

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan 48152-2696

CORE ABILITIES AND GENERAL EDUCATION

Schoolcraft College understands that student learning goals cover a wide spectrum. Some learners choose Schoolcraft College for a specific career program and are primarily focused on a direct connection to an employment opportunity. Other learners choose Schoolcraft College as the first step on the path to a four-year transfer institution. Still, others choose programs for personal development. Regardless of the type of program a student chooses, essential elements are required to ensure the provision of a transformational learning experience that increases the learner's capacity to achieve intellectual, social, and economic goals.

Schoolcraft College is committed to the belief that a sound education has its foundation in general education and the development of core abilities. By integrating core abilities into all courses and requiring completion of general education courses, Schoolcraft College gives students the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes fundamental to achieving personal fulfillment and economic success.

Core Ability Requirements

Core abilities are broad outcomes or skills that every graduate of a Schoolcraft College associate or bachelor's degree is expected to achieve. These skills are important in every area of learning and are the skills employers and other stakeholders indicate are essential.

Schoolcraft College requires candidates for all associate and bachelor's degrees to demonstrate competency in the following core abilities:

- Communicate effectively
- Demonstrate creative and critical thinking
- Use technology effectively
- Use mathematics
- Manage information
- Work cooperatively
- Act professionally
- Demonstrate social and cultural awareness

At least one core ability is addressed and assessed in every course. The associate and bachelor's degree programs have all eight core ability expectations integrated into the overall program design.

General Education Requirements for the Associate and Bachelor's Degree

General education is “general” in several clearly identifiable ways: it is part of every associate and bachelor’s degree course of study, regardless of program area of emphasis; it is not directly related to a student’s technical, vocational, or professional preparation; and it is intended to impart common knowledge, intellectual concepts, and attitudes that every educated person should possess. A well-educated person is not a narrow specialist; instead, they are well rounded in their learning and experiences. The breadth of knowledge acquired in general education cannot be found in any single discipline or major.

The following course selections in English Communication, Humanities, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences constitute Schoolcraft College’s general education course distribution requirements for students seeking an associate or bachelor’s degree. These course areas are recognized and reinforced by transfer institutions.

The minimum requirements listed here are necessary to meet the Schoolcraft College general education course distribution requirements. Many programs, particularly transfer programs, require more than the minimums listed here to address specific program outcome goals. Students must complete a minimum of 16 or 24 credits in general education at the associate level (depending upon the particular associate degree) and 30 credits at the bachelor’s level credentials. Schoolcraft accepts the requirements of the Michigan Transfer Agreement as fulfilling Schoolcraft’s General Education requirements.

Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Business Administration, Associate of Engineering, Associate of Fine Arts, and Associate of General Studies Degrees’ General Education Course Requirements (minimum of 16 credits)

- I. English Communication (Select one combination of two courses based on program requirements, minimum of 6 credits)
- II. Humanities (Select a minimum of one course, 1 to 4 credits)
- III. Mathematics (Select a minimum of one course, 3 to 5 credits)
- IV. Natural Sciences (Select a minimum of one course, 3 to 5 credits)
- V. Social Sciences (Select a minimum of one course, 3 to 4 credits)

Associate of Arts and Associate of Science Degrees’ General Education Course Requirements (minimum of 24 credits)

- I. English Communication (Select one combination of two courses based on program requirements, minimum of 6 credits)
- II. Humanities (Select a minimum of one course, 1 to 4 credits)

- III. Mathematics (Select a minimum of one course, 3 to 5 credits)
- IV. Natural Sciences (Select a minimum of one course, 3 to 5 credits)
- V. Social Sciences (Select a minimum of one course, 3 to 4 credits)
- VI. Additional General Education courses to achieve a total of 24 credits minimum.

Bachelor's Degree General Education Course Requirements (minimum of 30 credits)

- I. English Communication (Select a minimum of two courses from Schoolcraft's approved Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) course list (6 credits, based on program requirements)
- II. Humanities (Select a minimum of two courses from different disciplines, 4 to 8 credits)
- III. Mathematics (Select a minimum of one course from Schoolcraft's approved Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) course list, 4 to 5 credits)
- IV. Natural Sciences (Select a minimum of two courses from different disciplines, including at least one lab science course, 7 to 9 credits)
- V. Social Sciences (Select a minimum of two courses from different disciplines, 6 to 8 credits)
- VI. Additional General Education courses to achieve a total of 30 credits minimum.
- VII. Technical or Specializations (Completion of technical or specialization courses that serve as specific or supportive of the occupational and academic goals)

Review and Evaluation

The Core Abilities and General Education requirements are fundamental to providing a quality education as part of a systemic continuous quality improvement standard of practice.

Schoolcraft College is an "open door" community college accepting individuals with a wide variety of preparation levels. A program of assessments, placement, and continuing academic support is essential.

The courses, placement tests, and systems designed to monitor and promote student success will be formally evaluated at least every 36 months. Graduate follow-up studies will be a major part of this evaluation.

The objective of this activity is to define the associate and bachelor's degrees at Schoolcraft College and to ensure that degree recipients have been exposed to experiences that contribute to future personal development, occupational, academic, and civic success.

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