

## CONTENT: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

### General Education

#### “Guaranteed Transfer” Course Criteria

#### **State-level Goal:**

Collectively, the general education requirements in social and behavioral sciences are designed to help students acquire a broad foundation in social science knowledge and ability to apply this understanding to contemporary problems and issues. Specifically the social and behavioral sciences requirement helps students:

- gain insight into the methods of social sciences.
- understand historical and social frameworks.
- understand how individuals relate to the social world, past and present.

#### **Criteria for Designating a Social or Behavioral Science Course as State Guaranteed:**

The content of a “state guaranteed” social or behavioral science course shall be designed to:

1. Provide **content knowledge** in one of the following areas:

a). History. Historical frameworks exploring important aspects of U.S. culture, society, politics, economics or its position in the world; **or** historical frameworks that explore and compare achievements, issues, and characteristics of the world and its cultures. The objective of the requirement that students take a course that provides content knowledge in history is to engage students in an analytical, chronological study of significant human experiences. Courses designed to achieve this objective should develop students’: (1) knowledge of a chronological structured analysis of significant human experiences; (2) understanding of the interpretive and analytical methods that are necessary to build accounts of the past; and (3) understanding that alternative analytical perspectives can create different narratives of the past. **(HI-1)**

**OR**

b). Economic or Political Systems. Understanding of economic **or** political systems **(SS-1)**

**OR**

c). Geography. Understanding how geography creates a sense of identity, shapes a culture, and influences the economics of a region. **(SS-2)**

**OR**

- d). Human Behavior. Knowledge of human behavior, including learning, cognition, and human development **or** cultural or social frameworks that explore and compare achievements, issues, and characteristics of the world and its different cultures. **(SS-3)**
2. Ability to use the social sciences to analyze and interpret issues.
  3. Understand diverse perspectives and groups.

**AND**

4. Competency in critical thinking
5. Competency in written communication or technology.

In addition to the requirements of the Written Communication Competency, writing in a course in the social and behavioral sciences must also meet the following requirements:

- a. It must be graded work.
- b. Short answer questions do not fulfill the requirement. In-class assignments need to be of a scale at least as large as one has in an essay exam.
- c. Writing assignments have to include writing done outside the classroom. In-class assignments are not enough; a piece of polished writing prepared by students outside of class has to be included.
- d. Twenty to twenty-five percent of the final grade must be based on writing assignments.

**Maximum number of credits in social sciences that will be guaranteed to transfer:**

At least 6 credit hours, including one **REQUIRED** History course (1a) and one course addressing a different knowledge area (1 b-d), will be guaranteed transfer in the gtPathways curriculum. An additional 3 credits from any course in categories 1 a-d can be guaranteed to transfer **IF** the student is requesting no more than 6 credits of guaranteed transfer courses in the Arts and Humanities category of the gtPathways curriculum (a maximum of 15 credits is guaranteed to transfer from the combined categories of Arts and Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences).