

g. Transfer of Systemwide General Education Requirements

This subsection refers to the application of the systemwide general education requirements, established in Chapter III.A.18., for transfer students at Kansas public institutions. For the purposes of this policy subsection:

“Acceptable grade” means that systemwide course transfer credit, as detailed in 2.g.i.(1)(a)(ii), 2.g.i.(2)(a)(ii), or 2.g.iii., shall not be denied by a receiving Kansas public institution based on a grading standard when a transfer student earns “C” (2.0) or higher. The receiving Kansas public institution may apply a “D” (1.0) if it is also acceptable for its native students (the application of a “D” must apply equally to both resident and native students).

“Coordinated institution” means each community college and Washburn University.

“Institution-specific communication course” means a distinct communication course that is taught at a Kansas public institution that is required to meet a communication general education requirement.

“Institution-specific English/writing course” means a distinct English/writing course taught at a Kansas public institution that is required to meet an English general education requirement.

“Kansas public institution” means each state university and each participating coordinated institution.

“Major” means a field of study within a degree program, having its own curriculum. A degree program may have more than one major.

“Program-specific communication course” means a communication course that is required for students pursuing a specific major(s) to meet a communication general education course requirement (e.g., public speaking for business majors).

“Program-specific English/writing course” means an English course that is required for students pursuing a specific major(s) to meet an English general education course requirement (e.g., English for business majors).

“Specialized program grade requirement” means a grade standard that is required by a selective admission program or is necessary to meet programmatic accreditation or licensure standards.

“Systemwide transfer course” means a course approved by the Board, for which faculty

develop and update learning outcomes. These courses transfer to any Kansas public institution offering an equivalent course.

i. Application of General Education English and/or Communications Courses When the Receiving Kansas Public Institution Uses a Program- or Institution-Specific Course.

Historically, three of the most common general education transfer courses, English composition I and II and public speaking, have not met general education English and communication requirements at some Kansas public institutions because such institutions have required students, or some specific majors, to take a program- or institution-specific course. Unless the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted an exception, as detailed in 2.g.v., a Kansas public institution offering a program- or institution-specific-English or communication course shall operate within the following parameters when serving a transfer student.

(1) English Requirement

(a) A transfer student meeting one of the following shall not be required to complete a program- or institution-specific-English course to meet the English general education requirement in paragraph 18.a.ii.(1) of the Board's policy:

(i) The transfer student provides the receiving Kansas public institution an official transcript from a Kansas public institution noting "KS Systemwide General Education Completed" and, if applicable to the student's major, the grades earned in the English courses meet any specialized program grade requirement; or

(ii) The transfer student provides the receiving Kansas public institution an official transcript from a Kansas public institution noting three-credit hours of systemwide transfer course credit in English composition I with an acceptable grade and three-credit hours of systemwide transfer credit in English composition II with an acceptable grade, and, if applicable to the transfer student's major, the grades earned in such courses meet any specialized program grade requirement.

(b) A transfer student meeting one of the criteria in paragraph 2.g.i.(1)(a)(i) or 2.g.i.(1)(a)(ii) of this policy shall only be required to complete a program- or institution-specific English course if:

(i) the receiving Kansas public institution transfers and applies the six-credit hours of transfer English general education courses towards meeting the six-credit hour English requirement defined in 18.a.ii.(1);

(ii) the transfer student selects a major at the receiving Kansas public institution that requires all majors (transfer and native students) to complete the program- or institution-specific

English/writing course as a credit-hour requirement that is separate from the six-credit hour English general education requirement in 18.a.ii.(1);

(iii) the receiving Kansas public institution notes on the official degree sheet on its website that the program- or institution-specific English/writing course is a requirement in the major area or an additional non-general education requirement area of the degree; and

(iv) any changes made to meet the requirements in 2.g.i.(1)(b)(ii)-(iii) do not result in increasing the total number of credit hours required to complete the degree for a native or transfer student.

