



President of the Faculty Senate

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Andrew Wright, President of the Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: Mark-up of Policy 503.3. General Education Requirements
DATE: November 10, 2014

The Faculty Senate has made extensive revisions over the past year and a half to the General Education requirements; however, the policy has not been updated to reflect these changes. As we approach the implementation date, it is necessary for the Faculty Senate to review its policy prior to implementation.

This memo presents the accurate reflection of the current state of Policy 503.3 after amendments over the past two years. There will be additional amendments in the December Faculty Senate meeting to accommodate requirements in associate degrees which were changed as a result of changes in the general education policy. This memo will serve as the transitional document against which changes can be applied.

The general education requirements were replaced by motion FS#2012-13_10 (http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/01/Leg-FS_-2012-13_10-General-Education-Requirements.pdf).

Several amendments have been made subsequently.

Motion FS_2013_8 (http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/01/FS_2013_8-Communication-Written-Criteria.pdf) changed the English Language Communication - Written curricular area.

Motion FS_2013_13 (http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/01/FS_2013_13-Communication-Speech-Criteria.pdf) changed the English Language Communication - Speech curricular area.

Motion FS_2014_9 (http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/06/FS_2014_9-Interdisciplinary-Curricular-Area-copy.pdf) added the Interdisciplinary curricular area.

Motion FS_2013_14 (http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/01/FS_2013_14-Implementation-of-GenEd-Requirements.pdf) delayed the implementation date.

Motion FS_2014_23 (http://ualr.edu/facultysenate-4andw/files/2014/11/FS_2014_23-Iterim-College-

[Core-legislation.pdf](#)) added a default college core.

The result of Motion FS#2012-13_10 and amendments on Policy 503.3 are shown on pages 2-9 of this memo (single strikethrough represents deletion resulting from the motion, single underline represents addition resulting from the motion, double strikethrough represents deletion from amendment, double underline represents an addition from amendment).

Policy:

Core Requirements

A student seeking a baccalaureate degree must complete a total of 44 hours in core courses. Listed here are the required categories, the number of hours required in each category, and the specific courses that will fulfill that requirement. Students majoring in a program of study offered through the Donaghey College of Engineering and Information Technology follow a different core. See “DCEIT Core Requirements.”

Core Courses for Bachelor Degrees

English/Communications (9 hours) RHET 1311 Composition I
RHET 1312 Composition II
SPCH 1300 Speech Communication

Science (8 hours)[†]

ANTH 1415 Physical Anthropology
ASTR 1301 Introduction to Astronomy and ASTR 1101 Introduction to Astronomy Laboratory
BIOL 1400 Evolutionary and Environmental Biology
BIOL 1401 Science of Biology
CHEM 1409 Chemistry and Society
ERSC 1302 Physical Geology and ERSC 1102 Physical Geology Laboratory
ERSC 1303 Historical Geology and ERSC 1103 Historical Geology Laboratory

Fine Arts/Humanities (9 hours)²

One course (3 hours) from the following: ENGL 2337 World Literature
ENGL 2338 World Literature Themes PHIL 2320 Ethics and Society

Two of the following courses (6 hours)

MUHL 2305 Introduction to Music
ARHA 2305 Introduction to Visual Art
THEA 2305 Introduction to Theatre and Dance

Math (3 hours)

MATH 1315 College Mathematics MATH 1302 College Algebra

Social Sciences (15 hours)

HIST 1311 History of Civilization I HIST 1312 History of Civilization II

One course (3 hours) from the following: HIST 2311 U.S. History to 1877
HIST 2312 U.S. History since 1877
POLS 1310 American National Government

Two courses (6 hours) from the following:

ANTH 2316 Cultural Anthropology
CRJU 2300 Introduction to Criminal Justice ECON 2301 Survey of Economics
ERSC 2300 Science and Technology in Society GEOG 2312 Cultural Geography
GNST 2300 Introduction to Gender Studies MCOM 2330 Mass Media and Society
POLS 2301 Introduction to Political Science
PSYC 2300 Psychology and the Human Experience

RELS 2305 World Religions
SOCl 2300 Introduction to Sociology

General Education Requirements (UALR Core Curriculum)

General education nurtures in students the knowledge, skills, habits of mind, and values that provide a foundation for their baccalaureate program and for lifelong learning. General education fosters intellectual breadth, serves as a context for more specialized study, and is essential to the full development of persons who wish to participate meaningfully in the various communities of which they are a part.

