

Policy Number:	AS-2005-1996
Policy Title:	General Education
Policy Owner:	Vice President, Academic
Effective Date:	June 1996
Last Revised:	August 15, 2017

1. Purpose

This policy articulates the operational framework for General Education Elective development, delivery and compliance at Mohawk College.

2. Application and Scope:

This policy applies to Ontario College Diploma and Ontario College Advanced Diploma programs offered by Mohawk College. It may also apply to Ontario College Certificate and Graduate Certificate programs at the discretion of the Schools delivering the programs. This policy does not apply to collaborative degree programs undertaken with McMaster University; for these programs, general education requirements are addressed by the university.

3. Definitions

“General Education” refers to courses that incorporate breadth beyond the vocational focus of the Program of Studies and addresses one of the five themes identified below. General Education is liberal in focus not vocational, and must comply with the following requirements:

- a. Open enrolment
- b. Elective-based

4. Principles

- a) General education courses will be consistent with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) *Binding Policy Directive- Framework for Programs of Instruction* (please see link below).
- b) General education courses are aligned with Essential Employability Skills, as defined by MAESD, Mohawk’s Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs).
- c) General education contributes to the development of educated citizens who are conscious of the diversity, complexity and richness of the human experience and who are able to contribute thoughtfully, creatively and positively to the society in which they live and work. General education courses must address at least one of

the following five themes:

- Arts in Society;
- Civil Life;
- Social and Cultural Understanding;
- Personal Understanding; and
- Science and Technology.

d) General education courses must address the following student priorities:

- Expose students to at least one discipline outside of their main field of study.
- Support students in learning that is distinct from their vocational skills, and requires more from them than simply mastery of content.
- Engage students in the study and discussion of issues of societal concern in a manner that is relevant to their lives.
- Encourage students to adopt reflective practices necessary for personal growth, enrichment and informed citizenship.

5. Accountability and Compliance

5.1 Accountability Framework

This policy has been approved by the Senior Leadership Team.

5.2 Compliance

Associate Deans are responsible for ensuring that each Program of Study complies with the General Education requirements stated in this policy.

The Vice President, Academic, is responsible for monitoring compliance to this policy and updating the policy as required.

6. Rules

- a) Consistent with the MAESD *Binding Policy Directive – Framework for Programs of Instruction*, all diploma programs at Mohawk College will include a minimum of three general education courses. Each course will be a minimum 42 hours in length over a 14-week semester.
- b) Every diploma program will incorporate three General Education courses that meet the criteria for general education outlined in this policy, and are selected by the student from a pool of approved general education courses.

- c) Final approval of all general education offerings is the responsibility of the Vice President, Academic. The Dean, Community Justice and Liberal Studies is responsible for maintenance of the pool of approved general education electives, and is accountable for ensuring that the combination of elective pool courses available each semester is large and diverse enough to allow sufficient access to general education courses in each of the five themes.

- d) Monitoring of compliance with the General Education Policy will be undertaken through the annual and comprehensive program of studies review process as specified by the Program Quality Policy.

7. Policy Revision Date

7.1 Revision Date

August 2020

7.2 Responsibility

The Vice President, Academic will be responsible for reviewing this policy every three years or earlier where required.

8. Specific Links

[MAESD Binding Policy Directive- Framework for Programs of Instruction](#)

AS-2000-2013 Program Quality Policy