

Statement for 2.2a
(General Education)

UH Hilo's General Education requirements aim to build [core competencies](#) in critical thinking, information literacy, communication, scientific and quantitative reasoning, human interaction and cultural diversity, and collaborative skills and civic participation. The requirements ensure that all graduating students are exposed to a diversity of academic disciplines and participate in the university's [mission](#) of improving the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i, the Pacific region, and the world.

Beginning in Fall 2018, UH Hilo adopted the UH system-wide Foundations and Diversification requirements while retaining the Structural and Integrative requirements unique to our campus. The primary purpose of this change was to facilitate student transfers between UH campuses, and the differences between the two systems are minor, apart from an additional required course in global cultures. Whereas previously students were required to take a course certified in the World Cultures category, which included courses at every undergraduate level, since 2018 students are required to take two cultures in Global and Multicultural Perspectives, which must be offered at the 100- or 200-level and must span two of three possible timeframes: prehistory-1500, 1500-present, and prehistory-present. Because the UH system-level requirements did not have requirements in language arts and only required one math class of all students, UH Hilo retained these requirements under the category of "Structural Requirements." UHH also retained its Integrative Requirements in Global and Community Citizenship, Hawai'i Pan-Pacific, and Writing Intensive courses:

Foundation Requirements:

[Written Communication \(FW\)](#) (3 credits)

[Quantitative Reasoning A \(FQ\)](#) (3 credits)

[Global and Multicultural Perspectives \(FG\)](#) (6 credits)

Diversification Requirements:

[Arts, Humanities, and Literature \(DA, DH, DL\)](#) (6 credits)

[Biological Science \(DB\), Physical Science \(DP\), and Science Laboratory \(DY\)](#) (7 credits)

[Social Sciences \(DS\)](#) (6 credits)

Structural Requirements:

[Language Arts \(GLA\)](#) (3 credits)

[Quantitative Reasoning B \(GQR\)](#) 3 credits

Integrative Requirements:

[Writing Intensive \(WI\)](#) (3-9 credits)

[Hawai'i Pan-Pacific \(HPP\)](#) (3 credits)

[Global and Community Citizenship \(GCC\)](#) (3 credits)

Applications for Writing Intensive designations are reviewed each semester by the [Campus Writing Coordinator](#) and must be renewed every four years. Applications for all other GE certifications are reviewed by the Faculty Congress Standing Committee on [General Education](#). Applications approved in a given academic year become certified in the following academic year and must be renewed every five years.

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