

## **Guidelines for awarding transfer credit for general education courses**

updated 3/5/2021

State law (FOCUS Act, passing in 2016) requires that:

“A student who earned an AA or AS from a Tennessee community college is deemed to have met all general education and university parallel core requirements for transfer to a Tennessee public university as a junior. Admission to certain programs, schools or colleges within the university remain competitive. Tenn. Code. Ann. § 49-7-202(f)”

In addition,

- A student who has earned an AA or AS from any other accredited community college (inside or outside TN) is deemed to have met all general education requirements at the University of Memphis.
- A student who has successfully completed a general education block<sup>1</sup> at another accredited institution (inside or outside TN, public or private) and that block is equivalent to our own in terms of categories, outcomes, and number of credit hours, will be deemed to have met general education requirements for that block at the University of Memphis.
- A student who has successfully completed 6-8 hours of natural science coursework from an accredited college or University but who has not successfully completed natural science labs because their institution does not (or did not) require labs for their general education program, will not be required to take labs (or repeat a course with a lab) at the University of Memphis in order to fulfill natural science general education requirements. Documentation that the student's previous institution does not or did not require labs is required. *Please note that some programs require labs for their degree requirements. This means that students will have to take the labs if they want to pursue degrees in those programs.*
- If a course counts (or counted in the past) for general education at the student's prior institution and that institution's general education program is similar to ours in terms of outcomes (and categories) and the student (or advisor) provides documentation of this, it will be accepted as general education credit at the University of Memphis in the appropriate category.
- Courses that need to be reviewed for possible equivalencies can be submitted through petition in UMdegree. Syllabus and course description should be emailed to the staff member handling petitions.

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<sup>1</sup> A general education “block” refers to a category within general education. The University of Memphis has six “blocks”—Communication, History, Humanities and Fine Arts, Natural Sciences, Social/Behavioral, and Mathematics.