Given these goals, we endorse the following Educational Outcomes in the areas of Knowledge, Skills and Citizenship. We recognize that certain specific aspects of these outcomes will be discipline specific, and we expect that the level of competence in each area will be defined and assessed according to the individual disciplines. The recommendations for core courses and other curriculum changes should be informed by these general outcomes. As programs develop, changes, deletions or additions may be necessary, and this document outlines a process for making those changes.

Educational Outcomes

Skills:

1. Communication (oral, written, visual, professional self-presentation).
2. Critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, and solving problems individually and collaboratively.
3. Information technology (locating, retrieving, evaluating, synthesizing).

Knowledge:

1. The concepts, methodologies, findings, and applications of mathematics and the social and natural sciences, engineering and technology.
2. Concepts, methodologies, and the global cultural heritage of the arts and humanities.

Citizenship:

1. Commitment to ethical behavior.
2. Civic and personal responsibility.
3. Global perspective and cultural sensitivity.
4. Appreciating diversity.

General Education

The UALR Core Curriculum is 35 semester credits. These 35 credits will be divided in the following way: 21 credits in the Standard Core and 14 credits in College Cores. The Standard and College cores together satisfy the Arkansas State Minimum Core. Some colleges, departments or programs may have additional requirements.

UALR Standard Core (21 hours)

The UALR Standard Core is intended to make available to students an introduction to the richness of human thought and creativity that find expression in the areas of the liberal arts, humanities and social sciences. Additionally, the Standard Core serves as the starting point for students to achieve the UALR Educational Goals while providing a maximum of transferable credits among colleges to allow students to explore a variety of disciplines before selecting a major.

English Language Communication – Written (6 hours)

Courses in this area focus on teaching students to develop ideas and express them clearly, adapt language to rhetorical situations, and build the skills needed to communicate ethically and effectively in their academic, professional, and civic lives.

Courses focus on reading and writing. All courses in this area also address information technology, critical thinking, a commitment to ethical behavior, and civic and personal responsibility.

Fine Arts (3 hours)

Courses in this area offer a broad overview of one or more art forms, with options for more precise focus. They focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts; involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression; and enable critical and creative communication about works of art, with some attention to international aspects of the arts. These courses place an assessed emphasis on response to arts experience both on-campus and in the community.

In addition to the knowledge domain of the arts, these courses address communication, critical thinking, information technology, ethical and personal responsibility, civic responsibility, and global and cultural understanding.

Humanities (3 hours)

Courses in this area focus on the examination and interpretation of human thought and experience. These courses employ humanistic inquiry, a focused attention on interpreting a broad survey of textual and intellectual artifacts produced by individuals and groups, in order to interrogate human experience as well as the meanings and values that individuals and cultures assign to it.

In addition to the knowledge domain of the humanities, these courses address communication, critical thinking, information technology, ethical and personal responsibility, civic responsibility, and global and cultural understanding.

Social Sciences – (3 hours)

Courses in this area address broad areas of individual and/or group behavior. They also focus on the application of theoretical perspectives to individual and/or group behavior and emphasize how scientific methods are applied to understanding individual and/or group behavior.

In addition to the knowledge domain of the social sciences, these courses address communication, critical thinking, information technology, ethical and personal responsibility, civic responsibility, and global and cultural understanding.

History of Civilization (3 hours)

In an age of increasing globalization it is imperative that UALR students be introduced to the range of peoples and civilizations of the world. As citizens in a democracy, UALR graduates can act more responsibly and knowledgeably with a grasp of the varied sources of the culture in the United States.

U. S. History/Government (3 hours)

For UALR graduates to accept the idea of and desire to engage in civic activities requires that they gain an understanding of how our government is structured and the history of our nation and how that history has shaped and is shaping our government.

Higher level courses, particularly mathematics and science, will satisfy Standard Core and College Core requirements. Individual colleges will not be required to accept lower level courses to satisfy specified college/program requirements.

