

## Q2S General Education Comparison

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The current version of the Resolution on the Transition of General Education Requirements from Quarters to Semesters before the Faculty Senate calls for there be no substantive changes in the general education requirements in the transition from quarters to semesters. Further more, it resolves that programs offering courses intended to fulfill general education requirements under semesters, develop those courses such that the proportion of student's programs devoted to general education requirements (in terms of courses and credit hour) is not significantly changed. The purpose of this comparison is to help programs determine the effect of this resolution on semester programs.

Table 1 shows the minimum credit hours currently required to fulfill the components of the general education requirements under quarters and what they would be under semesters. The values are also expressed as a percentage of 192 quarter-hour, 120 semester-hour, and 128 semester-hour programs.

There is slight reduction in the proportion devoted to general education in a 128 semester-hour program. Since there is a reduction in the equivalent minimum total hours in 120 semester hour program, no substantive changes to general education yields a slight increase in this case. If the minimum for Tier II hours is reduced to 20, the Tier II percentages are the same for 120 semester hour programs.

Trying to analyze the change in the number of courses devoted to general education requires that some assumptions be made for Tier II. While the minimum number of quarter-hours in each Tier II area is currently 3, a vast majority of the approved Tier II courses (86%) are 4 hours. Likewise, under semesters, there is a 2-hour minimum in each area, but the majority of courses are expected to be 3 hours.<sup>1</sup> So assuming an average of 4 hours for Tier II under quarters and 3 hours under semesters, the course count is shown in Table 2. The same number of hours is used to determine the number of

**Table 1: Comparison of Minimum Hours Devoted to General Education**

Tier		Quarter		Semester		
		Hours	%	Hours	120-hr	128-hr
					%	%
Tier I	1E	5	3%	3	3%	2%
	1J	4	2%	3	3%	2%
	1M	4	2%	3	3%	2%
	TOTAL	13	7%	9	8%	7%
Tier II	2AS	3	2%	2	2%	2%
	2CP	3	2%	2	2%	2%
	2FA	3	2%	2	2%	2%
	2HL	3	2%	2	2%	2%
	2NS	3	2%	2	2%	2%
	2SS	3	2%	2	2%	2%
	TOTAL	32	17%	21	18%	16%
Tier III	T3	4	2%	3	3%	2%
	TOTAL	49	26%	33	28%	26%

**Table 2: Comparison of Number of Courses Devoted to General Education**

Tier	Quarter		Semester			
	Courses	%	Courses	120-hr	128-hr	
				%	%	
Tier I	3	6%	3	8%	7%	
Tier II	8	17%	7	18%	16%	
Tier III	1	2%	1	3%	2%	
	TOTAL	12	25%	11	28%	26%

<sup>1</sup> These assumptions would not change the percentage of curriculum based on hours since the percentages are calculated with the minimum Tier II hours regardless of the number of courses.

total courses giving 48, 40 and 43 for the 192 quarter-hour, 120 semester hour and 128 semester hour programs respectively. Table 3 shows the percentage of the curriculum hours using these assumptions.

When comparing the proportion of programs devoted to general education, the major requirements need to be considered. In some programs, some general education courses are taken to fulfill major requirements as well as general education requirements. For example, in the current Electrical Engineering BS program students are required to take the courses shown in Table 3 that also fulfill general education requirements.

The result of removing these courses from the general education analysis is shown in the Table 4. The table also shows the estimated minimum number of semester hours as well as their percentage of total program hours.<sup>2</sup>

Using the same procedure, course counts and the percentage of courses in the curriculum can also be compared. Table 5 shows an increase in the percentage of courses devoted to general education. However the only ways of changing this would be to reduce the composition requirement to one course, reduce the breath of Tier II from 6 of 6 areas, or the program incorporating the junior composition course into their curriculum.

**Table 3: Required General Education Courses in Electrical Engineering BS Program**

Course	Hours	Gen Ed
MATH 115 or PL3	5	1M
MATH 263A	4	2AS
MATH 263B	4	2AS
MATH 263C	4	2AS
PHYS 251	5	2NS
PHYS 252	5	2NS
EE 101	4	2AS
CHEM 151	5	2NS
EE 495C	4	T3

**Table 4: Minimum Number of Hours Devoted to General Education without Major Courses.**

Tier		Quarter		Semester		
		Hours	%	Hours	120-hr %	128-hr %
Tier I	1E	5	3%	3	3%	2%
	1J	4	2%	3	3%	2%
	TOTAL	9	5%	6	5%	5%
Tier II	2CP	3	2%	2	2%	2%
	2FA	3	2%	2	2%	2%
	2HL	3	2%	2	2%	2%
	2SS	3	2%	2	2%	2%
	TOTAL	12	6%	8	7%	6%
	TOTAL	21	11%	14	12%	11%

**Table 5: Minimum Number of Courses Devoted to General Education without Major Courses.**

Tier	Quarter		Semester		
	Courses	%	Courses	120-hr %	128-hr %
Tier I	2	6%	2	8%	7%
Tier II	4	17%	4	18%	16%
TOTAL	6	13%	6	15%	14%

<sup>2</sup> Assuming an average of 4 hours for Tier II courses under quarters and 3 hours under semesters, would change the percentages to 13%, 15%, and 14% for the quarters, 120-hr semester, 128-hr semester programs respectively.