

General Education at CUHK

The General Education (GE) Programme (19 units) is composed of two parts: University GE (13 units) and College GE (6 units). Below is the typical course pathway recommended for undergraduate students¹:

Year	University GE (13 units)		College GE (6 units)
	General Education Foundation (GE Foundation) Programme (6 units)	The Four Areas (7 units)	
1	the two GE Foundation courses, UGFH1000 (3 units) and UGFN1000 (3 units)	at least one (2-3 units) course from Area A (UGEA) Chinese Cultural Heritage, and one (2-3 units) each from two of the other Areas, as designated by the respective Major Programmes (except MBChB, LLB, Dual Undergraduate Degree Programmes): - Area B (UGEB) Nature, Science and Technology - Area C (UGEC) Society and Culture - Area D (UGED) Self and Humanity	a minimum of 6 units of College GE in accordance with the requirements of the respective Colleges
2			
3			
4			

University GE (13 units)

(a) General Education Foundation (GE Foundation) Programme (6 units)

The GE Foundation Programme, which all students are required to commence in their first two years of study, comprises two courses, namely UGFH1000 “In Dialogue with Humanity” (3 units) and UGFN1000 “In Dialogue with Nature” (3 units). Through reading classics and small class seminar discussions, the Programme engages students in dialogues on concerns of human existence. Taught in seminar style, it is designed to help students cultivate knowledge, attitudes and skills essential for independent learning.

(b) The Four Areas (7 units)

All students (except MBChB students², LLB students³ and students in the Dual Undergraduate Degree Programmes⁴) should complete 7 units in the Four Areas, including one course (2-3 units) from Area A (UGEA) Chinese Cultural Heritage, and one course (2-3 units) each from two of the other Areas as designated by the respective Major Programmes. The designation of University GE Area(s) for students of individual Major Programmes is given in the *Undergraduate Student Handbook 2025-26*.

Building upon the GE Foundation Programme, the Four Areas of University GE further broaden students’ exposure by inviting them to examine four fundamental realms of human concerns, namely, one’s relation with one’s cultural heritage, the physical world, fellow human beings, and oneself.

College GE (6 units)

Each College has its own College GE, and students are required to fulfil the College GE requirement as specified by the respective Colleges. Aiming to provide students with a broad perspective that goes beyond academic pursuits and contributes to the holistic development of students, all Colleges offer credit-bearing GE courses and service-learning courses as well as non-credit-bearing learning opportunities, such as assemblies, overseas learning tours, and various types of co-curricular activities. For details, please refer to the websites of individual Colleges.

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¹ Students admitted to first-year-first-degree (FYFD) places with Advanced Standing will be granted exemption. For details, please refer to “III. University Core Requirements” in the Annex to General Regulations Governing Full-time Undergraduate Studies in the *Undergraduate Student Handbook 2025-26*.

² MBChB students admitted in 2022-23 and thereafter are required to take 2 units in Area A and designated courses in bioethics as alternatives to fulfilling the remaining 5 units of University GE courses. For MBChB students admitted under the Graduate Entry Track, they are required to take 2 units in Area A.

³ LLB students will be directed by the Faculty of Law to take 4 units of courses in the Four Areas of University GE or in the Modern Languages Area of the List of Language Enhancement Courses, including one course in Area A, as non-law electives.

⁴ In general, the outgoing students of CUHK and the incoming DDP students admitted by the partner institutions across different Dual Undergraduate Degree Programmes (DDPs) may have different requirements of University GE. Students participating in DDPs are advised to check the study scheme of their respective DDPs stipulated in the *Undergraduate Student Handbook 2025-26*.