

# General Education Requirement

General Education at ~~the University of Missouri St. Louis offers students an exciting and challenging curriculum that develops core proficiencies and literacies and encourages the exploration of knowledge necessary to succeed in today's changing world. The following information outlines the General Education requirements. Courses used to fulfill one Core area requirement may not be applied to any other Core or Explore area requirement.~~ UMSL is comprised of 1000-2000 level courses that provide foundational knowledge in a broad range of subjects critical to the future success of our students. It is divided into two categories: General Education Core courses, which are applicable in all disciplines, and General Education Explore courses, which emphasize breadth of study. The following definitions clarify what is required for a course to be considered for listing as either a core or explore option in the General Education curriculum.

Core Areas:	
First Year Writing	
Math Proficiency	
Communication Proficiency	
Information Literacy	
American History or Government	
Explore Areas:	
Humanities and Fine Arts	
Social Sciences	
Math and Life/Natural Sciences	

## Core Area Descriptions

### ~~First Year Writing~~

~~Students should be able to write with thoughtfulness, clarity, coherence, and persuasiveness (CBHE General Education, June 2000). The First Year Writing requirement must be satisfied before the student completes 24 hours of course work. Proficiency can be met through earning a C- or higher in one of the following courses:~~

**First Year Writing (3 hours):** Students will develop college-level rhetorical knowledge and critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, including process skills and knowledge of conventions.

First-Year Writing courses are defined as those which develop students' ability to:

- analyze contexts and audiences and then act on that analysis in comprehending and creating texts
- analyze, synthesize, interpret, and evaluate ideas, information, situations, and texts
- use multiple strategies, or composing processes, to conceptualize, develop, and finalize projects
- involve multiple assessments of writing in multiple formats
- understand, analyze, and negotiate conventions (usage, spelling, citation as well as organizational frameworks, content, document design, and style) for purpose, audience, and genre, understanding that genres evolve in response to changes in material conditions and composing technologies and attending carefully to emergent conventions

The First Year Writing requirement must be satisfied before the student completes 24 hours of course work. Students should be able to write with thoughtfulness, clarity, coherence, and persuasiveness (CBHE General Education, June 2000). Proficiency can be met through earning a C- or higher in one of the following courses:

ENGL 1100	First-Year Writing	3
ENGL 1110	First-Year Writing For International Students	3
HIST 1111	Reacting to the Past	4
FGN LANG 1111	Reacting to the Past: Language, Immigration, and Social Change	4
HONORS 1100	Honors Freshman Composition	3

## **Math Proficiency**

Proficiency in the basic mathematical skills area must be satisfied before the student completes 24 hours of course work. Proficiency can be obtained in one of the following ways:

- Completing, with a grade of C or higher, a college degree credit mathematics course.
- Earning a score of at least 51% on the ALEKS Exam in a proctored environment. Students who fulfill their math proficiency requirement in this manner must take an additional General Education course in order to have a total of 42 credit hours of General Education courses.

Mathematics courses that the University offers that satisfy mathematics proficiency are courses at the 1000 level or above. Proficiency can be met through earning a C or higher in one of the following courses:

**Mathematics (3 hours):** Students will gain critical thinking and quantitative reasoning skills, and the use of symbolic systems to understand the properties and relationships of relevant quantifiable concepts.

Pathways mathematics courses are defined as those which:

- Involve sets and logic which is essential to critical thinking and process learning
- Treat aspects of financial mathematics as it is both exemplary of mathematical thinking and immediately relevant to students
- Discuss concepts of probability and statistics which involves important interpretive critical reasoning skills

- Consider geometric concepts which involve abstract reasoning and spatial skills
- Proficiency in the basic mathematical skills

Proficiency in the basic mathematical skills area must be satisfied before the student completes 24 hours of course work. Proficiency can be obtained by completing, with a grade of C- or higher, a college degree credit mathematics course, or by earning a score of at least 51% on the ALEKS Exam in a **proctored environment**. Students who fulfill their math proficiency requirement in this manner must take an additional General Education course in order to have a total of 42 credit hours of General Education courses.

