



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

MassTransfer General Education Foundation

The Aim of the General Education Foundation

The Massachusetts General Education (Gen Ed) Foundation, formerly known as the MassTransfer Block, is over 45 years old and has long served as the underpinning for several other transfer programs and policies. The aim of the 34-credit Gen Ed Foundation is to help students to develop knowledge, skills, habits, and dispositions of educated persons who live in a democratic society, an interdependent world, and a technological age in order to lead creative, productive lives and to responsibly participate in society.

These aims will be advanced through students' successful participation in a diverse and rich offering of courses that cover a variety of disciplinary clusters including behavioral and social sciences, composition, humanities and fine arts, mathematics and quantitative reasoning, and natural and physical sciences. As a result, students will develop essential learning skills and knowledge such as critical and creative thinking, quantitative literacy, written and oral communication, information literacy, team work and problem-solving skills, civic knowledge and engagement, intercultural knowledge and competence, and ethical reasoning. Students will utilize these skills throughout their lives in their many roles and responsibilities.

Student Learning Outcomes

On completion of Gen Ed requirements for the Social and Behavioral Sciences students will be able to:

- I. Behavioral and social sciences
 - A. Analyze and explain the multiple perspectives found in the social and behavioral sciences that underlie debates on important historical and contemporary issues and policies;
 - B. Apply appropriate social scientific methods to collect data, analyze, evaluate and/or solve problems in social relations and human behavior;
 - C. Analyze and explain the impact of power, privilege and structural inequity on individuals, communities and societies; and
 - D. Explain and compare social and cultural institutions, structures and processes around the globe.

- II. Humanities and fine arts
 - A. Interpret/analyze texts and other cultural products in ways that reflect informed understanding of relevant theoretical frameworks and contextual factors, including socio-cultural influence, cultural traditions and perspectives;
 - B. Produce works in the arts and humanities that communicate to a diverse audience through a demonstrated understanding of different discursive and artistic forms;
 - C. Experience cultural events to foster appreciation of the aesthetic and formal qualities of literary, visual, and performing arts; and
 - D. Explain how various forms of written, oral, musical, visual, digital and bodily expression contribute to human knowledge and experience.

- III. Natural or physical sciences
 - A. Demonstrate an understanding of basic knowledge, principles and laws in the natural and physical sciences;
 - B. Apply scientific knowledge to critically assess information and real-world issues;
 - C. Generate and test hypothesis through the direct collection, analysis and interpretation of data; and
 - D. Recognize the essential role of ethics in science.

- IV. English composition/writing
 - A. Apply active and critical reading skills to comprehend and synthesize a variety of texts;
 - B. Interpret and analyze various texts and construct well-reasoned prose;
 - C. Produce clearly written prose using appropriate academic writing conventions for a given purpose and audience;
 - D. Use a writing process that includes prewriting, drafting, feedback, and revision to produce polished, rhetorically effective pieces of writing;
 - E. Apply research skills to locate, evaluate, summarize, quote, paraphrase, and synthesize a variety of primary and secondary sources;

- F. Use an appropriate documentation style consistently and correctly to cite sources and maintain academic integrity; and
 - G. Recognize, select, and employ rhetorical strategies appropriate for different purposes and audiences.
- V. Mathematics/quantitative reasoning
- A. Interpret and communicate mathematical information symbolically, graphically, and numerically;
 - B. Use a variety of approaches such as pattern recognition, modeling, logical reasoning, and estimation to solve mathematical problems and judge the reasonableness of their results;
 - C. Use technology when necessary and appropriate to enhance mathematical thinking and understanding; and
 - D. Apply, analyze or create mathematical models to solve theoretical and/or real-world problems.



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MassTransfer General Education Foundation Learning Outcomes Development Team

Behavioral & Social Sciences

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Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning

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