(2) Communication Requirement

(a) A transfer student meeting one of the following criteria shall not be required to complete a program- or institution-specific communication course to meet the communication general education requirement detailed in 18.a.ii.(2):

(i) the transfer student provides the receiving Kansas public institution an official transcript from a Kansas public institution noting “KS Systemwide General Education Completed” and, if applicable to the student’s major, the grade earned in the communication course meets any specialized program grade requirement; or

(ii) the transfer student provides the receiving Kansas public institution an official transcript from a Kansas public institution noting three-credit hours of systemwide transfer course credit in public speaking with an acceptable grade and, if applicable to the student’s major, the grade earned in such a course meets any specialized program grade requirement.

(b) A transfer student meeting the criteria in 2.g.i.(2)(a)(i) or 2.g.i.(2)(a)(ii) shall only be required to complete a program- or institution-specific communication course if:

(i) the receiving Kansas public institution transfers and applies the three-credit hours of transfer communication general education towards meeting the three-credit hour communication requirement defined in 18.a.ii.(2);

(ii) the transfer student selects a major at the receiving Kansas public institution that requires all majors (transfer and native students) to complete the institution- or program-specific communication course as a credit-hour requirement that is separate from the three-credit hour communication requirement detailed in 18.a.ii.(2);

(iii) the receiving Kansas public institution notes on the official degree sheet on its website that the program- or institution-specific communication course is listed in the major area or an additional non-general education degree requirement area; and

(iv) any changes made by the receiving Kansas public institution to meet the requirements in 2.g.i.(2)(b)(ii)-(iii) do not result in increasing the total number of credit hours required to complete the degree for a native or transfer student.

ii. Transfer Students Who Complete the Systemwide General Education Framework.

(1) Except as provided in 2.g.ii.(2), when a transfer student has successfully completed the systemwide general education requirements specified in paragraphs 18.a.ii.(1)-(7) and provides an official transcript from a Kansas public institution noting “KS Systemwide General Education Completed,” the receiving Kansas public institution shall not require the student to complete any additional general education requirement.

(2) The Board’s expectation is for the systemwide general education program to provide a vehicle for students to complete general education at one Kansas public institution and not be required to complete any additional general education courses at a second Kansas public institution. While this systemwide general education program establishes a powerful policy lever to allow many students to complete the general education and not need additional general education courses after transferring, it should be recognized that there will be some situations in which a student who completes the systemwide general education at one Kansas public institution and subsequently transfers may pursue a major at the receiving Kansas public institution that requires an additional course(s) that is classified in the general education area of the degree. When a transfer student provides an official transcript from a Kansas public institution noting “KS Systemwide General Education Completed,” the receiving Kansas public institution shall only be permitted to require an additional general education requirement(s) if the transfer student:

(a) pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution for which the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted permission, as detailed in 2.g.v., to continue requiring – and not waive – a specific course requirement that is classified in the general education area of the degree and the transfer student did not complete such a course prior to transferring;

(b) pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution for which the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted permission, as defined in 18.c, to deviate from the systemwide general education requirements; or

(c) pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution in which there is a specialized program grade requirement in a specific general education course and such a grade was not successfully achieved prior to transferring. Refer to 2.g.i.(1)-(2) for information about transfer credit associated with a program- or institution-specific English/writing or communication course requirement.

iii. Transfer of Coursework for Students Who Do Not Complete the Systemwide General Education Framework.

(1) Except as provided in 2.g.iii.(2), when a transfer student who did not complete the systemwide general education requirements provides an official transcript(s) from a Kansas public institution, the receiving Kansas public institution shall apply credits earned in systemwide transfer courses that fit under one of the general education discipline areas detailed in 18.a.ii.(1-6) toward meeting credit-hour requirements within the applicable general education discipline area. A systemwide general education discipline area in which a transfer student completed the requisite systemwide transfer credit hours shall be considered completed. For example, if a transfer student completed three-credit hours of systemwide transfer credit in American government with an acceptable grade and three-credit hours of systemwide transfer credit in introduction to psychology with an acceptable grade, it shall complete the social and behavioral sciences discipline area requirement in 18.a.ii.(5).

