

Foothill College
College Curriculum Committee
Recommendations for Revision of Local General Education Requirements

Following our extensive review and deliberation, and building on our previous discussions documented in the "Report on Progress Regarding Local General Education Requirements," the College Curriculum Committee (CCC) wishes to formally recommend specific changes to Foothill College's general education requirements. These recommendations aim to align our programs with state guidelines, enhance student degree completion rates, and reflect valuable input from our constituents and advisory bodies.

1. Lifelong Learning

In response to guidance from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) and directives from the State of California, we propose retaining the requirement but lowering it to "at least one course in a GE area designated as Lifelong Learning". Although the state has advised removal of this requirement, we believe that incorporating it strategically can enhance our students' educational experience while adhering to ASCCC's recommendations to maintain these enriching courses. Additionally, it is our understanding that our counterparts at De Anza College will be making a similar recommendation.

2. Natural Sciences (Area 5) Lab

After thorough evaluation and discussion, we recommend retaining the lab requirement for Natural Sciences courses. This decision is based on our commitment to delivering a rigorous science education that integrates practical, hands-on learning experiences essential for scientific understanding and application. Maintaining the lab component ensures that our students are not only theoretically proficient but also practically skilled, preparing them for further academic pursuits, as well as providing critical thinking skills in life. We believe that preserving this requirement is vital for fostering a deeper engagement with the scientific process and enhancing the overall quality of our science education at Foothill College. It should be noted that De Anza College plans to focus on aligning with CALGETC requirements and will for this reason be recommending retention of the lab requirement.

3. Math & Quantitative Reasoning (Area 2)

We recommend, to the extent possible, transitioning math courses currently categorized under Foothill College Area V to the newly designated Area 2. Other courses in Area V should likewise be transferred. This move is intended to maintain the relevance and integrity of our offerings in Math and Quantitative Reasoning, ensuring they continue to meet the educational goals of our students efficiently.

The CCC believes these changes will provide a more flexible and responsive curriculum that better serves the needs of our students and aligns with both our institutional mission and state-wide educational objectives. We look forward to your feedback and hope for your support in implementing these modifications to strengthen the academic framework at Foothill College.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Foothill College Curriculum Committee.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Kaupp, Faculty Co-Chair