



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER (CMO)

No. 59

Series of 1996

SUBJECT : NEW GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM (GEC)

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In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994", and in order to update the General Education Curriculum to make the same more responsive to the demands of the next millennium, a new GEC is hereby adopted and promulgated by the Commission to be required and implemented as part of all baccalaureate degree programs in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the Philippines, thus:

A. Minimum Requirements

The minimum requirements for the mandatory General Education Curriculum (GEC) of tertiary courses of study leading to an initial bachelor's degree covering four (4) curriculum years shall henceforth be sixty-three (63) units distributed as follows; thus:

**THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
NEW GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM (GEC)**

I.	Language and Literature		24 units
	English	-	9 units
	Filipino	-	9 units
	Literature	-	6 units
II.	Mathematics and Natural Sciences		15 units
	Mathematics	-	6 units
	Natural Sciences	-	6 units
	Science Elective	-	3 units

III.	Humanities and Social Sciences	18 units
	Humanities - 6 units	
	Arts	
	Philosophy	
	Social Sciences - 12 units	
	Basic Economics (with Taxation and Agrarian Reform)	
	General Psychology	
	Politics and Governance (with Philippine Constitution)	
	Society and Culture (with Family Planning)	
IV.	Mandated Subjects	6 units
	Life and Works of Rizal	
	Philippine History	
	TOTAL	<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 63 units

B. Interdisciplinary Approach

The implementation of the new GEC must be characterized by an interdisciplinary approach which would help the students see the human being as an integral person living in both a national and a global community

1. Language and Literature

- a. The aim of these courses should be to provide students with effective communication skills in both English and Filipino and to foster critical understanding and appreciation of how people give expression to their experience in the world.
- b. All HEIs must require a Placement Examination in the English Language for all incoming first-year students. Students who fail the said examination must take and pass a non-credit course entitled "English Plus", which will cover grammar, before they can be allowed to take English 1.
- c. Literature One (or the first Literature subject) must cover "The Literatures of the Philippines" and should focus on the literatures of all the regions of the Philippines, whether written in native or foreign languages, from the beginning of Philippine history to the present. Care should be taken to ensure adequate attention to literary texts and authors outside the National Capital Region.

- d. Literature Two (or the second literature subject) must cover "The Literatures of the World" and should focus on the literatures of all the continents of the world, from the beginnings of civilization to the present. The text should be read in either the Filipino or English translation, if they were not originally written in English. Preference should likewise be given to literary texts and authors in our immediate geographical region, that is, Southeast Asia.

2. Mathematics and the Natural Sciences

The aim of these courses should be to help students increase their scientific literacy and their capacity to approach scientific materials intelligently. They should convey a general understanding of science as a way of looking at the world. Mathematics should give students precision in numerical expression, logical thinking and problem solving.

3. Humanities

The aim of these courses should be to teach students how to reflect on the totality of human experience and to formulate for themselves a human perspective that integrates all branches of knowledge in a profound understanding of the individual as well as society. Art and artistic expression should likewise contribute to the understanding of the beautiful and the good in human experience.

4. Social Sciences

The aim of these courses should be to make students aware of the general social problems and issues, especially those with relevance to the Philippine Society. These courses shall likewise enhance the students' awareness of the importance of scientific approaches to the discussion and analysis of social issues.

5. Miscellaneous

- a. There should be a serious attempt on the part of HEIs' instructors and professors to teach these courses as part of an integrated General Education Curriculum. Linkages between one subject and another, common concerns, and similarity of approaches should be shown.

- b. In consonance with the Bilingual Education Policy enunciated in DECS Order No. 52, Series of 1987, the following are the guidelines vis-a-vis medium of instruction, to wit:

1. Language courses, whether Filipino or English, should be taught in that language.

2. At the discretion of the HEI, Literature subjects may be taught in Filipino, English or any other language as long as there are enough instructional materials for the same and both students and instructors/professors are competent in the language.
3. Courses in the Humanities and Social Sciences should preferably be taught in Filipino.

C. Repeal

Any and all administrative issuances which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions herein are hereby automatically deemed repealed, amended, revised and/or modified accordingly.

D. Effectivity

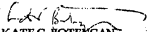
This CMO shall take effect beginning Collegiate Year (CY) 1997-1998.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City, Philippines, September 25, 1996


ANGEL C. ALCALA
Chairman


MONA D. VALISNO
Commissioner


KATE C. BOTENGAN
Commissioner


PETER A. GARCIA
Commissioner


ROLANDO S. DELAGOZA
Commissioner

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