

Satisfying Requirements Through Means Other Than Formal Course Work

Guiding Principles/Assumptions

1. Students who have exceptional preparation related to specific areas of the General Education Curriculum should generally be provided with the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in the respective area of study, resulting, where appropriate, in satisfaction of the respective General Education requirement. This practice will not prohibit students from taking additional work in the respective area; rather it will provide students with an opportunity to choose whether or not to advance their study in the area.
2. Components of the curriculum which involve interdisciplinary study (1.1 First Year Seminar; 1.3 Created and Called for Community; 2.1.C Science, Technology, and the World; 2.4 Cross-Cultural Studies; 2.5 Non-Western Studies; 4.2.A Ethics in the Modern World; 4.2.B World Views; and 4.2.C Pluralism in Contemporary America) are sufficiently unique with regard to pedagogical assumptions that fulfillment of these General Education requirements is permitted only through procedures specifically approved by the General Education Committee in order to insure that students meet the approved objectives for these areas.
3. Appropriate means for meeting General Education requirements (other than through formal course work) include both credit-bearing and non-credit-bearing alternatives. Off-campus credit-bearing means include Advanced Placement [AP] examinations and the College Level Examination Program [CLEP]; on-campus credit-bearing means include credit-by-examination [CBE]. Language placement examinations are an on campus non-credit-bearing option.
4. Credits and course equivalents for all off-campus examinations are recorded by the Office of the Registrar.
5. All on-campus examinations and evaluations are determined and administered by the respective academic department; the credits and course equivalents a student receives from these activities are recorded by the Office of the Registrar.
6. For standardized examinations, score levels appropriate for fulfilling General Education requirements are determined by the respective academic department, in consultation with the College Registrar.
7. A maximum of 32 semester hours of alternative credit may be counted toward graduation. This includes Advanced Placement, the College Level Examination Program, and International Baccalaureate. Official scores should be sent directly to the Messiah College Registrar's Office.