Wayne State University has had a University-wide Program in General Education since 1987 for all undergraduate students pursuing bachelor's degrees regardless of their academic specialties. These requirements contribute to the goal of ensuring that all students have the basic skills fundamental to success in college while simultaneously achieving the intellectual breadth necessary to place specialized and professional curricula in proper perspective. By means of the General Education Program, undergraduate students improve their skills and are introduced to methods of inquiry, modes of thought, bodies of knowledge, and representative ideas drawn from a wide range of academic disciplines.

Effective Fall 2018, the university has adopted major revisions to the general education curriculum. While aspects of the new curriculum are shared with the old curriculum, existing topics were revised and new topics created to specifically align with university's mission and strategic plan. The essential goals for this requirement are to enhance student engagement, success, and retention by implementing high-impact practices (HIPS) within a student's first year in college. Wayne Experience will also help students build key skills and habits that will allow them to successfully navigate the university and manage their busy lives. These range from time management to, study and test-taking skills to and engaging in community activities both on and off campus. Student motivation, engagement, learning, achievement, persistence and degree attainment all can be fostered by these transformative educational experiences.

Exemptions for Second Degree and Transfer Students (General Education Program)

Students who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and who seek a second bachelor's degree are exempt from the University-wide General Education Requirements, but must satisfy all School/College, department and program requirements. Equivalent courses taken at another institution may satisfy General Education Requirements. In cases where this would exceed the limitation of sixty-four credits from a community college accepted on a transfer basis, such courses shall satisfy the requirements, but the credits will not count towards the degree. Transfer students who have satisfied all requirements of the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) are exempted from University General Education Requirements, but must satisfy all School/College, department and program requirements.