UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
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Introduction
University College is responsible for delivering Zayed University’s General Education program that is characterized by teaching excellence, student engagement, and a commitment to student development. The General Education Program at Zayed University initiates the baccalaureate careers of all Zayed University students, offers an opportunity for all students to acquire breadth of knowledge through its core courses, and prepares students with necessary skills required for their future majors and eventual employment. The experience helps instill in students a desire for lifelong learning, fosters intellectual curiosity, and promotes critical thinking. Concentrating on the first three semesters of the students’ Zayed University education, faculty specialized in multiple disciplines attend to the students’ intellectual development by advising and mentoring, conducting core courses in an engaging and pedagogically sound learning environment, and offering additional support outside the classroom.

Mission:
University College offers high quality foundational General Education to students and prepares them for their future majors and eventual employment. The experience instills in the students a desire for lifelong learning, fosters intellectual curiosity, and engenders critical thinking. The general education program initiates the baccalaureate careers of all ZU students.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
The General Education Program has adopted all the Zayed University Learning Outcomes as its own program learning outcomes. The six Zayed University Learning Outcomes (ZULOs) supported by the General Education program are:

- **Critical Thinking and Quantitative Reasoning**: Zayed University graduates will be able to demonstrate competence in understanding, evaluating, and using both qualitative and quantitative information to explore issues, solve problems, and develop informed opinions.

- **Global Awareness**: Zayed University graduates will be able to understand and value their own and other cultures, perceiving and reacting to differences from an informed and socially responsible point of view.
- **Information Literacy**: Zayed University graduates will be able to find, evaluate and use appropriate information from multiple sources to respond to a variety of needs.

- **Language**: Zayed University graduates will be able to communicate effectively in English and Modern Standard Arabic, using the academic and professional conventions of these languages appropriately.

- **Leadership**: Zayed University graduates will be able to undertake leadership roles and responsibilities, interacting effectively with others to accomplish shared goals.

- **Technological Literacy**: Zayed University graduates will be able to effectively understand, use, and evaluate technology both ethically and securely in an evolving global society.

**VISION OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM**

The 36-credit hour common core, general education program achieves its six Zayed University Learning Outcomes (ZULOs) through a curriculum that creates an engaging and pedagogically sound intellectual experience demonstrated by excellence in teaching, active student engagement, and commitment to student learning and development.

Each of General Education course meets at least one or more of the ZULOs and is institutionally assessed every semester. Sets of interdisciplinary and interconnected courses can be grouped into key General Education learning objectives that correspond to the below courses as follows:

1. To enhance national identity, citizenship values, and leadership (ISL 135, GEN 150, HSS 255)
2. To strengthen Arabic and English communication skills (ARA 130, GEN 140, GEN 145)
3. To develop lifelong learning skills (GEN 120, GEN 185, GEN 220)
4. To strengthen numeracy, scientific and technological literacy (GEN 110, GEN 175, GEN 195)

**KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Objective 1** (9 credits): To enhance the university’s commitment to promoting national identity, leadership and good citizenship values, a set of three courses take students on a journey of exploring who they are in relation to others, what values they hold, and what steps they can take to live life more fully. Individually and collectively, Islamic Civilization (ISL 135), Happiness, Positivity and Wellbeing (GEN 150), and Emirates Studies (HSS 255) teach students to be globally aware, productive, and ethical members of UAE society, while at the same time students are taught to value and respect other ideas, peoples and cultures in forming a peaceful UAE society.
Objective 2 (9 credits): To achieve the university’s language outcome of all students, four required courses in Arabic (ARA 130) and English language development (GEN 140, GEN 145) are required to ensure that students are prepared for the demands of academic and professional oral and written communication in both languages.

Objective 3 (9 credits): At the core of the Zayed University’s General Education Program is the aim to develop students’ skills needed for lifelong learning and for a future where learners have to have critical thinking, creativity, flexibility, and an openness to address problems quickly and innovatively. Life Skills (GEN 120), Methods of Scientific Research and Development (GEN 185), and Fundamentals of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (GEN 220) build students’ multiple skillsets. From preparing students to transition to university and choosing a major that aligns with their interests and values that is done in Life Skills, to critically examining a question and finding data in Methods of Scientific Research, to solving complex problems innovatively as is done in Fundamentals of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, these courses compel students to redesign their world based on information literacy, critical analysis and design thinking. Throughout a student’s First Year General Education experience, developmental advising in the form of ADV 100 and ADV 101 is offered to students each semester. It is here that individual and group discussions are tailored to specific academic and professional needs of students.

Objective 4 (9 credits): To support numeracy, scientific, and technological literacy required of critical thinkers, courses in mathematics (GEN 110), science (GEN 195), and information technology (GEN 175) are offered to students. All courses meet the Zayed University critical thinking and quantitative reasoning as well as the technological literacy outcome. These courses are fundamental to all students’ ability to understand data sets and be able to manipulate them using Excel as a tool, to know about the environmental and health issues facing the world and region, and to understand the skills required in a technologically sophisticated world. Advanced science students who are entering majors with upper level science and math requirements may be required to take courses in their major to fulfill these General Education requirements. Majors programs will specify what alternative courses will meet their general education science and math requirements.

General Education Semester Plan and Credits

SEMESTER ONE
GEN 110** Data Management and Analysis 3
GEN 120* Life Skills 3
ARA 130 Arabic Concepts 3
GEN 140 English Composition I 3
GEN 150* Happiness, Positivity, and Wellbeing 3
ADV 100 Advising 0
TOTAL CREDITS 15

SEMESTER TWO CREDITS
ISL 135 Islamic Civilization 3
GEN 145 English Composition II 3
GEN 175** Introduction to Information Technology 3
GEN 185* Methods of Scientific Research and Development 3
GEN 195** Living Science: Health and Environment 3
ADV 101 Advising 0

TOTAL CREDITS 15

SEMMESTER THREE CREDITS
GEN 220* Fundamentals of Innovation and Entrepreneurship 3
HSS 255* Emirates Studies 3
TOTAL CREDITS 6

* Gov’t required courses
** Science majors may require more advanced course requirements not noted here.

TOTAL - COMMON CORE CREDITS 36

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT OFFERED TO STUDENTS

Academic Advising
All students who enter University College are given an advisor who is also a faculty member in the Department of Advising and Academic Development. These faculty advisors serve as the instructors for GEN 120, ADV 100 and ADV 101 courses, and the instructors assist students with developmental issues that arise in class and with learning skills necessary for academic success. Through advising, students learn to be independent and responsible for their own learning experiences.

Al Waha Academic Support Zone
Al Waha Academic Support Zone offers one-on-one individualized faculty tutoring and group workshops to students on a variety of academic topics. Workshops on study skills, career choice, Excel, and test reviews are offered to students; individual one-on-one meetings assist students practice different concepts learned in general education courses. In addition to face-to-face sessions, students can access supplemental materials online. The Al Waha Writing Center also meets the needs of the major with major students accessing writing center assistance.

Developmental Coursework
University College faculty provide developmental coursework in English and Mathematics in the form of two pre-baccalaureate courses. Students who are conditionally admitted into Zayed University with EMSAT English scores between 1100 – 1249, must take ALL 040 (Academic Language and Literacies) and pass successfully within two semesters.

For those students who have either not passed EMSAT Math or received a low score on the placement exam, they must take DMT 010 (Basic Mathematics). Passing this course is a prerequisite for general education mathematics.

Najahi for At-Risk Students
Extra supplemental instruction sessions are conducted by volunteer faculty to assist students whose CGPA < 2.0. These lunch-time group sessions are planned in advance to meet the developmental and instructional needs of students.