GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

The general education requirement is intended to provide breadth in the baccalaureate degree program to foster student learning beyond a single, narrow discipline or field. General education is designed to facilitate the increase of knowledge, an appreciation for learning in a broad context, the ability to relate new information to what one has previously learned, the capacity to judge information rather than to simply accept it, and the facility to use what one learns in a realistic and logical manner. In addition, the general education requirement is designed to help students to acquire the ability:

- To communicate (write, speak, and listen) clearly and effectively,
- to think critically, quantitatively, and creatively, and
- to locate and to process information.

To fulfill the general education requirement, students must complete course credits outside the major department that meet twelve (12) broadly defined goals. Students are not allowed to substitute non-general education course for general education credit. In some majors, one general education goal is considered satisfied through completion of the major (see department sections in the catalog). In such cases, the number of general education courses is reduced to eleven (11), leaving one free elective. Each general education course is designed to cover at least one, but no more than two goals. Under each of the 12 general education goals shown below, courses are listed that fulfill the goal; if more than one goal is covered, the second is shown in parentheses.

Goal 1 (Writing) and Goal 2 (Quantitative) must be completed within the first year of matriculating at the College. In conformity with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in partial fulfillment of the mission of the State Colleges to prepare informed citizens, all students at Framingham State College must take a course meeting either general education goal eight (8) or goal ten (10) in which both the United States and Massachusetts constitutions are studied. In addition, at least one course taken under Goal 6 (Physical Science) or Goal 7 (Life Science) must be a laboratory course. Courses that include a laboratory or study of the constitutions are identified in the listing.

**Note:** Students who have withdrawn for more than one semester must follow degree and general education requirements stated in the catalog at the time of their return.

1. Writing: The ability to think critically and to express ideas in lucid precise language; the skills necessary for conducting research, analysis and argument; the ability to write expository and persuasive prose correctly and effectively. Note: This goal must be completed within the student’s first year of attendance at the College.

2. Quantitative: A knowledge of formal logic and a knowledge of mathematics including computation, axiomatic structure and applicability.

3. Language: A basic knowledge of a language other than one’s own, including its cultural context together with at least a minimal ability to read, write, speak, and comprehend.

4. Literature or Philosophy: A knowledge of a coherent group of important works of literature and understanding of the interaction of historical context, artistic tradition and individual talent;
An understanding of the development of significant philosophical ideas and systems including applications to ethical issues.

5. Visual or Performing Arts: A knowledge of a coherent group of important works in music and art, and understanding of the interaction of historical context, artistic tradition and individual talent;

or

An option to demonstrate knowledge of a language in an area of the performing arts acquired through the development of skills in non-verbal (or verbal) communications.

6. Physical Science: An understanding of the classical and modern principles of physical science, together with a critical appreciation of how scientific knowledge has been constructed, including methods of validating the results of scientific inquiry.

7. Life Science: An understanding of the classical and modern principles of biological science, together with a critical appreciation of how scientific knowledge has been constructed, including methods of validating the results of scientific inquiry.

8. Historical Studies: A knowledge of the history of western cultures including comparative political and economic systems, and taking into account the contributions of groups usually excluded.

9. Social and Behavioral Science: An understanding of the principles of behavioral and social sciences and/or institutions, together with a critical appreciation of how scientific knowledge has been constructed, including methods of validating the results of scientific inquiry in studying human behavior.

10. Forces in the United States: An understanding of the various social, political, economic, historical, geographical, or technological forces at work in the United States.

11. Non-Western Studies: An understanding and appreciation of non-western cultures past and present.


Study of the Constitutions: All students must take one course that includes study of both U.S. and Massachusetts constitutions, to be chosen from among … courses that satisfy general education goal 8 or 10.

Laboratory Courses: All students must take one laboratory science, to be chosen from among the following courses that satisfy general education goal 6 or 7.