

University Studies: Conceptual Framework DRAFT (4-20-09)

Proposed U S P course topic area sequences by semester for undergraduate competencies development - based on 5 courses / term

University Studies	Skills, Knowledge, Competencies	Critical Thinking ¹				Self, Society and Values	Global Connections	Effective Communication ³
Foundations		5 courses			X	4 courses	3 courses + language	3 courses
	1 st Year Fall	First Year Inquiry (FYI)	Critical Thinking in the Humanities (or other Critical Thinking area)			Personal Well-Being	2 nd language and its cultural contexts ² (may be a grad req)	University Writing
	1 st year Spring	Mathematical Critical Thinking	Critical Thinking in the Sciences with Lab	Critical Thinking in the Social Sciences		2 nd language and its cultural contexts ² (may be a grad req)	Writing Intensive Course (if double counted – no additional credits)	
	2 nd Year Fall				Identity, Diversity & Equity	Historical approaches for understanding global issues –I ⁵	Writing or communication Intensive (fall or spring) (if double counted – no additional credits)	
	2 nd year Spring				Comparative Values in the Arts	Approaches for understanding global issues –II ⁵	X	
	3 rd year May be in the major ⁴ fall or spring				Ethics and Social Responsibility ⁴	Applications to global issues ^{4,5}	X	
Applications		2 courses				Recommended One Course	2 courses	
	Junior Fall or spring	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 (0-3 credits, in major /directed by major)	Writing Intensive in the Major (if double count – no additional credits)	
	Senior Fall or spring	Capstone course (in major or interdisciplinary)					Writing or Communication intensive in Major (if double count – no additional credits)	



Critical Thinking Core

DRAFT (4-20-09) 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 requirements permit. Core 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 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, the Senate will vote before implementation whether to continue designating it as 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 Course Topic Areas, “Ethics and Social Responsibility” and “Applications to 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 Issues courses (two in gaining knowledge and one in applying it) 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 (unless the “Applications” course is in the major). Constructing a thematic sequence for these courses is encouraged.
6. “Values in Action” is a recommended option. Majors, if desired, can fulfill this application of GE goals through experiences that connect learning with the beyond college world: internships, civic engagement course, study abroad, service, interdisciplinary course with other majors, etc.
7. Students will take no more than 2 foundation-level 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