General Education

General education encompasses the common knowledge, skills and attitudes required by each individual to be effective as a person, worker, consumer and citizen. Programs of study in transfer curricula and occupational technical programs are designed to promote the achievement of the following general education competencies established by the Virginia Community College System. Degree graduates will demonstrate the ability to:

Area 1: Communication
1.1 understand and interpret complex materials
1.2 assimilate, organize, develop, and present an idea formally and informally
1.3 use Standard English
1.4 use appropriate verbal and non-verbal responses in interpersonal relations and group discussions
1.5 use listening skills
1.6 recognize the role of culture in communication

Area 2: Critical Thinking
2.1 discriminate among degrees of credibility, accuracy, and reliability of inferences drawn from given data
2.2 recognize parallels, assumptions, or presuppositions in any given source of information
2.3 evaluate the strengths and relevance of arguments on a particular question or issue
2.4 weigh evidence and decide if generalizations or conclusions based on the given data are warranted
2.5 determine whether certain conclusions or consequences are supported by the information provided
2.6 use problem solving skills

Area 3: Cultural and Social Understanding
3.1 assess the impact that social institutions have on individuals and culture—past, present, and future
3.2 describe their own as well as others’ personal ethical systems and values within social institutions
3.3 recognize the impact that arts and humanities have upon individuals and cultures
3.4 recognize the role of language in social and cultural contexts
3.5 recognize the interdependence of distinctive world-wide social, economic, geo-political, and cultural systems

Area 4: Information Literacy
4.1 determine the nature and extent of the information needed
4.2 access needed information effectively and efficiently
4.3 evaluate information and its sources critically and incorporate selected information into his or her knowledge base
4.4 use information effectively, individually or as a member of a group, to accomplish a specific purpose
4.5 understand many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and access and use information ethically and legally

Area 5: Personal Development
5.1 develop and/or refine personal wellness goals
5.2 develop and/or enhance the knowledge, skills, and understanding to make informed academic, social, personal, career, and interpersonal decisions

Area 6: Quantitative Reasoning
6.1 use logical and mathematical reasoning within the context of various disciplines
6.2 interpret and use mathematical formulas
6.3 interpret mathematical models such as graphs, tables and schematics and draw inferences from them
6.4 use graphical, symbolic, and numerical methods to analyze, organize, and interpret data
6.5 estimate and consider answers to mathematical problems in order to determine reasonableness
6.6 represent mathematical information numerically, symbolically, and visually, using graphs and charts

Area 7: Scientific Reasoning
7.1 generate an empirically evidenced and logical argument
7.2 distinguish a scientific argument from a non-scientific argument
7.3 reason by deduction, induction and analogy
7.4 distinguish between causal and correlational relationships
7.5 recognize methods of inquiry that lead to scientific knowledge
**The Honors Program**

The LFCC Honors Program is designed to challenge and reward students who are intellectually motivated and academically able through opportunities for in-depth study and interaction with like-minded students. A student may obtain honors credit by earning credit in an honors section, by fulfilling the honors component in a regular course as specified by the course professor or by completing a special one-credit honors seminar. A grade of A or B is required in a course or seminar in order to earn honors credit. Faculty recommendation or approval is required for enrollment in an honors seminar.

Honors credit is noted on the student’s transcript for each course or seminar in which it is earned. Graduating students with a GPA of 3.2 or higher, who have earned honors credit in at least three courses (for a total of ten (10) credits) plus one honors seminar, receive the title “Honors Program Scholar” which is designated on their transcript and diploma.

**Developmental Studies**

English foundations and math essentials courses are offered to meet these needs:

1. prepare individuals for admission to college programs
2. assist students already pursuing coursework who are experiencing difficulties or want to improve their efficiency
3. provide an opportunity for individuals interested in improving their skills in particular areas but are not necessarily enrolled in a program

Students can enroll in courses to meet these three types of needs both during the regular school year and during the summer term.

**eLearning**

**eLearning** (which is an abbreviation for electronic learning) is sometimes referred to as distance learning. ELearning takes place when an instructor and students are separated by physical distance and various technologies are used to bridge the instructional gap. LFCC offers eLearning in three basic formats: online, hybrid and compressed video.

