

Appendix K.

Memo

GEGB Memo Regarding Upper-Division Classes
December 18, 2014

To: College Deans and Associate Deans

From: Brenda Helmbrecht
Chair, General Education Governance Board

CC: Susan Olivas
Gary Laver
Andrew Schaffner
Mary Pedersen
GEGB Committee

Re: Requiring Junior Status on Upper-Level GE classes – Areas C4, D5, and F

At a General Education Governance Board meeting held Oct. 21, 2014, GEGB members unanimously voted to require that all upper-division GE courses—Areas C4, D5, and F—require junior status. This change will be reflected in the upcoming 2015-2017 catalogue.

Requiring junior status for upper-division (300-level) courses will bring Cal Poly's General Education program into compliance with CSU Executive Order 1065. The "Section 2.2.3 Upper-Division Requirement" states, "At least nine of these semester units or twelve of these quarter units must be upper-division level, taken no sooner than the term in which upper-division status (completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units) is attained."

It seems that many courses in Areas C4, D5, and F *already* require junior status, but the GEGB sees some inconsistencies that could confuse students. The GEGB believes that uniformly enforcing this prerequisite in all upper-division GE classes will help advise students as they are selecting their classes. Moreover, upper-division General Education classes are intended to draw from lower-level (100-, 200-level) foundational courses in the same area. Thus, if students take upper-division classes after completing 90 units (per EO 1065), they will be better positioned to draw from the knowledge built in lower-level GE classes, thereby bringing greater cohesion to their overall GE experience.

Courses that have been reviewed by the GEGB in fall 2014 have been adjusted to require junior status. Courses that were not under review will be edited by the registrar's office as part of the 2015-2017 catalog review cycle.

It should also be noted that the GEGB understands that, under certain circumstances, students may need to bypass this hard prerequisite. Instructors always have the option to address unique situations by giving students permission numbers that waive course prerequisites.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Brenda Helmbrecht
GEGB Chair