The General Education Program

Our General Education curriculum consists of diverse course offerings that will provide you with a broad knowledge base and essential communication skills. Through GE courses you have the opportunity to explore new perspectives, ways of thinking, arguing, and being. The GE program can help you choose a major and will prepare you to specialize in one academic field. Each category must be complete by the time you graduate.

Note to Transfer Students

Have you earned an AS or AA degree?

If so, then you have also completed the SUNY General Education Requirement (GER) and do not have to take any additional GE courses at New Paltz.
The General Education Program

01. Foundation

This category ensures that students can use words and numbers. These courses require placement levels. Placements are used to determine which courses you will take to satisfy these GE requirements:

- **Mathematics** (one course, at Math Placement Level 3 or higher)
- **Basic Communication** (one course, ENG170 Writing & Rhetoric; a prerequisite course may be required based on placement level)
- **Foreign Language** (one or two courses, depending on placement; two consecutive elementary courses OR one elementary and one intermediate course in a single language, OR one intermediate course)

02. Exposure to the Disciplines

By taking classes in these disciplines, you will come to understand how artists, humanists, natural and social scientists answer questions about the world, the universe, and ourselves:

- **The Arts** (one course, minimum 3 credits)
- **Humanities** (one course)
- **Natural Sciences** (one lab science course or two non-lab science courses)
- **Social Sciences** (one course)

03. Regions

By studying regions of the world, you will explore questions about identity including who you are and how you may differ from others. This GE category will help you become an informed, engaged, and thoughtful citizen of the world.

- **United States Studies** (one course)
- **Western Civilization** (one course)
- **World Civilizations** (one course)
# General Education IV Curriculum – SUNY NEW PALTZ

## Category I: Foundational Skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Communication</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Foreign Language</th>
<th>Foreign Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 170/206 Writing and Rhetoric Based on Placement</td>
<td>Based on Placement / ALEKS</td>
<td>May Be Based on Placement</td>
<td>May Be Based on Placement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Category II: Exposure to the Disciplines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Arts</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
<th>Social Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Science 3 Credit - No Lab</td>
<td>Natural Science 3 Credit - No Lab</td>
<td>OR Natural Science 4 Credit - With Lab</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Category III: Regions

| United States Studies | Western Civilization | World Civilizations |
The General Education Program

Placement Levels

All students receive placements levels for Basic Communication, Math, and Foreign Language. Previous course work and sometime test scores may determine how levels are assigned.

You and your advisor will discuss your placements and which courses would be most appropriate for you to register for in the fall or spring semester.

For More Information

- Composition Placement
- Math Placement
- Foreign Language Placement

Understanding Your Math Placement Level

Many math courses have Math Placement Level restrictions (math, science, business, and economics). Your MPL tells you what courses you are prepared for and eligible to take. Math prerequisites are strictly enforced at SUNY New Paltz.

Freshmen: All incoming freshmen must take the ALEKS assessment in order to receive a Math Placement Level. Information about ALEKS PPL assessment is sent via email. It is important to read through this information carefully and pay close attention to deadlines.

Transfer Students: Your MPL is based on the math courses taken at your previous college. If a college level course was not taken, you can take the ALEKS PPL assessment so you can be assigned a level. If you do not take ALEKS, you will be assigned MPL 2. (If you earned an AA or AS, all General Education requirements are considered to be completed.)