Hi! My name is Jenae and I am a sophomore here at Appalachian. Today I am going to teach you how to read a General Education “check-sheet.”

You can find a General Education check-sheet by clicking on the link above this video.

As you can see, General Education looks different on a check-sheet than it does on the model in the previous video. A Gen Ed check-sheet is most helpful in the Perspectives. Here is where you get to explore classes outside of your major and take classes from a variety of disciplines that will enhance your college education.

In order to complete a Perspective, you must choose one theme within that perspective and take at least 2 classes in that theme. Let’s look at how many classes you need to take in the Perspectives.

The Science Inquiry perspective works separately from the other 3 perspectives in that each Science Inquiry class is a 4 hour combination of lecture and lab. You only have to take two classes in any theme in Science Inquiry, which translates to an 8 hour requirement.

The Aesthetic, Historical & Social, and Local to Global Perspectives work together to encompass 21 hours of your general education. You must take 2 courses in your theme in order to complete a Perspective, but they must come from different departments. You can tell what department is offering a class by the three letter departmental abbreviations, some of which can be a little confusing. Don’t worry, there’s a list of all the departments and their abbreviations in your Advising Planner that you get at Orientation.

In the theme that you find most engaging, you will take a third class, for a total of 9 hours.
One important part of your general education program is the designations. These designations are made up of Historical Studies, Literary Studies, and the Fine Arts. The courses that carry designations are identified on the Gen Ed check-sheet. Note that not all themes carry designations, so be careful when planning your courses.
At the top of the check-sheet, you will find the First Year Seminar and First and Second Year Writing courses. The First Year Seminar is housed in University College, which is why it has the UCO abbreviation.

Here, you will also see Quantitative Literacy. There are a variety of courses that fulfill this 4 hour Gen Ed requirement, but there are many majors and degree programs that require a specific Quantitative Literacy course to fulfill major requirements. You will want to have a good idea of your major before you take a Quantitative Literacy course.

Finally, there is Wellness Literacy. This 2 hour requirement can be met by taking 2 one-hour PE activity courses, or one 2-hour course. You can also take a 3 hour course, but one hour of that course will count as elective hours.

That’s the General Education check-sheet. Be sure to always read the fine print on your check-sheet. These notes can be very helpful when planning your General Education classes.