New England College is a creative and supportive learning community that challenges individuals to transform themselves and their world.
(New England College Mission Statement)

General Education at New England College – The ConNECtions Core Curriculum

About one-third of your class work at New England College will be devoted to a core group of courses that we call the General Education program. These courses, along with "co-curricular" activities, fulfill New England College's Mission Statement and are fundamental to a liberal arts education. The General Education program teaches you to think critically, achieve information literacy and to develop a background in, and an awareness of, issues in national and world affairs in the arts, humanities and natural and social sciences. It prepares you to assume mature, responsible, and capable roles as global citizens.

The General Education curriculum spans your college career with courses that develop your competence in writing and mathematics. Seven seminars in the Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) are also required. This comprehensive group of courses is grounded in the scholarship of the liberal arts: humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, and contributes to your intellectual development and to your growth as a lifetime learner.

In addition to course work, the General Education Program also offers an active "co-curricular" component. A theme is chosen each year, which guides our planning for talks, performances, panels and exhibits. The theme for 2009-2010 is *The Promise of Progress*. Last year's theme was *Power and Privilege*. Past themes have explored *Culture and Conflict, Holocaust, Music and the Arts*, and *The Rights of Children.*

The General Education Core -

The courses that students take as part of the General Education program at New England College include the following:

Writing in the Liberal Arts and Sciences I (WR 1010)
The goals of this course are, first, to develop the students' critical and analytical thinking skills in the context of a sound rhetorical approach to written communication; and, second, to instill a fundamental sensitivity to and facility with language. Assignments follow thematic sequences leading students from experience-based, issue-oriented arguments to the essentials of formal academic research. This course is offered every semester and is required of all students to meet institutional graduation requirements. It should be taken during a student's first semester at NEC.
Students must earn a grade of C or better to fulfill the WR1010 requirement.

Writing in the Liberal Arts and Sciences II (WR 1020)
The goal of this course is to teach academic research as a tool for critical thinking that provides the basis for well-developed arguments. This course requires writing in a variety of forms for a variety of audiences. Students are asked to research and discuss a variety of social issues through the use of selected readings from modern essayists and the

available library resources. This course is offered every semester and is required of all students to meet institutional graduation requirements. It should be taken during a student's second semester at NEC provided that WR1010 has been successfully completed.
Prerequisites: WR1010
Students must earn a grade of C or better to fulfill the WR1020 requirement.

Mathematics (a mathematics course at a 1000 level or above)
The goal for the mathematics component of the General Education program is to develop students' ability to reason quantitatively; to ensure an understanding of the basic concepts and techniques necessary to be an informed consumer of quantitative information; to provide students with opportunities to intelligently evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of numerical evidence; and to provide strategies and methods for manipulating, understanding, analyzing, and interpreting quantitative information and solving problems of a quantitative nature. *Since mathematics and quantitative reasoning are important to virtually all academic disciplines, it is strongly recommended that students fulfill the requirements in mathematics in their first year.*

LAS1 <u>On Being Human</u>

Through readings, class discussions, and independent projects, this course addresses the following question: What does it mean to be human and what is the basis for believing in a shared humanity? Issues like ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, race, class and culture are discussed, as well as the obligations and responsibilities we have toward each other and ourselves. Students will explore the way they view the world and learn about themselves as well as society in the process. Through readings, discussions, group and independent projects students will learn to articulate and substantiate beliefs by asking pertinent questions, utilizing information effectively, and thinking critically about solutions to real world problems. This class is part of the first year experience and is a foundation for the General Education program. It is recommended that this class be taken first semester of a student's first year at NEC.

LAS2 <u>Communities in America</u>

This course grows out of the foundation provided in LAS 1. This course challenges students to examine what makes a community and explore the purpose, compromises, and evolution of these collectives. Concepts such as identity, difference, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, professions, religious, spiritual, and philosophical commonality, disability, rituals, rites of passage, rights and responsibilities, prejudice, discrimination, and the construction of 'race' and 'gender' may play a role in these courses. Students should leave with a sense of the relationship between the group(s) in question and the American democratic process. This course should be taken second semester of a student's first year at NEC after completing LAS1.

LAS3 <u>The Creative Arts</u>

These courses provide students the experience of the creative process through work in the fine arts, creative writing or theater arts. By engaging in conception, execution, and analysis or their own work and the work of others students acquire a heightened aesthetic awareness and understanding.

LAS4 <u>The Scientific Process</u>

These courses examine and apply the scientific process. They cover the terminology, philosophical and historical background, and dynamic nature of science. Students will learn to distinguish scientific thinking from other ways of knowing. These principles will be applied to multiple real-world contexts.

LAS5 <u>Laboratory Science</u>

These courses expose students to the laboratory application of the scientific process in a specific field of study. It gives students the opportunity to develop and test hypotheses through experimental learning in the laboratory or the field. Students will apply their reading in the course to the laboratory setting and develop their skills in scientific writing and applying quantitative and/or qualitative reasoning to the scientific process.

LAS6 <u>Humanities</u>

These courses develop the student's ability to appreciate beauty and elegance in the search for truth, and encourage students to connect discrete fields of study by analyzing context and connections. Exposure to the interrelated nature of the fine and performing arts, literature, philosophy, art history, and history enhances the student's understanding of our shared humanity.

LAS7 <u>Global Perspectives</u>

These courses will address salient multi-national or global issues through theory and practice. As the capstone General Education seminar, this course will heighten awareness of and develop critical thinking about global issues impacting the human condition.
Prerequisites: 4 LAS Seminars and WR1020