

GENERAL ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS DIVISION (GARD)

Divisional Mission

The Mission of GARD is to:

- Enhance and integrate the academic and personal development and growth of HCT students through the development of a student-centered learning environment that will provide a comprehensive array of innovative programs, resources and services.
- Facilitate the successful transition of new students to their career programs by enhancing student engagement, integrating academic and co-curricular programs, and fostering both independent and lifelong learning.

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Programs Offered

The following programs are offered at each HCT campus:

- Academic Success
- General Studies
- Arabic and Emirati Studies

Academic Success Program (ASP)

Through its proactive and innovative programs, the ASP design opportunities for students to achieve academic goals and develop as lifelong independent reflective learners. It aims to support students in their efforts to achieve their academic goals and successfully align themselves with the HCT2.0 new curriculum framework and its challenging educational environment.

General Objectives

As an interconnected unit of the General Academic Requirements Division (GARD), ASP aims to support and encourage academic student development outside of class time both on-campus and on-line as an integral part of the HCT student experience in synch with the academic courses. Additionally, ASP aims to coordinate tutoring and academic support to all HCT students in all major programs.

ASP Vision

Three inter-related programming strands are to be designed and released sequentially:

- Learning Centers (Academic Success Centers)
- Skills (both Study Skills and 21st Century Skills)

- Developmental Advising / Mentoring (extended Orientation to Major Selection)

Description

As a broad description, ASP intends to connect and guide students through a First-Year Experience along the three strands, from pre-enrolment (high school) through an extended orientation, through a guided program of self-development and major selection where the responsibility remains always the student's, through academic support during their classes, until graduation.

ASP subscribes to an 'at-the-point-of-need' philosophy in program delivery, meaning that a proactive advising model determines when an intervention is necessary for a specific student, and not all students need to receive the same mass delivery. In other words, ASP support is customized according to each individual student's need.

Further, ASP also commits to a philosophy of early intervention and aims to activate academic support at the earliest sign of need, based on Faculty referrals.

In order to achieve its strategic objective of supporting students' academic performance with out-of-class study, ASP has launched 14 Academic Success Centers across the HCT network of male and female campuses in the UAE, and an online tutorial tracking system now available to all HCT Faculty and Staff – tutTrak.

The Centers, a cornerstone of the HCT's Academic Success Program, provide academic and developmental training services to students by seeking to improve the performance of students who need academic support, as well upgrading their study skills. In addition, the Academic Success Centers attract outstanding students, offering training and workshops that enhance their leadership abilities and future skills, in order to offer them opportunities to tutor and mentor their peers through **Peer Tutoring**.

General Studies

General Studies Program is dedicated to supporting, developing and mentoring all HCT students to reach their full communicative, intellectual, literacy and vocational skills potential.

This is achieved through a cross-curricula approach that challenges students to reflect and develop holistically by providing them with continual applied learning opportunities that broaden their global perspective, critical thinking, problem-solving and information synthesis skills in preparation for the 4th industrial revolution economy using 21st Century Skills .

Arabic & Emirati Studies

Arabic and Emirati Studies courses are designed to assure that students are proficient in Arabic, the official language of the country and familiar with the history, tradition and culture of the region. The Arabic and Emirati studies courses are included under the General Studies course plan as per CAA course category requirement.

Admission to Program

As per details in each Academic Division and general admission requirements of HCT.

Program Description

General Studies courses form an integrated suite of courses that empowers students to meet the challenges of college, the workplace, and life by enabling students to acquire essential 21st century practical skills and competencies in the areas of effective oral and written communication in Arabic and English, creative and critical thinking and problem solving, multiple forms of data gathering and analysis, moral and ethical decision-making, tolerance and multicultural sensitivity while maintaining the unique national identity and Arab cultural background of the UAE, teamwork and collaboration, and understanding the integrative and cumulative nature of knowledge acquisition.