(2) When a transfer student has not completed the systemwide general education, the application of any general education transfer course that is not designated as a systemwide transfer course shall be at the discretion of the receiving Kansas public institution. When a transfer student has completed a systemwide transfer course that fits within a systemwide general education subject in a discipline area requirement noted in paragraphs 18.a.ii.(1)-(6), the receiving Kansas public institution shall only be permitted to exclude such a course from meeting a requirement in the general education discipline area when the transfer student:

(a) completed a performance course, as noted in 18.a.ii.(6);

(b) did not earn an acceptable grade in the systemwide transfer course in the discipline area;

(c) pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution in which there is a specialized program grade requirement in a specific general education course in the discipline area and such a grade was not successfully achieved prior to transferring. Refer to 2.g.i.(1)-(2) for information about transfer credit associated with a program- or institution-specific English or communication course requirement;

(d) pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution for which the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted permission, as detailed in 2.g.v., to continue requiring – and not waive – a specific course requirement that is classified in the general education discipline area of its degree and the transfer student did not complete such a course prior to transferring; or

(e) pursues a major at the receiving Kansas public institution for which the Board President and Chief Executive Officer has granted permission, as defined in 18.c, to deviate from the discipline area in the systemwide general education requirements.

iv. Application of Transfer Credit Earned by Exam Toward Completing Systemwide General Education Requirements.

(1) Credit by exam in a general education subject detailed in paragraphs 18.a.(1)-(6), once recorded on Kansas public institution's transcript, is transferable on the same basis as if the credit had been earned through completing the course(s) at the awarding Kansas public institution.

(2) When a Kansas public institution awards credit by exam in any general education subject detailed in paragraphs 18.a.(1)-(6), the receiving Kansas public institution shall not be permitted to require the transfer student to provide official copies of the exam scores.

v. Request to Require a Specific General Education Course – in Lieu of Waiving a Requirement – For Transfer Students Who Completed the Systemwide General Education or Completed a Systemwide Transfer Course Discipline Area Requirement.

(1) It should be noted that Kansas public institutions have a role and responsibility in removing barriers, promoting affordability, and advancing timely completion. As such, Kansas public institutions should recognize these core tenets when redesigning degree programs around the systemwide general education requirements and thinking about the impact of such decisions on transfer students.

(2) When a Kansas public institution wishes to require an explicit general education course for students in a specific major – even when a student has completed the systemwide general education or completed the systemwide general education discipline area requirement that is linked to the explicit general education course – it shall submit a request to the Board President and Chief Executive Officer. (e.g., a Kansas public institution requests for all transfer students who completed the social and behavioral sciences discipline area requirement and are majoring in social work to take introduction to psychology – in lieu of waiving it– within the social and behavioral sciences discipline area of the general education because of programmatic accreditation).

(3) This request can be for one major or all the majors in a degree (e.g., bachelor of arts), college (e.g., college of arts and sciences), or department (e.g., social sciences department). For example, if a Kansas public institution wishes to require all transfer majors pursuing a bachelor of arts degree to take a specific course – in lieu of waiving it – it could be submitted in one request.

(4) This request shall include a degree sheet with the general education requirements (disciplines, course title options, and credit hours), the major requirements (course titles and credit hours), and any other degree requirements (course titles and credit hours) that are needed to complete the degree and shall address:

(a) the requested course title, total number of credit hours for the requested course, and the systemwide general education discipline area in which the requested course requirement fits;

(b) academic rationale;

(c) reason for why this is classified as a general education course and not included in the major or another non-general education area of the degree; and

(d) if based on accreditation or licensure, include background.

(5) After review of the request, additional information on how such a requirement would financially impact transfer students may also be required.

(6) Board staff shall provide a timeline each year for institutions to submit requests based on the criteria herein.

h. Students who intend to transfer are responsible for becoming acquainted with the program and degree requirements of the institution to which they expect to transfer.