**Online**

An online course is a course that uses the Internet and the World Wide Web (Web) exclusively to deliver content and does not have any activities that occur at a single designated time and specified physical location. Online courses are often referred to as Web-based courses. In these courses, 100 percent of the course content is delivered online either through synchronous (real-time) or asynchronous (students and instructor not necessarily online at the same time) communication. These courses allow the flexibility of completing their coursework using connectivity provided through the Internet and Web. Students enrolled in these courses use a Blackboard course management system account and student e-mail account provided by the VCCS to access the course materials and communicate with and send assignments to their instructors. Some courses may require attendance for on-campus labs or proctored testing. Such requirements are noted in the Class Schedule.

**Hybrid Courses**

Hybrid courses blend face-to-face instruction with online instruction and activities. In other words, a hybrid course is a course that uses the Internet and Web to deliver a portion of its content in lieu of traditional classroom hours. Internet access is required since much of the course material, activities, and interaction is accomplished through the VCCS Blackboard course management system.

**Compressed Video (Live Interactive Television)**

A compressed video course is sometimes referred to as a live interactive television course. These courses are live, real-time courses that meet on campus in a special distance learning classroom. Since the courses are real-time, the days and times of the courses are fixed. A typical distance learning classroom is equipped with multi-way audio and video technology which includes a large display for student viewing, computer for instruction, document camera, DVD player, and phone/fax for support. Students who participate in a compressed video course may be at a physical location for instruction that is different from their where their instructor is facilitating the lesson.
For example, the instructor may meet face-to-face with students at the Middletown Campus and televise the live lecture to students at the Fauquier Campus and/or the Luray-Page County Center. Synchronous real-time interaction is facilitated through the technology that connects all of the participating sites. In other words, students can hear, see, and speak to the instructor and the instructor, in turn, can interact with the students in the same manner.

Is Online Learning Right for You?
Although there are a number of benefits to online and hybrid learning, the success of students depends highly on good time management, self-discipline and self-motivation. Additionally, online and hybrid learners must have proficiency in computer literacy and competency. In order to help you be a more successful distance learning student, we strongly recommend you examine your learning preferences and technology-related skills before registering for an online or hybrid course.

Old Dominion University – TELETECHNET
LFCC’s Fauquier and Middletown campuses serve as hosts for Old Dominion University’s (ODU) distance learning program. This interactive distance education program enables students to earn undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees from a fully-accredited University without leaving their area of residence. ODU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Students complete the first two years of coursework at the host site, LFCC, and then complete the remaining required coursework for the undergraduate degree through ODU’s distance learning program. Courses are offered in a variety of delivery technologies, including synchronous (live) web-based conferencing and asynchronous online formats. Students interested in ODU admission or course registration should contact the Site Director for the Fauquier or Middletown campus. The site office for Middletown is located in the Corron Community Center and the Fauquier site office is located in Wolk Hall.
## Minimum Requirements for Associate Degrees in the VCCS

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### Other Requirements for Associate Degrees:
- **Major field courses and electives (columns 1-3)**: 18-21, 24-27, 24-27, 49-53(f)
- **Career/technical courses (column 4)**: ___
- **Total for Degree (g)**: 60-63, 60-63(b), 60-63(b), 65-69(b)

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**Notes:**
- The [VCCS Policy Manual](http://www.lfcc.edu), Section 2-IV-C, defines general education within the VCCS. Sections 2.7.3, 3.4.10, and 3.5.1 of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) Principles of Accreditation specify general education requirements. Colleges must address all SACSCOC requirements, the SCHEV Core Competencies, and the general education goal areas listed in this VCCS Policy Manual.
- (a) Must include at least one course in English composition.
- (b) Only 6 semester hours of social/behavioral sciences are required for engineering majors who plan to transfer to a baccalaureate degree engineering program that requires 6 or fewer hours in this category, provided that the college/university publishes such requirements in its transfer guide.
- (c) While general education courses other than those designed for transfer may be used to meet portions of these requirements, SACSCOC principles require that general education courses be general in nature and must not “...narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures peculiar to a particular occupation or profession.”
- (d) Only 3 semester hours of mathematics are required for the General Studies major.
- (e) Personal development includes health, physical education, or recreation courses that promote physical and emotional well-being and student development courses. Must include at least one student development course.
- (f) AAA/AAS degrees must contain a minimum of 15 semester hours of general education. Students should plan to take at least 30 hours in the major; the remaining hours will be appropriate to the major.
- (g) All college-level course prerequisites must be included in the total credits required for each program.
- (h) Credit range for engineering programs is 60-72 semester hour credits. Credit range for AAA/AAS programs is 65-69, including nursing. For other programs in the Health Technologies, the range is 65-72 semester hour credits.