

University Studies: Conceptual Framework DRAFT (3-24-09)

Proposed University Studies Program course sequences for the development of competencies in the undergraduate career

University Studies	Skills, Knowledge, Competencies	Critical Thinking ¹	Self, Society and Values	Global Connections	Effective Communication ³
Foundations		5 courses	4 courses	3 courses + language	3 courses
	1 st Year Fall	First Year Inquiry (FYI) Critical Thinking in the Humanities	Personal Well-Being	2 nd language and its cultural contexts ²	University Writing
	1 st year Spring	Mathematical Reasoning Critical Thinking in the Sciences with Lab Critical Thinking in the Social Sciences		2 nd language and its cultural contexts ²	Writing Intensive Course
	2 nd Year Fall		Identity, Diversity & Equity	Historical approaches for understanding global issues –I ⁵	Writing or communication intensive (fall or spring)
	2 nd year spring		Comparative Values in the Arts	Approaches for understanding global issues –II ⁵	
	3 rd year May be in the major ⁴		Ethics and Social Responsibility ⁴	Approaches for resolving global issues ^{4,5}	
Applications GE Outcomes Expressed in the Major		2 courses	Recommended One Course		2 courses
	Junior	Research Course (in major or directed by major)	Values in Action ⁶ Internships, civic engagement, study abroad, Interdisciplinary seminar, service , collaboration with faculty in research project		Writing Intensive
	Senior	Capstone course (in major or interdisciplinary)	(0-3 credits, in major /directed by major)		Writing or Communication intensive



Critical Thinking Core

DRAFT (3-18-09) Proposed University Studies course sequences for the Development of Competencies in Undergraduate Career

Notes:

1. The Critical Thinking Core should be completed by the end of the 1st year if major permits. Courses may be taken in any order. They are listed alphabetically on the diagram. Since many students take these at the same time, they would be conducive to clustering or linking. All of the critical reasoning courses will incorporate both a technological skills dimension and an information literacy dimension.
2. Second Language: the language requirement is based on placement and proficiency testing. Although language study is built into the 1st year USP sequence, it may become a graduation requirement for all students including transfers.
3. All writing and/or communication intensive (WCI) courses may be double counted. Writing or communication intensive courses in the major can be courses in the major or be directed by the major.
4. The third year categories, Ethics and Social Responsibility and Approaches for Resolving Global Issues, will be required of all students including transfer students. Either or both may be incorporated into the major, directed by the major or selected by the student.
5. Students will choose their three Global Approaches courses (two in understanding and one in resolving) from three different disciplines. Historical Approaches for Understanding Global Issues may be offered by any discipline using significant historical analysis and method. Students must take courses outside of the major. A thematic sequence may be constructed out of these courses .
6. “Values in Action: World Experiences” is a recommended option. Majors can fulfill this application of GE goals in various ways: internships, civic engagement course, study abroad, service, interdisciplinary course with other majors, - some experience connecting their learning with the beyond college world.
7. Students will take no more than 2 foundation courses in the same discipline, excepting First Year Inquiry.

Comment:

Total credits required in Foundations will vary according to several factors:

Minimum is 34 credits – with no language, double counting WCI, and junior USP courses in the major

Maximum is 52 credits

Likely is 43 credits – with double counting WCI and one junior level course

Total credits in Applications will also vary. Applications courses will usually be adaptations of current courses in the major.

Minimum is 6 credits with double counting WCI and junior level University Studies courses not in the major

Maximum is 18 credits (if the major so desires)

Likely is 9 credits– with double counting WCI and one junior level course