

# HARVARD COLLEGE

## PROGRAM IN GENERAL EDUCATION



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### General Education Program Updates & Course Planning for Advisers to the Class of 2019

The Program in General Education – along with the concentration – is one of the two cornerstones of the Liberal Arts & Sciences curriculum, and thus lies at the heart of the intellectually transformative mission of Harvard College. General Education provides the opportunity to counter the narrowing effects of the concentration by helping students to make intellectual connections, to look inward to themselves and outward to the world, and to understand the deep and sometimes surprising importance of scholarly work to some of the most central aspects of life. Concentrations ensure that our students know a lot about something; Gen Ed ensures that they understand how to take that knowledge with them into the world. Gen Ed, in other words, is the intellectual fuel for the personal transformation we hope to facilitate in our students.

#### Current Requirements

One letter-graded course in each of the eight categories below, one of which must engage substantially with the study of the past. This program (and these course categories) will remain in place through Spring 2018.

#### Requirements of the New Liberal Arts & Sciences Curriculum

In March 2016 FAS faculty approved new requirements, which will take effect in Fall 2018. The new program will require one General Education course from each of four perspectives, one course from each of the three divisions within FAS (Natural Sciences/SEAS, Social Sciences, and Arts & Humanities), and one course demonstrating quantitative facility. There is no requirement for Study of the Past.

The class of 2019 will switch to the new program upon its launch. To ensure that students can benefit from the spirit of the new program in the interim, all students will be given greatly expanded flexibility in meeting their requirements during the transition. Details are on the following page.

#### Key Takeaways for Advisers:

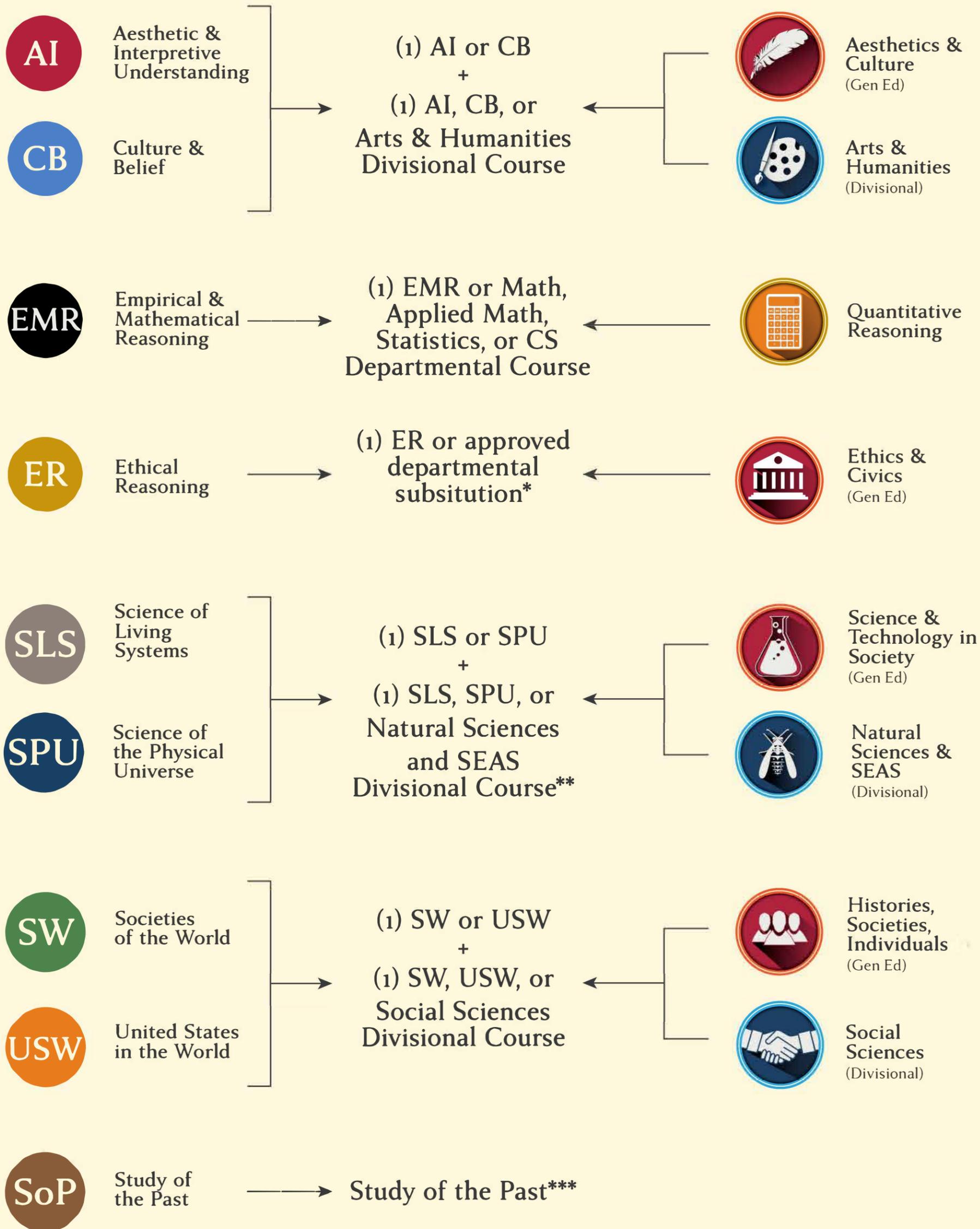
- The Class of 2019 will move to the new program in Fall 2018; Gen Ed courses they have already taken or take before Fall 2018 will count toward the new program.
- Students should check their Academic Advising Report before planning for courses. They may have fewer requirements left to fulfill than they expected.
- Students should consider taking no more than one course in each of these paired Gen Ed categories: AI/CB, SLS/SPU, SW/USW.
  - If a student takes a second Gen Ed course in the same category or in its pair (for example: AI & AI, CB & CB, or AI & CB) *prior to Fall 2018* it will count toward the distribution requirement.
  - Students may also take departmental courses now to fulfill the distribution requirement. However, prior to Fall 2018 credit will not be given for the distribution requirement until a Gen Ed course is taken in one of the two paired categories.
    - For example: A student who took CB34 in Fall 2014 and English 141 in Spring 2015 will receive AI credit for English 141 since it is a departmental course in Arts & Humanities. A student who took English 141 in Spring 2015 but plans to take CB34 in Fall 2016 will not receive AI credit for English 141 until CB33 is complete.
  - Any Gen Ed courses taken in Fall 2018 or after will not count toward the distribution requirement.
- Students graduating after 2018 will have no Study of the Past requirement.
- Courses may move into or out of the Gen Ed program during the transition. A course will count as it is designated during the time of enrollment. For example, if a Culture and Belief course taught by a Philosophy professor in Fall 2017 becomes a Philosophy departmental course in Fall 2018, students enrolled in Fall 2017 will receive Gen Ed credit while students enrolled in Fall 2018 will receive credit toward their distribution requirement.

Questions? Contact [gened\\_questions@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:gened_questions@fas.harvard.edu).

**Current Requirements**  
Classes of 2017 & 2018

**Current Requirements with Flexibility**

**New Requirements**  
Class of 2019 & beyond



\*For more information, see Advice for Students on the Gen Ed website.

\*\*Math, Applied Math, Statistics, and CS courses may not count toward this requirement.

\*\*\*May be fulfilled with any course currently designated for SoP or most History, H&S, or HAA departmental courses. Students may also petition for another departmental course to count. Students graduating after Spring 2018 will not need to fulfill the Study of the Past Requirement