Mathematics courses that the University offers that satisfy mathematics proficiency are courses at the 1000 level or above. Proficiency can be met through earning a C- or better in one of the following (or higher level) courses:

MATH 1020	Contemporary Mathematics	3
MATH 1021	Choice and Chance	3
MATH 1025	Geometry in the Real World	3
MATH 1030	College Algebra	3
MATH 1045	PreCalculus	5

Math courses at the 1000 level below MATH 1030 are designed as terminal mathematics courses for students who do not plan to take calculus. ~~The prerequisite for enrolling in these courses is a score of 46% or higher on the ALEKS math placement test.~~

MATH 1030 or MATH 1045 is required for all students who want to go on to calculus. ~~The prerequisite for enrolling in these courses is a score of 51% or higher on the ALEKS math placement test.~~ (Note: MATH 1035 is also required for students that take MATH 1030 and want to take MATH 1800.)

ALEKS math placement scores used to satisfy prerequisites are valid for approximately 11 months. For exact dates, go to [http://www.umsl.edu/~campustesting/Math%20Placement%20Test/faqs.html#valid\\_dates](http://www.umsl.edu/~campustesting/Math%20Placement%20Test/faqs.html#valid_dates). Also, ALEKS math placement scores that are used to satisfy

prerequisites for courses below MATH 1800 do not need to be obtained in a proctored environment.

Information about the ALEKS math placement test is available on the University's homepage at <http://www.umsl.edu/~campustesting/Math%20Placement%20Test/index.html>.

## **Communication Proficiency**

~~Students will become proficient in verbal communication to enhance their ability to analyze and use communication effectively so that they may engage with others across contexts. A course that counts for the Communication Proficiency requirement must be a course on the topic of English communication and includes:~~

- ~~1) — Analysis and skill building for oral communication~~
- ~~2) — Application of oral communication skills~~
- ~~3) — Assessment and evaluation of skills (e.g., presentations and projects)~~

~~The Communication Proficiency requirement may be met through one of the following courses:~~

**Communication (3 hours):** Students will become proficient in verbal communication, enhance their ability to analyze and use communication effectively, and engage with others constructively across contexts.

Communication courses are defined as those which:

- are based in the English language and assume conversational fluency
- emphasize verbal communication over other forms
- involve analytical and practical skill-building in oral communication
- require multiple assessments or of oral communication skills

The Communication Proficiency requirement may be met through one of the following courses:

COMM 1030	Interpersonal Communication I	3
COMM 1040	Introduction To Public Speaking	3
COMM 2230	Small Group Communication	3
COMM 2240	Persuasive Communication	3
EDUC 2222	Interpretation: Connecting Audiences and Meaning	3
HONORS 2010	Inquiries In The Humanities (Public Speaking or Storytelling: The Oral Tradition only)	3
NURSE 2105	Communication In The Nursing Profession	3
<del>TH DAN 1210</del>	<del>Course TH DAN 1210 Not Found</del>	<del>3</del>
<del>TH DAN 2241</del>	<del>Course TH DAN 2241 Not Found</del>	<del>3</del>
THEATR 1210	Fundamentals Of Acting	3
THEATR 2241	Argumentation and Debate	3

Additional courses that may meet this requirement:

1. A Course designated as a Verbal Communication course in transfer
2. Future courses, or specific sections of future topics courses, as approved by the General Education Committee

### **Information Literacy**

~~Students will become literate in accessing and analyzing information to further learning inside and outside the classroom and to become fully aware participants in the inter-connected global community. A course that counts for the Information Literacy requirement must be a course that studies the construction of objective information and includes:~~

- ~~1) Analysis and evaluation of information for objective accuracy, valid use, or appropriate construction~~
- ~~2) Usage of modern technologies to research, retrieve, synthesize, construct, or present information as needed for academic disciplines.~~

~~3) Foundational skills that allow for further specialization in their chosen major/discipline and keep up with continuous evolutions in information construction.~~

~~The Information Literacy requirement may be met through one of the following courses:~~

**Information Literacy (3 hours):** Students will become literate in accessing and analyzing information to further learning inside and outside the classroom and to become fully aware participants in the inter-connected global community.

Information Literacy courses are defined as those which:

- focus on the analysis and evaluation of information for objective accuracy, valid use, or appropriate construction
- use contemporary technologies to research, retrieve, synthesize, construct, or present information as needed for academic disciplines
- provide foundational skills that can be applied to any major or discipline
- require multiple assessments and evaluations of information sources for objectivity, accuracy, validity, etc.