Donaghey Scholar courses must be accepted by all programs as meeting the Standard Core; however, the Donaghey Scholars program is not required to accept the university Standard Core courses in lieu of Donaghey Scholar program requirements.

College Cores (14 hours)

Mathematics (3 hours)

Courses in this area focus on teaching students the concepts and methodologies, findings and applications of mathematics while developing their inquiry and analysis skills. All courses in this area also address quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, problem-solving, and a commitment to ethical behavior.

Science (8 hours)

Courses in this area focus on teaching students the concepts and methodologies, findings and applications of science while developing their inquiry and analysis skills. All courses in this area explore the physical world using the scientific method applying quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, problem-solving, information technology, and a commitment to ethical behavior. All courses must include a lecture and laboratory.

Humanities*

Courses in this area focus on the examination and interpretation of human thought and experience. These courses employ humanistic inquiry, a focused attention on interpreting a broad survey of textual and intellectual artifacts produced by individuals and groups, in order to interrogate human experience as well as the meanings and values that individuals and cultures assign to it.

Social Sciences*

Courses in this area address broad areas of individual and/or group behavior. They also focus on the application of theoretical perspectives to individual and/or group behavior and emphasize how scientific methods are applied to understanding individual and/or group behavior.

In addition to the knowledge domain of the social sciences, these courses address communication, critical thinking, information technology, ethical and personal responsibility, civic responsibility, and global and cultural understanding.

English Language Communication – Spoken

Courses in this area focus on teaching students to develop ideas and express them clearly, adapt language to rhetorical situations, and build the skills needed to communicate ethically and effectively in their academic, professional, and civic lives.

Courses focus on speaking and listening. All courses in this area also address information technology, critical thinking, a commitment to ethical behavior, and civic and personal responsibility.

Interdisciplinary Studies*

To be developed.

*Engineering programs replace these 3 credit hours with 3 hours of mathematics and/or science per the State Minimum Core.

Any baccalaureate degree program will adopt the following interim college core until such a time as that college or program has completed its desired college core through the curriculum process:

Science (8 hours): any course in the science curricular area

Mathematics (3 hours): any course in the mathematics curricular area

Humanities/Social Sciences/Communications – Speech/Interdisciplinary (3 hours): any course in one of these areas (except for engineering programs which may substitute 3 hours of additional math/science)

U.S. Traditions: United States History or Government Requirement

Arkansas law requires that all students who receive an associate or baccalaureate degree successfully complete a course in U.S. history or U.S. government.

This requirement can be met by HIST 2311 U.S. History to 1877, HIST 2312 U.S. History Since 1877, or POLS 1310 American National Government. Other United States history or government courses may also meet this requirement. However, the student should check with an advisor in the Department of History or the Department of Political Science before choosing to meet the requirement with any other course.

~~¹Students may substitute four hours of the eight hour science requirement in the core curriculum with technical courses, with certain conditions. The substitution will be two for one; the student must take two hours of a technical course for every one hour of an approved competency course. A technical course is defined as any science course at the 1000-level or above that is not approved as a core course. Each substitute course must have a laboratory component, and all substitute courses must be from the same discipline. A science course is from the disciplines of anthropology, astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth science, or physics. The remaining four hours of the science competency requirement must be met by an approved core course.~~

~~²Previous course sequences FNAR 2300 Introduction to Fine Arts I and FNAR 2301 Introduction to Fine Arts II or MUHL 2200 Introduction to Music; ARHA 2200 Introduction to Visual Art; and DRTH 2200 Introduction to Theatre and Dance will no longer be offered after Fall 2008.~~

Second Language Requirement

BA Students

Students seeking a BA degree in any of the following majors are required to complete a 2000-level second language course or demonstrate equivalent proficiency as measured by a competency test:

BA Anthropology BA Art History
BA Chemistry
BA Criminal Justice BA English
BA French
BA History
BA German Studies
BA International Studies
BA Interpretation: American Sign Language/English BA Liberal Arts (also offered via distance)
BA Music
BA Philosophy
BA Physics
BA Political Science
BA Professional and Technical Writing
BA Psychology
BA Sociology
BA Spanish
BA Speech Communication
BA Studio Art; Option in Applied Design
BA Theatre Arts

Languages which may be used to meet the second language requirement include French, German,

Spanish, American Sign Language, and other languages as approved and arranged through the Department of International and Second Language Studies.

