

## **GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS IN SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS**

This policy expresses a principle of general education that the Commission on Technical and Career Institutions considers to be a desirable characteristic of postsecondary institutions.

General education is recognized as an important component of all higher education programs. Institutions must be clear about the place of its general education component in the context of its programs and the purposes it serves. Higher education institutions must identify and provide a recognizable core of general education that is consistent with the educational philosophy of the institution for each program. In some cases, institutions may provide for general education requirements through admission or graduation prerequisites. Institutions are encouraged to include general education in non-degree specialized programs.

General education may include educational experiences which provide the following:

- introduction to the major areas of knowledge
- opportunity for acquiring skills and knowledge necessary for living in a complex modern society
- opportunity for the development of basic learning skills and foundations necessary for success in mastering advanced specialized subject matter

General education in specialized programs shall be of postsecondary level. The content of general education in specialized programs should be comparable, though not necessarily identical, to traditional academic offerings and should be taught by appropriately qualified faculty.

Programs in career oriented higher education institutions need to evidence recognition of the relationship between broad education and the acquisition of techniques and skills. While an appropriate level of mastery in occupations and technologies is recognized as fundamental, every institution should also strive for the development of student character and the preparation of its students to live in the world. Programs need to develop within students the capabilities of forming independent judgments, exercising critical thinking, weighing values, and understanding fundamental theory, in addition to amassing facts and mastering skills. The institutional effort in helping its students become contributing and useful members of society, other than through its specific occupational and technical offerings, should be demonstrated in the performance of the institution's graduates. In any type of program, the general education courses, as well as technical courses, should be taught by staff members who are qualified in the subject being taught.