The Information Literacy requirement may be met through one of the following courses:

CMP SCI 1012	Learning to Program Using Virtual Worlds	3
CMP SCI 1250	Introduction To Computing	3
CHEM 2223	Quantitative Analysis	3
CRIMIN 2210	Research Methods In Criminology And Criminal Justice	3
CRIMIN 2220	Statistical Analysis In Criminology And Criminal Justice	4
ED TECH 2230	Information Literacy	3
<b>ENGL 2110</b>	<b>Information Literacy</b>	<b>3</b>
HIST 2999	Introduction to Historical Inquiry	4

HONORS 1130	Western Traditions: Social And Behavioral Sciences (Science Vs Pseudo-science in Archaeology only)	3
HONORS 2010	Inquiries In The Humanities (Media Literacy only)	3
HONORS 2030	Inquiries In The Social And Behavioral Sciences (Evaluating the Media: A Theoretical Approach only)	3
INFSYS 1800	Computers And Information Systems <sup>1</sup>	3
INFSYS 2800	Information Systems Concepts And Applications	3
MATH 1105	Basic Probability And Statistics	3
MATH 1310	Elementary Statistical Methods	3
MATH 1320	Introduction to Probability and Statistics	3
MEDIA ST 1065	Internet Media	3
PHIL 2280	Minds, Brains, And Machines	3
POL SCI 2000	Political Analysis	3
PSYCH 2201	Psychological Statistics	4
PSYCH 2219	Research Methods	3
SOC 2280	Technology And Society	3

<sup>1</sup> Proficiency may be earned through placement test. Students who fulfill their information literacy through a placement test must take an additional General Education course in order to have a total of 42 credit hours of General Education courses.

Additional courses that may meet this requirement:

1. A course designated as an Information Literacy course in Transfer
2. Future courses, or specific sections of future topics courses, as approved by the General Education Committee

## ~~American History and Government~~

~~Students must satisfactorily complete a course or courses in American history or government taken at UMSL or at other colleges or universities in Missouri. Transfer students should check with the dean's office of their division to determine if they have fulfilled this requirement. The requirement may be satisfied by one of the courses listed on General Education website.~~

**American History and Government (3 hours):** Students will understand important facets of American history and its governmental structures from colonization to present day.

American History and Government courses are defined as those which:

- explore significant events in the history of American civilization from colonization to present day
- delineate major social movements in American history (e.g., suffrage, prohibition, civil rights)
- emphasize the structures of American government such as criminal, economic, legal, political, social, and military policies
- require multiple assessments and evaluations to demonstrate knowledge of specific events or policies and their consequences potential implications

Students must satisfactorily complete a course or courses in American history or government taken at UMSL or at other colleges or universities in Missouri. Transfer students should check with the Dean's Office of their division to determine if they have fulfilled this requirement.

The American History and Government Requirement may be met through one of the following courses:

CRIMIN 1100	Introduction To Criminology And Criminal Justice	3
ECON 2800	History Of American Economic Development	3
GS 2020	History of Women and Social Movements	3
HIST 1001	American Civilization To 1865	3
HIST 1002	American Civilization 1865 To Present	3

HIST 1003	African-American History	3
HIST 1004	The History Of Women In The United States	3
HIST 2001	Creating Early America: European Empires, Colonial Cultures, and Native Nations, 1565-1776	3
HIST 2004	United States History: The Civil War Era, 1860-1900	3
HIST 2005	The Modernization Of The United States	3
HIST 2006	Recent United States History	3
HIST 2007	History Of Missouri	3
HIST 2010	From Sea to Shining Sea: The American Frontier 1763 - 1890	3
HIST 2020	History of Women and Social Movements	3
HIST 2023	US Foreign Relations and Military History To 1900	3
HIST 2024	US Foreign Relations and Military History Since 1900	3
HIST 2800	History Of American Economic Development	3
<del>HIST 3041</del>	<del>Topics In American Constitutional History</del>	<del>3</del>
HONORS 1230	American Traditions: Social And Behavioral Sciences	3
POL SCI 1100	Introduction To American Politics	3
POL SCI 2260	Law, Politics and Society	3
POL SCI 2280	Judicial Politics	3
POL SCI 2290	Gender And The Law	3
POL SCI 2300	State Politics	3
POL SCI 2320	African Americans And The Political System	3
<del>POL SCI 3200</del>	<del>Constitutional Law</del>	<del>3</del>
<del>POL SCI 3210</del>	<del>Civil Liberties</del>	<del>3</del>
<del>POL SCI 3260</del>	<del>The Supreme Court</del>	<del>3</del>

POL SCI 3300	The American Presidency	3
POL SCI 3330	Public Opinion and Political Participation	3
POL SCI 3331	Congressional Politics	3
POL SCI 3350	Political Parties and Elections	3
POL SCI 3450	Urban Administration	3

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## Explore Area Descriptions

Courses used to fulfill core area requirements may not be applied to the explore area requirements.

