



GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

General education (GE) requirements focus on the development of writing, speaking, analytical, and interpretive skills. In these courses, students will have ample opportunity to familiarize themselves with foundational divisions of knowledge.

General education requirements are discipline specific, so each department determines which courses are needed. Normally, students complete their GE requirements at Claremont McKenna College, but a non-CMC course can be used with approval from a department chair.

General Education Requirements Chart

The chart below is an overview of CMC’s general education requirements for entering students. The course numbers refer to CMC and Keck Science Department courses only, so the course numbers will not apply to courses at the other Claremont Colleges.

GENERAL	Courses to be completed by all students
Freshman Writing Seminar	FWS 010 CM Must be completed within the first or second semester
Freshman Humanities Seminar	FHS 010 CM Must be completed within the first or second semester
Foreign Language	Competency at the 3rd college semester level of a foreign language May be waived based on a placement exam
Mathematics or Computer Science	Any CMC mathematics or computer science course
Lab Science	One laboratory science course offered by Keck Science Department or elsewhere within The Claremont Consortium Must be completed by the end of the second year at CMC
Physical Education	3 physical education activity courses, or 2 seasons of a sport Must register for activities and sports to count
Senior Thesis	To be completed in the senior year; related to the student’s major(s)

Humanities

For the general education requirement in the humanities, all students must complete a designated course in 2 of the following 4 fields of study outside of their major(s): literature in a foreign language, literature, philosophy, and religious studies. Students who major in one or more of these fields must complete courses in 3 of the 4 fields.

HUMANITIES	Courses in two areas outside the student's major(s) are required
Foreign Literature	The 4th semester of a European or classical language, the 5th semester of Korean or Arabic, or the 6th semester of Chinese or Japanese
Literature	Any CMC literature course numbered 50 or above
Philosophy	Any CMC philosophy course numbered under 60
Religious Studies	Any CMC religious studies course numbered 180 or under

Social Sciences

For the general education requirement in the social sciences, students must complete at least one designated course in 3 of the following 4 fields of study outside of their major(s): economics, government, history, and psychology. Students majoring in one or more of these fields must complete an appropriate course in each of the 4 fields.

SOCIAL SCIENCES	Courses in three areas outside the student's major(s) are required
ECON 050 CM	Principles of Economic Analysis
GOVT 020 CM	Introduction to American Politics
History	Any CMC history course
Psychology	Any CMC psychology course numbered under 100

For more detailed information about CMC's 2018–2019 General Education Requirements, please visit catalog.claremontmckenna.edu.

"When I arrived at CMC I was fully committed to majoring in psychology. It was my favorite class in high school and nothing could deter me from pursuing a career in that field. However, I had to take certain classes to fulfill CMC's general education requirements, and taking Gov. 20: Introduction to American Politics was a game-changer. I discovered a passion for politics and law I did not know I had and ended up majoring in government and legal studies, not psychology. The GE requirements introduced me to interests I do not think I would have discovered otherwise. Because of a single GE class, I am attending Columbia Law School.

Another GE, the senior thesis requirement, helped me prepare for the academic rigor law school poses. My senior thesis explored the constitutional validity of state and federal antidiscrimination statutes that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in areas of public accommodations. It culminated into 150 pages of legal arguments, research, history, and analysis. The skills I gained through this process are going to be of great value at Columbia."

Victor Lopez '17
Government and Legal Studies
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FOR GE REQUIREMENT QUESTIONS CONTACT:

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