

2022 General Education Revision Proposal

Proposed by the faculty General Education Proposal Team, May 2021

Revised and approved by the University General Education Council,
December 8, 2021. 10 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstained.

Revised and approved by the University Undergraduate Academic Council,
January 19, 2022. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

Approved by the university faculty,
January 28, 2022. 79 in favor, 11 opposed, 3 abstained.

General Education Requirements (All Bachelor's Degrees)

Core, 3 hours

CORE 110 Cornerstone
or
CORE 115 Introduction to Critical Thinking

Bible and Theology, 15 hours

Foundations
BIBL/BIBO 101 Jesus: His Life and Teachings
BIBL/BIBO 102 Early Christians: Life, Literature, and Community
BIBL/BIBO 211 Message of the Old Testament
Upper-Division Selections
Choose 6 hours of BIBH, BIBL, BIBM, BIBP, BIBT, BMIS, BGRK, BHEB, BIBO,
BIHO, BIMO, BIPO, BITO, BMSO 300-499

Communication, 9 hours

Written Communication
ENGL/ENGO 111 Composition and Rhetoric
or
ENGL 106 Academic Composition
ENGL 006 Academic Composition Workshop
and
ENGL 107 Rhetoric and Persuasion
ENGL 007 Rhetoric and Persuasion Workshop

ENGL/ENGO 112 - Composition and Researched Writing

Oral Communication
COMM/COMO 120 Public Speaking

Mathematics, 3 hours

MATH/MATO 120-185, 238

or

MATW/MAWO 120-185

Humanities, 9 hours

History: HIST/HISO 100-299

and

Literature: ENGL/ENGO 200-299

or

Foreign Language Literature

and

Arts and Humanities Selection, 3 hours *[MENU CRITERIA TO BE ESTABLISHED]*

Cultural Literacy, 3 hours *[MENU CRITERIA TO BE ESTABLISHED]*

Life and Physical Sciences, 6 hours *[MENU CRITERIA TO BE ESTABLISHED]*

Social and Behavioral Sciences, 3 hours *[MENU CRITERIA TO BE ESTABLISHED]*

Free Elective, 3 hours

Choose 3 hours from any ACU courses not required for your major.

Total: 54 hours

General Education Requirements (Associate of Arts)

Core, 3 hours

CORE 110 Cornerstone

or

CORE 115 Introduction to Critical Thinking

Bible and Theology, 6 hours

BIBL/BIBO 101 Jesus: His Life and Teachings

BIBL/BIBO 102 Early Christians: Life, Literature, and Community

Communication, 9 hours

ENGL/ENGO 111 Composition and Rhetoric

or

ENGL 106 Academic Composition

ENGL 006 Academic Composition Workshop

and

ENGL 107 Rhetoric and Persuasion

ENGL 007 Rhetoric and Persuasion Workshop

ENGL/ENGO 112 - Composition and Researched Writing

COMM/COMO 120 Public Speaking

Mathematics, 3 hours

MATH/MATO 120-185, 238

or

MATW 120-185

Humanities, 3 hours

ENGL/ENGO 200-299

or

Foreign Language Literature

or

HIST 100-299

Cultural Literacy, 3 hours *[MENU CRITERIA TO BE ESTABLISHED]*

Life and Physical Sciences, 3 hours *[MENU CRITERIA TO BE ESTABLISHED]*

Social and Behavioral Sciences, 3 hours *[MENU CRITERIA TO BE ESTABLISHED]*

Total: 33 hours

Explication of ACU Student Learning Outcomes

A. Communicate Clearly: Students will

1. Compose effective audience-appropriate oral and written discourse;
2. Listen to, understand, and critically evaluate rhetorical claims;
3. Present ideas to diverse audiences via varied modalities.

Creating and evaluating discourse — spoken and written — are crucial necessities for navigating one's world. In workplaces, churches, civic gatherings, and social circles, one's ability to communicate effectively to multiple audiences should be expertly honed and frequently practiced as it contributes to the effectiveness and success of all endeavors.

ACU offers university students ample opportunities to write in myriad genres, compose and deliver oral presentations with various technologies, and master all forms of rhetoric. Within this general education domain, students will analyze sophisticated texts for persuasive strategies, logical warrants, sound evidence, and ethical integrity. They will also produce both oral and written discourse in an array of formats, including essays and speeches.

B. Examine Diverse Perspectives: Students will

1. Demonstrate competent discourse in global, historical, and cultural experiences of diverse populations;
2. Understand the interconnectedness of the human experience with a posture of humility while celebrating difference;
3. Interrogate one's internal and external views and values for greater self-awareness.

