

A Snapshot of General Studies

In 2000¹ the AACU surveyed provosts and GS directors at 567 four-year institutions (which mirrored the proportion of institutions in each of the Carnegie categories). 54% responded. Respondents were asked about goals, practices, priorities, external influences, and future challenges to their GS program.

GS renewal

64% believe general education has increased as an institutional priority in the last ten years
56% of institutions have revised their GS program since 1994

- Implication: Interest in GS renewal is high

Among the surveyed institutions:

55% require a freshman seminar in the GS program
55% require interdisciplinary core courses in the GS program
49% require common learning experiences in the GS program

- Implication: GS programs seem to lean toward having some aspect of a “core curriculum” in their GS program

How does UNK compare in hours of credits required in the GS program?

On average nearly 38% of credit hours for bachelor degrees are in GS courses (median was 40%). At UNK 36% of credit hours for the bachelor is in GS.

	What % of bachelor requirements is in GS?	Average GS credit hours required
Surveyed institutions	37.6 %	45.1 hours (based on 120 hours for bachelors)
UNK	36.0 %	45 hours (based on 125 hours for bachelors)

- Implication: UNK’s current required 45 hours of GS is average

¹ Ratcliff, James L., et al. The Status of General Education in the Year 2000: Summary of a National Survey. Washington, D.C.: Association of American Colleges and Universities, 2001