Humanities (h): Humanity courses explore multiple understandings of the human condition. These courses use ideas, stories, and words to help us make sense of our lives by addressing dilemmas and acknowledging ambiguity and paradox.1

Social Science (s): Social science courses focus on people and the institutions within which they interact as individuals, and in groups, societies, nations, and states. These courses analyze social structures and processes or cultural meanings associated with collective human interactions.2

Global Studies (gs): Courses in Global Studies develop awareness of global issues, and the diversity of cultures and languages, perspectives, histories, lived experiences, and values. These courses help students understand diverse political and societal realities by addressing social, cultural, political, economic, or historical factors.3

Fine Arts (f): Courses whose primary focus is the creation, re-creation, and study of creative processes in the visual and performing arts that reflect cultural development and growth, as well as the current and historical trends of global cultures through aesthetic concepts.4

Health and Well Being (hw): Courses in health and well-being develop an awareness of health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. These courses focus on exploring multiple dimensions and multiple social determinants of health including diverse domestic and global health practices, issues and policies.5

Finance and Quantitative Literacy (fq): Finance and Quantitative Literacy courses develop quantitative reasoning skills that can be applied effectively in life and work across multiple domains.3

Natural Science (n/nl): Natural Science courses focus on the scientific method(s), principles, concepts, models and experimentation, as well as the limitations of such endeavors, to explore natural phenomena to advance a better understanding of the natural world. These courses include laboratory experiences to further develop a student’s understanding of the scientific method, observation skills, and experimental methods and techniques.3

Technology (t): Technology courses develop knowledge and understanding of technological processes and systems, and their interrelationship with life, society, or environment. Courses will focus explicitly on technology or the use of technology to solve complex problems.3

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1 Based on the definition provided by The Humanities Association.
2 Based on the definition provided by the College of Letters, Sciences and Arts, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
3 Based on the working definition developed by the faculty and GECAC, Fall 2010.
4 Based on the definition provided by the faculties of the Art, Music and Theatre Departments.
5 Based on the definition of health by the W.H.O. and provided by the faculties of the School of Health Professions and Studies.