



ACAD 23:

General Education Policy

Effective Date: Friday, April 17, 2026

1.0 SCOPE

1.1 Authority

- 1.1.1 This policy is approved by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Vice President Academic and Research (VPAR).
- 1.1.2 The implementation and oversight of the General Education framework is administered through the Office of the Vice President Academic and Research in collaboration with academic programs.

1.2 Application

- 1.2.1 The policy applies to students enrolled in all SKG programs offered by Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig accredited by the Indigenous Advanced Education Skills Council (IAESC), herein referred to as SKG.
- 1.2.2 This policy applies to all undergraduate degree, certificate and diploma programs offered by Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig.
- 1.2.3 Programs may include additional requirements consistent with professional accreditation standards.

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the General Education Policy is to ensure that undergraduate students at Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig receive a broad and balanced educational foundation that supports intellectual growth, cultural understanding, and community engagement.

General education courses provide students with opportunities to develop critical thinking, communication skills, cultural awareness, and interdisciplinary knowledge that complement their program of study.

The general education framework reflects SKG's commitment to **Anishinaabe knowledge systems, land-based learning, and community-centered education**, supporting students to become thoughtful leaders and contributors to their communities.

3.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The General Education framework is guided by the following principles:

Holistic Learning

Education at SKG supports intellectual, cultural, spiritual, emotional, and relational learning.

Anishinaabe Knowledge Integration

General education courses recognize and incorporate Indigenous knowledge systems and perspectives.

Interdisciplinary Understanding

Students develop knowledge across multiple fields of study.

Community and Land Connection

Learning encourages understanding of relationships between people, land, and community.

Critical and Reflective Thinking

Students develop the ability to analyze issues and reflect on knowledge from diverse perspectives.

4.0 GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete a minimum number of **General Education credits** as part of their degree, diploma and certificate requirements. Please refer to your specific program for specific GE requirements.

General Education courses are intended to:

- broaden students' perspectives
- develop transferable skills
- foster interdisciplinary understanding

Programs may determine how general education requirements are integrated into the curriculum.

5.0 GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the general education requirements, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills.
2. Communicate effectively in written and oral forms.
3. Understand Indigenous knowledge systems and cultural perspectives.
4. Recognize the relationships between land, community, and knowledge.
5. Apply interdisciplinary approaches to problem solving.
6. Engage respectfully with diverse knowledge systems and perspectives.

6.0 AREAS OF GENERAL EDUCATION

General education courses may be offered across several areas of study.

Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Foundations

Courses that explore:

- Anishinaabe knowledge systems
- Indigenous history and governance
- cultural teachings and protocols
- Indigenous language and worldview

Humanities and Cultural Expression

Courses that develop understanding of:

- philosophy and ethics
- literature and storytelling
- cultural traditions and creative expression

Social and Community Studies

Courses that examine:

- society and community development
- social justice and governance
- relationships between communities and institutions

Environment, Land, and Sustainability

Courses that explore:

- relationships to land and place

- environmental stewardship
- land-based knowledge and practices

Communication and Learning Skills

Courses that support:

- academic writing
- research and information literacy
- communication skills

7.0 INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE INTEGRATION

General education courses should incorporate Indigenous perspectives and knowledge systems where appropriate.

This may include:

- teachings from Elders or Knowledge Keepers
- land-based learning experiences
- Indigenous research methodologies
- community knowledge sharing

8.0 EXPERIENTIAL AND LAND-BASED LEARNING

Where appropriate, general education courses may include experiential learning components such as:

- land-based education
- community engagement projects
- cultural learning experiences
- fieldwork and experiential activities

9.0 PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY

Academic programs may determine how general education courses are incorporated into their curriculum structure.

Programs must ensure that general education learning outcomes are achieved.

10.0 TRANSFER CREDIT

General education requirements may be satisfied through approved transfer credit or prior learning recognition where appropriate.

Transfer credit evaluation will be conducted by the **Registrar's Office** in accordance with institutional policies.

11.0 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

General education courses will be periodically reviewed to ensure:

- alignment with institutional mission
- relevance to student learning needs
- integration of Indigenous knowledge systems
- effectiveness in supporting program learning outcomes

12.0 POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed **every three years** to ensure alignment with institutional priorities and academic quality assurance standards.