# General Education – Frequently Asked Questions

## What is General Education (Gen Ed)?

The purpose of General Education electives at Loyalist College is to broaden students’ sense of self and the world in which they live, giving graduates a wider scope and adaptability in the workplace.

“The purpose of General Education in the Ontario college system is to contribute to the development of citizens who are conscious of the diversity, complexity, and richness of the human experience; who are able to establish meaning through this consciousness; and who, as a result, are able to contribute thoughtfully, creatively, and positively to the society in which they live and work” (Framework for Programs of Instruction, Revised July 2009, p. 21).

## How many Gen Ed courses do I need to take?

The Ministry of Colleges and Universities requires graduates of diploma and advanced diploma programs to successfully complete **three (3)** General Education electives. At Loyalist, there are also some certificate programs that require **one (1)** Gen Ed elective.

Gen Ed electives fit into one of five themes: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding or Science and Technology.

## What are the different options to obtain Gen Ed elective credits?

Gen Ed electives are currently offered online in an asynchronous format, meaning there is no set schedule. Material is posted at the beginning of each week for you to work on at your own pace during the week. Due dates and times for assignments are still in place.

Transfer credit and exemptions are also [available for other post-secondary courses you may have compelted at](mailto:pathways@loyalistcollege.com) Loyalist College or other institutions. Go to the [Credit Transfer and Exemption](https://www.loyalistcollege.com/future-students/credit-transfer/) to see a pre-approved list and complete the credit transfer/exemption. Please contact [pathways@loyalistcollege.com](mailto:pathways@loyalistcollege.com) for more information.

Prior Learning [Assessment and Recognition](mailto:pathways@loyalistcollege.com) (PLAR) challenge exams are available for each GNED course. Please contact [pathways@loyalistcollege.com](mailto:pathways@loyalistcollege.com) for more information on the PLAR process.

## When can I select my Gen Ed elective?

The General Education elective registration portal will open shortly before the start of each semester. Watch your student email for announcements.

## How can I select my Gen Ed elective?

If your Gen Ed elective is part of your regular semester, you will register through the self-registration portal on myLoyalist. If you are registering for an off-cycle elective, you will have to use the manual registration form available on the [Student Forms](https://www.loyalistcollege.com/current-students/student-forms/) page and submit it to [info@loyalistcollege.com](mailto:info@loyalistcollege.com).

## Can I change my Gen Ed elective selection?

It is important to carefully choose your elective as Enrolment Services does not easily change your selection. If necessary, you can change your selection within the first 10 days of class. Please refer to the [Academic Schedule](https://www.loyalistcollege.com/current-students/academic-schedule/) on the Loyalist website for current semester dates. Please contact Enrolment Services to request to drop your GNED registration. At that point, the online registration portal will again be available for you to choose a new elective. If the registration portal has already closed, you will need to submit the manual registration form.

## Why am I not seeing all the Gen Ed electives as options?

Gen Ed electives vary by term. When the GenEd elective registration portal opens, it may not include all the electives listed on the website; only those offered for the current semester will be available.

## Why do I see a message telling me I do not require a Gen Ed elective at this time?

If you are trying to select your elective out of sequence from your program map, you cannot self-register through the portal. You will have to register using the manual registration form.

**NOTE: Taking any course off cycle from your program map can result in additional fees as outlined in** [**AOP 233.**](https://www.loyalistcollege.com/about-loyalist/policies/aop-233-general-education/)

## What if I am having technical issues when I try to use the Gen Ed registration portal?

If you have any Gen Ed questions during this process, you can always click the “? Help” icon at the top of each screen of the registration website.

If you are experiencing issues that are preventing you from accessing the registration site, please review the following information:

As some issues may be caused by the browser you are using, try switching to a different browser. Please remember to let Banner cycle through, allow for pop-ups and wait for the registration tab to open.

If you continue to have issues, please contact the [Service Desk](mailto:servicedesk@loyalistcollege.com).

## I have taken previous courses at Loyalist College or another institution; do they qualify

**as my GenEd electives?**

If you have previously completed courses at Loyalist or at another post-secondary institution, you may qualify for exemptions or transfer credits. Please review the information and lists of previously approved courses available on the [Credit Transfer and Exemptions](https://www.loyalistcollege.com/future-students/credit-transfer/) .

## I have life learning that has taken place outside of a classroom; can I get GenEd credit for that?

[Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition](https://www.loyalistcollege.com/future-students/prior-learning-assessment-and-recognition/) (PLAR) is a process that measures demonstrated knowledge against the requirements of the course learning outcomes through a variety of evaluation methods. All General Education courses have a PLAR challenge exam. If successful, credit will be awarded without requiring enrolment in a course or module. Requests for challenges should be made at the time of admission to a program so that the challenge process can be scheduled within a reasonable period.

A challenge fee is payable in advance and is not refundable. Please contact [pathways@loyalistcollege.com](mailto:pathways@loyalistcollege.com) to discuss the PLAR process and fees if you have any questions.

## How can I tell if my transfer credit or exemption has been processed?

You should be able to see all your Gen Ed exemptions and transfer credits on your unofficial transcript in Banner. Please go to Banner -> Student Services -> Student Records -> All Grades –> View Unofficial Transcript. You should see all your completed Gen Ed electives listed there. If you require a printed copy, please request an official printed transcript through Banner -> Student Services -> Student Records -> Request Printed/Official Transcript.

## Can I take more than one (1) GenEd elective in any given semester? What happens if I choose not to take my GenEd elective in the semester required by my program of study?

Students wishing to take more than one (1) GenEd elective in a semester should consult their student success mentor as this may put them in an overload position. Students should be aware that appropriate fees will be charged for the second elective for which they register. Additional fees may be charged to students taking a Gen Ed elective off cycle. Please see [AOP 233](https://www.loyalistcollege.com/about-loyalist/policies/aop-233-general-education/) for further details.