The structure of the General Studies (GS) Courses is aligned with the CAA Standards for Licensure and Accreditation (2019) and consists of the following categories

1. English language;
2. Arabic language;
3. Islamic studies;
4. UAE studies.
5. Social Science
6. Natural Science
7. Mathematics

Program Learning Outcomes

a. Graduates will be able to:

- Comprehend and express concepts in English or Arabic in oral, written, and digital formats
- Collect, analyze, interpret and report qualitative and quantitative data effectively at a basic level
- Develop decision making processes that incorporate critical and creative problem-solving skills
- Work effectively in teams and independently understanding strategies that promote healthy dialog and discussion among people from different nationalities, cultures, and backgrounds
- Identify and devise creative solutions to address potential future challenges students may face in their educational experience, career, and life
- Identify areas for personal, academic, and professional growth and development and self-access means for improving identified areas
- Reflect on the attitudes and beliefs relevant to individual and social choices and actions.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of mathematics and its application in various contexts.

Completion Requirements

As a graduation requirement, students must successfully complete the following minimum credits:

Description	Data
Bachelor students	33 credits
Higher Diploma students	27 credits
Diploma students*	24 credits

*Some Health Science Diploma programs have a minimum of 21 credits

Mandatory Courses

General Studies courses which are mandatory for all students completing a Bachelor's degree to take include

Code	Title	Credit Hours
AES 1003	Emirati Studies	3
AES 1013	Arabic Communications	3
AES 1033	Islamic Culture	3
LSC 1103	Professional Communication and Reporting	3
LSS 1003	Life and Future Skills	3
LSS 1123	Basic Research Methods	3
LSC 2223	Future Skills Capstone	3
OR		
LSC 2193	Applied Skills Capstone	3
ICT 2013	Computational Thinking and Coding	3
BUS 2403	Innovation and Entrepreneurship	3
One course from Mathematics option		3
One course from Natural Science option		3

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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English, Arabic or other Languages

Required Credits: 12

Required:

AES 1013	Arabic Communications I	3
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OR:

AES 2003	Arabic for Non-Native Speakers ^{**} not mandatory for Military and Security programs	3
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AES 1033	Islamic Culture ^{**}	3
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Required:

LSC 1103	Professional Communication and Reporting	3
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And one elective course from:

LSC 1503	Academic Spoken Communication [*]	3
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LSC 2193	Applied Skills Capstone	3
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LSC 2223	Future Skills Capstone	3
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LSC 3023	Professional English [*]	3
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Humanities or Arts

Required Credits: 3

AES 1003	Emirati Studies	3
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Elective for Military and Security programs only:

PST 1173	Islamic Studies [*]	3
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Required Credits: 6

Mathematics and Information Technology

LSM 1003	Applied Mathematics	3
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Or

LSM 1103	Technical Mathematics	3
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Or

LSM 1113	Statistical Mathematics	3
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Or

LSM 1123	Quantitative Reasoning	3
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Or

MTH 1113	Statistics for Engineering	3
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And

ICT 2013	Computational Thinking and Coding	3
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The Natural Sciences

Required Credits: 3

One of the following courses as advised:

AHM 1203	Aviation Physics *	3
EDU 1803	Fundamentals of Teaching Math and Science	3
HSC 1013	Human Biology	3
HSC 1233	Human Growth and Development	3
LSN 1113	Introduction to Sustainability	3
PHY 1103	Physics I	3
VET 1123	General Chemistry	3

The Social or Behavioral Sciences

Required Credits: 9

(6 for Military and Security programs)

LSS 1003	Life and Future Skills	3
LSS 1123	Basic Research Methods	3
BUS 2403	Innovation and Entrepreneurship **	3

*Courses for Military and Security students only

** not Mandatory for Military and Security Programs

Description	Data
Total Required Credits	33 Credits

Preparatory Courses

Preparatory Courses

Students who have not yet met the program entry requirements are required to pass the preparatory courses. Those who have not met the English requirement (EmSAT English 1100 or equivalent) are placed in one of two English Communication Courses which are pre-requisites for most program courses. English Communication courses use state-of-the-art learning technology and teaching methods, ensuring that successful students acquire digital as well as linguistic proficiency. Those who have not met the Math requirement (EmSAT Mat 800 or equivalent) are placed in the Applied Mathematics Fundamentals course. Preparatory courses are pass/fail and do not have credits that contribute toward program requirements.

Preparatory Course	EmSAT Placement Score
LSC 0306 English Communications II	850 - 975 in EmSAT English
LSC 0303 English Communications IIB	1000 – 1075 in EmSAT English
LSM 0103 Applied Mathematics Fundamentals	<800 in EmSAT Math

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