### ~~Humanities and Fine Arts~~

~~9 credit hours~~ of coursework at the 1000 or 2000 level selected from at least two of the following areas: Art History, English, Dance, Music, Philosophy, Theater, Foreign Language (FGN LANG) 2100, language courses at the 2000 level above 2101, Interdisciplinary and Honors courses with the Humanities or Fine Arts designation, and transfer courses designated as Humanities and Fine Arts general education courses at peer institutions and institutions with whom UMSL has an articulation agreement

**Humanities and Fine Arts (9 hours):** Students will have a deeper knowledge of the human experience and creative expression through visual and performing arts.

Humanities and Fine Arts Explore courses are defined as those which:

- focus on helping students understand, analyze, and explore human thought/actions and creation.
- provide critical/foundational discipline-specific skills that contribute to personal growth and well-being
- encourage a sense of connection to our shared and diverse pasts and to our contemporaries
- promote living in and contributing to various communities

These criteria must be evident in syllabus, assignments, and/or grading rubrics if the department/discipline is not identified as a Fine Art or as Humanities/Humanistic Studies in the NCES Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP).

This requirement is satisfied by completing 9 hours of coursework at the 1000 or 2000 level selected from at least two of the following areas: Art, Art History, English, Dance, History, Music, Philosophy, Theater, Foreign Language (FGN LANG) 2100, language courses at the 2000 level above 2101, Interdisciplinary and Honors courses with the Humanities or Fine Arts designation, and transfer courses designated as Humanities and Fine Arts general education courses at peer institutions and institutions with whom UMSL has an articulation agreement.

### **Social Sciences**

~~9 credit hours of coursework at the 1000 or 2000 level selected from at least two of the following areas: Anthropology, Business Administration, Communication, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Economics, Finance, Geography, History, Media Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Interdisciplinary and Honors courses with the Social Sciences designation, and transfer courses designated as Social Sciences general education courses at peer institutions and institutions with whom UMSL has an articulation agreement~~

**Social Sciences (9 hours):** Students will understand and have the ability to view individual and social behavior/society from a variety of perspectives utilizing scientific methods.

Social Sciences Explore courses are defined as those which:

- the principle focus is on human society, including individual behavior and social relationships
- based on scientific principles
- reflect foundational, discipline specific knowledge that informs the human condition
- use multiple assessments of content knowledge within the social science framework

These criteria must be evident in syllabus, assignments, and/or grading rubrics if the department/discipline is not identified as a Social Science in the NCES Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP).

This requirement is satisfied by completing 9 hours of coursework at the 1000 or 2000 level selected from at least two of the following areas: Anthropology, Business Administration, Communication, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Economics, ED PSY 2212, Finance, Geography, Media Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Interdisciplinary and Honors courses with the Social Sciences designation, and transfer courses designated as Social Sciences general education courses at peer institutions and institutions with whom UMSL has an articulation agreement.

### **Mathematics and Life/Natural Sciences**

~~9 credit hours of coursework at the 1000 or 2000 level selected from at least two of the following areas: Astronomy, Atmospheric Science, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, Interdisciplinary and Honors courses with the Mathematics and Life/Natural Sciences designation, and transfer courses designated as Math and Life/Natural Sciences general education courses at peer institutions and institutions with whom UMSL has an articulation agreement~~

**Mathematics and Life/Natural Sciences (9 hours):** Students will expand mathematical abilities and have an understanding of the branches of science that deal with living things and the physical world.

Mathematics and Life/Natural Sciences Explore courses are defined as those which:

- emphasize mathematical concepts and/or use scientific methods to understand the physical world
- use multiple assessments of computational and/or content knowledge within the mathematical and life/natural sciences framework

These criteria must be evident in syllabus, assignments, and/or grading rubrics if the department/discipline is not identified as a Mathematics and Statistics, Biological and Biomedical Sciences, or Physical Sciences in the NCES Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP).

This requirement is satisfied by completing 9 hours of coursework at the 1000 or 2000 level selected from at least two of the following areas:

Astronomy, Atmospheric Science, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, Interdisciplinary and Honors courses with the Mathematics and Life/Natural Sciences designation, and transfer courses designated as Math and Life/Natural Sciences general education courses at peer institutions and institutions with whom UMSL has an articulation agreement.

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Note: Gender Studies and Military and Veterans Studies courses that are cross-listed with disciplinary designations at the 1000 and 2000 levels may also be used to fulfill the explore area requirements.