


University Studies: Conceptual Framework DRAFT (4-7-09)

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	X		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	Major or Elective	2 nd language and its cultural contexts ²
	2 nd Year Fall	Major or Elective	Major or Elective	Major or Elective	Major or Elective	Identity, Diversity & Equity	Historical approaches for understanding global issues –I ⁵	Writing or communication intensive (fall or spring; double counted – no additional credits)
	2 nd year Spring	Major or Elective	Major or Elective	Major or Elective	Major or Elective	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	Major or Elective	Major or Elective	Major or Elective	Major or Elective	Ethics and Social Responsibility ⁴	Approaches for resolving global issues ^{4,5}	X
Applications USP Outcomes Expressed in the Major		2 courses				Recommended One Course		2 courses
	Junior Fall or spring	Research Course (in major or directed by major)	Major or Elective	Major or elective	Major or Elective	Major or elective	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 (double count – no additional credits)
	Senior Fall or spring	Capstone course (in major or interdisciplinary)	Major or Elective	Major or elective	Major or Elective	Major or Elective		Writing or Communication intensive in Major (double count – no additional credits)

 Critical Thinking Core

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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