The ability to engage in competent discourse, understand interconnectedness of diverse peoples, and interrogate one's own internal processes is challenging, courageous work; it is essential to ACU's mission of service and leadership domestically and globally.

Knowledge of diversity and equity is an excellent partner to the many activities on campus that expose one to difference. These courses address not only the beauty of difference, but history and current relevance of diverse voices, thought, and experiences. Within this general education category, students might encounter diversity particularly in social sciences, arts, humanities, and Biblical studies.

C. Gather and Use Information to Address Problems: Students will

1. Evaluate widely disparate sources of information and competing evidence to form their own reasoned positions;
2. Analyze quantitative data, published writing, or observable phenomena to draw informed conclusions;

3. Interpret mathematical and/or logical models such as formulas, graphs, tables and schematics, and draw inferences from them.
4. Integrate new data into their existing knowledge.

Examining, creating, and sharing knowledge forms the very heart of higher education. The world provides neverending streams of discovery through various fields of study, but responsible learners will carefully assess and expertly handle the offerings of the agora. Applying these critical skills to all genres of knowledge positions graduates to innovate and contribute to a better society.

Although the evaluation, analysis, interpretation, and integration of knowledge is specific to fields of study, students must be provided with a foundational understanding of unique epistemologies. Diverse courses in the sciences, mathematics, and the language arts, together with the on- and off-campus research opportunities often accompanying them provide students with these encounters.

D. Engage Christian Approaches to Community and the Bible: Students will

1. Engage the Bible as Scripture in responsible, life-giving ways;
2. Synthesize multiple strategies to express and exercise personal faith;
3. Respond to community issues in a respectful, ethical, and faith-informed manner.

As a faith-based institution, ACU holds the Bible as a foundation of spiritual growth. Spiritual growth is a lifelong practice that includes Bible knowledge, faith practices, and community engagement, as one navigates the world in which one lives, serves, and leads. We seek to lay a moral and ethical foundation to govern problem-solving and decision-making in all areas of our students' lives.

Within this general education domain, students will encounter Christian and spiritual education from various perspectives as they work through sacred religious texts and the centuries of scholars who have written about them. As students progress to graduation, each year provides a spiritual focus that is accompanied by relevant offerings in Bible, theology, ethics, ministry, and missions.

Menu Definitions and Outcome Mapping

In cases where menu criteria must be established, discipline-specific faculty will use the following menu definitions to establish criteria for course inclusion on the menus.

Cornerstone

Cornerstone exists to equip students to think and communicate in an interdisciplinary way. As such, it provides a foundation for the rest of a student's liberal arts education at ACU. Students will address critical thinking, information literacy, and clear communication.

Outcomes mapped:

A1

C1

D3

Bible and Theology

Courses within this domain will help students develop skills pertaining to reading and interpreting the Bible as well as integrating the expression and practice of personal faith in various spheres of life.

Outcomes mapped:

A2

C2

D1

D2

D3

Communication

Courses within this domain will help students develop skills to critically evaluate rhetorical claims as well as compose and present effective, audience-appropriate written and oral discourse.

Outcomes mapped:

A1

A2

A3

Mathematics

Courses within this domain will equip students with mathematical reasoning, mathematical communication, and mathematical problem-solving necessary for effective quantitative and analytical reasoning in their professional and personal lives.

Outcomes mapped:

C2

C3

C4

Humanities

Courses within this domain will expose students to other cultures, time periods, and points of view through a wide variety of media. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the human condition, relevance and aesthetics of rhetorical claims, interrogating one's personal worldviews, and drawing conclusions from analysis of artifacts.

Outcomes mapped:

A2
B1
B2
B3
C2

Cultural Literacy

Courses within this domain provide students opportunity to develop informed discourse and understand the interconnectedness of diverse peoples. Additionally, students will courageously interrogate their own internal processes about diversity and equity. Courses satisfying this menu will assist students to 1) explore global, historical, and cultural experiences of diverse populations, and 2) interrogate one's internal and external views and values for greater self-awareness.

Outcomes mapped:

B1
B2
B3

Life and Physical Sciences

Courses within this domain use the methods and models of the natural sciences to describe, explain, and predict phenomena in the physical world; they employ empirical evidence, scientific principles, and interactions among natural phenomena to understand the world around us.

Outcomes mapped:

C2
C3
C4

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Courses within this domain help students examine behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events to understand the complexities of social systems.

Outcomes mapped:

A2
C1
C2