### Rationale:

- Removal of the categories within each study area will simplify course articulation for transfer students who don't finish an AGECE from an Arizona community college.
- Students frequently choose two courses within the same study area category, mistakenly thinking they have completed the study area requirement, when in fact they have not.
- Eliminating the significance of the course letters will reduce faculty and student confusion about the meaning of categories within each study area.
- Tier One requirements will be easier to explain to high school students at recruitment sessions and to new students at orientations.
- This simplification will better align the UA's General Education with those of ASU and NAU.

### Effective Term:

**Summer/Fall 2016** for students in the 2016-17 Catalog. One year is needed for UAccess Student staff to implement this change to Student Academic Advisement Reports, Smart Planner, and other UA systems. **In Fall 2015**, college advisors may make course adjustments for the <100 incoming transfer students who are affected by this delay.