Students may meet the requirement in one of the following ways:

- Successfully completing a 2000-level second language course at UALR and satisfying all the prerequisites for that course.
- Transferring the equivalent courses from another institution of higher education.
- Demonstrating equivalent proficiency on a language test.

BSE Students

Students seeking a BSE in Early Childhood Education are required to complete 3 hours of a second language and 3 hours of English as a Second Language.

Students seeking a BSE in Middle Childhood Education are required to complete 6 hours of a second language or English as a Second Language in any combination or level. Students may meet the requirement in one of the following ways:

- Successfully completing a second language course at UALR and satisfying all the prerequisites for that course.
- Transferring the equivalent courses from another institution of higher education.
- Demonstrating equivalent proficiency on a language test.*

BSW Students

Students seeking a BSW degree are required to complete the elementary I and II levels of a second language sequence of courses (Foreign Language 1311 and 1312 or Interpretation 1320 and 1321) or demonstrate equivalent proficiency as measured by a competency test.

Languages which may be used to meet the second language requirement include French, German, Spanish, and American Sign Language. Students may meet the requirement in one of the following ways:

Successfully completing six hours of an approved sequence of second language courses at UALR.
Transferring the equivalent courses from another institution of higher education to UALR.

Demonstrating equivalent proficiency on a language test.*

Demonstrating Proficiency in a Second Language to Satisfy the Requirements for BA, BSE, and BSW Degrees

Students who wish to meet second language requirements by demonstrating proficiency should take either the CAPE test or the American Sign Language Proficiency test before enrolling in UALR language courses. These tests are also used to determine placement in the appropriate language courses.

The following students do not need to take the test before enrolling in a language course:

Students who have already completed UALR second language courses.

Students who have completed university-level courses for transfer credit in French, German, Spanish, or ASL³.

Students who have never studied French, German, Spanish, or ASL before and are enrolling in first semester courses in these languages.

Second language course waivers may be granted to students with verified disabilities, after examination by a special committee. Students seeking such a waiver should contact the associate vice chancellor for academic affairs at 501.569.3204.

³Courses in signing systems other than ASL, such as manually coded English and conversational sign language, will normally not apply. Contact the Department of Counseling, Adult and Rehabilitation Education (CARE) for more information.

French, German, or Spanish

Students must take a computerized, multiple-choice test (the FCAPE, the G-CAPE, or the S-CAPE) coordinated by the Office of Testing Services and Student Life Research.

To demonstrate proficiency in a language other than French, German, or Spanish, students should contact the Department of International and Second Language Studies, Stabler Hall 201 at 501.569.3272.

American Sign Language (ASL)

Students may take a two-part test administered by the Department of Counseling, Adult, and Rehabilitation Education's (CARE) interpreter education program. The first part of the test is a written multiple-choice exam. The second part is an interview with the program faculty conducted in American Sign Language. Results of both the written test and interview are shared with the student at the end of the interview. Students should contact the Department of CARE for an appointment.

English as a Second Language

Students whose first language is not English may use the following core courses (9 credit hours) to satisfy the second language requirement:

RHET 1311 Composition I, RHET 1312 Composition II, and

ENGL 2337 World Literature or ENGL 2338 World Literature Themes or PHIL 2320 Ethics and Society

Implementation Language (not to be included in the policy itself):

Each college must recommend its own set of courses to satisfy curriculum areas of

3 credits of mathematics,

8 credits of science and

3 credits from among the areas of Social Science, Humanities and English Language Communications – Spoken

to the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies for approval.

That the implementation date for the new General Education Requirements (FS#2012-13 10) shall be January 2015 and shall first be included in the Undergraduate Catalog in 2015-16. An erratum shall be issued removing

the requirements passed in FS 2012-13 10 from the 2013-2014 catalog. All other new degree requirements related to FS 2012-13 10 and subsequent changes in AY 13-14 shall be delayed until the 2015-2016 Undergraduate Catalog unless otherwise specified in the legislation.

The Council on Core Curriculum and Policies is authorized to develop the criteria for the Interdisciplinary Studies Curricular Area.