



*Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Colleges  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097*

## **Interpretations to the *Principles of Accreditation***

### **Interpretation of Core Requirement 9.3 (*General education requirements*)**

Core Requirement 9.3 reads:

**The institution requires a general education component at the undergraduate level that:**

- (a) is based on a coherent rationale.**
- (b) is a substantial component of each undergraduate degree program. For degree completion in associate programs, the component constitutes a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent; for the baccalaureate programs, a minimum of 30 semester hours or the equivalent.**
- (c) ensures breadth of knowledge. These credit hours include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics. These courses do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession. (*General education requirements*)**

#### ***Interpretation:***

Courses in basic composition that do not contain a significant literature component, courses in oral communication, and introductory foreign language courses are skill courses and not pure humanities courses. Therefore, for purposes of meeting this standard, none of the above may be the *one* course designated to fulfill the humanities/fine arts requirement in CR 9.3. The institution is responsible for making a persuasive case that at least one of the courses it requires to meet the humanities/fine arts area does not “narrowly focus” on skills.

#### **Document History**

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