Overview: General Education Program

To graduate with a bachelor’s degree from **SHIP**, you must earn a minimum of 120 appropriate credit hours. 48 of those credits, regardless of your major, will come from the General Education Program. If you are a new, first-semester student, your first semester schedule of courses will consist primarily of appropriate “Gen Ed” courses. To satisfy your Gen Ed requirements, you will have the option of choosing from a variety of courses in each category. However, some majors may require specific courses. To ensure that you are not wasting time and money by taking inappropriate courses, it is important that you understand how the Gen Ed Program is designed and the courses that are appropriate for your major or area of interest.

Why do I have to take this stuff?

These courses are a vital part of a broad, well-rounded education. They are designed to:

- broaden your knowledge of the world and your place within it.
- help you develop skills essential to succeed in an increasingly diverse world—ability to think logically, read critically, write clearly, and verbalize ideas in a succinct and articulate manner.
- provide you the opportunity to explore and discover new areas of interest.
- assist you to select or confirm your choice of a major and potential career options.

What will I study in the Gen Ed courses?

Required Skills and Competencies: Students are required to fulfill four basic skills and are expected to complete these required skills within their first year at **SHIP**.

- fluency in speaking,
- fluency in writing,
- competency in mathematics
- and cultural awareness through historical perspective.

To achieve these basic skills, undergraduates are required to take five courses for a total of 15 credit hours in the following areas:

- Writing Competency - ENG 106 or 110 [may have to take ENG 050 first]
- Communications (HCS 100),
- Math Competency - your advisor will assist you to identify the appropriate math for your major [may have to take MAT 050 first]
- and History 105 and 106 – [may have to take RDG 050 first]
**Categories of Knowledge**: The remaining Gen Ed credits are offered in 5 categories of knowledge. You will have 4 or more years to complete all of your requirements.

- **Category A**: Logic and Numbers for Rational Thinking (1 course). These courses increase your ability to think symbolically and to use reasoning precisely. You will select 1 course from mathematics, computer science, or philosophy.

- **Category B**: Linguistic, Literary, Artistic, and Cultural Traditions (3 courses). All students take one literature class and two other humanities classes from this category. These courses give you the opportunities to explore the worlds of literature and art, music, theater or to develop foreign language skills.

- **Category C**: Biological and Physical Sciences (3 courses from different disciplines). Courses are offered in biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics. Some courses have laboratory components providing hands-on learning.

- **Category D**: Political, Geographic, and Economic Sciences (Two courses from economics, geography or political science). These courses provide an understanding our increasingly global society.

- **Category E**: Social and Behavioral Sciences (2 courses). These courses from anthropology, geography, ethnic studies, disability studies, psychology, sociology and women's studies focus on a better understanding of how people function.

When scheduling your courses, remember that different majors might require specific courses in some categories. Your academic advisor will assist you to identify the courses appropriate for your major or area of interest. And, don’t panic. You do not have to take them all in your first semester. But, you will need to satisfy the Gen Ed requirements in order to graduate.

You can review the General Education Program at: http://www.ship.edu/cas/General_Education_Requirements/