

Core Curriculum

UAB's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) developed a single Shared Vision for a UAB Graduate as a critical, first step toward reconceptualizing the core curriculum and enhancing student competencies in writing, quantitative literacy, and ethics and civic responsibility. By directing attention towards the end goal of an undergraduate education at UAB, the QEP reinforces how the core curriculum functions synergistically with major curricula regardless of the particular discipline. In addition to ensuring that students will be better prepared when they take courses in their majors, the core curriculum creates the foundation for general academic success, professional achievement, and personal fulfillment. The Shared Vision for a UAB Graduate reflects high expectations in the areas of Communication, Knowledge, Problem-Solving, and Citizenship:

Shared Vision for a UAB Graduate

Communication

- A UAB graduate is able to participate effectively in the world of ideas and information.
- Reads with comprehension, attention to detail, and an awareness of context, tone, and interconnections with other texts, life experiences, and public events.
- Writes correctly and effectively in response to specific needs and for diverse audiences and contexts.
- Speaks effectively as determined by audience, setting, and circumstances.
- Uses information technology effectively for professional communication.

Knowledge

- A UAB graduate possesses a depth and breadth of knowledge sufficient for informed decision-making.
- Demonstrates substantial knowledge in a disciplinary major.
- Differentiates among methodologies, major ideas and figures, and specific information or issues relevant to the sciences and humanities.
- Uses effectively the technology appropriate for one's discipline.

Problem-Solving

- A UAB graduate is able to collect and evaluate data and analyze complex issues, using appropriate methods.
- Demonstrates critical thinking skills by synthesizing information, making reasonable arguments, and arriving at logical conclusions.
- Demonstrates quantitative reasoning by interpreting data in multiple formats and applying quantitative methods to solve complex problems.
- Demonstrates the ability to achieve goals through collaboration.

Citizenship

- A UAB graduate is aware of contemporary issues and prepared to engage responsibly in the community.
- Understands civic responsibility and engages in informed decision-making with respect to social and political issues.
- Recognizes that values and ethics are integral to one's academic, personal, and professional life.
- Respects the significant role of diversity in the contemporary world.

Core Curriculum Requirements

The Core Curriculum consists of four areas, and all students must fulfill requirements in each area. Specific school restrictions for each area are listed below the description of the Core. See the appropriate section in this catalog for specific major requirements in each area.

Area I. Written Composition (6 hours)

Effective written communication skills are essential in a literate society. Requirements include six semester hours in written composition. UAB students must complete EH 101 and EH 102 with the grade of C or better.

Area II. Humanities and Fine Arts (12 hours)

Study in the humanities addresses the ability to deal with questions of values, ethics, or aesthetics as they are represented in literature, philosophy, religion, and the arts, and is fundamental to general education. Requirements include at least 12 semester hours in humanities with a minimum of three semester hours in literature, three semester hours in the fine arts, and the remaining hours from the humanities and/or fine arts. In addition to literature, disciplines in the humanities include, but are not limited to, philosophy, religious studies, speech, foreign languages, art, music, theatre, and dance. As part of the common Core Curriculum, students must complete a six-semester hour sequence either in literature (Area II) or in history (Area IV).

The following courses satisfy Area II of the Core Curriculum:

AAS 200	Introduction to African American Studies	3 hours	GN 101	Introductory German I	4 hours
ARA 101	Introductory Arabic I	3 hours	GN 102	Introductory German II	4 hours
ARA 102	Introductory Arabic II	3 hours	GN 201	Intermediate German I	3 hours
ARH 101	The Art Experience	3 hours	GN 202	Intermediate German II	3 hours
ARH 203	Ancient and Medieval Art	3 hours	GN 204	Readings in German Literature	3 hours
ARH 204	Renaissance through Modern Art	3 hours	ITL 101	Introductory Italian I	3 hours
ARH 206	Survey of Asian Art	3 hours	ITL 102	Introductory Italian II	3 hours
CHI 101	Introductory Chinese I	3 hours	JPA 101	Introductory Japanese I	3 hours
CHI 102	Introductory Chinese II	3 hours	JPA 102	Introductory Japanese II	3 hours
CM 101	Public Speaking	3 hours	LA 101	Introductory Latin I	3 hours
CM 105	Introduction to Human Communication	3 hours	LA 102	Introductory Latin II	3 hours
EH 216	Introduction to Literature	3 hours	MU 120	Music Appreciation	3 hours
EH 217	World Literature I (Before 1660)	3 hours	PHL 100	Introduction to Philosophy	3 hours
EH 218	World Literature II (Since 1660)	3 hours	PHL 115	Contemporary Moral Issues	3 hours
EH 221	British and Irish Literature I	3 hours	PHL 116	Bioethics	3 hours
EH 222	British and Irish Literature II	3 hours	PHL 120	Practical Reasoning	3 hours
EH 223	American Literature I (1620-1865)	3 hours	PHL 125	Introduction to Ethics	3 hours
EH 224	American Literature II (1865-Present)	3 hours	PHL 203	Philosophy of Religion	3 hours
FLL 120	Foreign Cultures	3 hours	SPA 101	Introductory Spanish I	4 hours
FLL 220	Foreign Literatures in English Translation	3 hours	SPA 102	Introductory Spanish II	4 hours
FR 101	Introductory French I	4 hours	SPA 108	Introduction to Intensive Spanish	4 hours
FR 102	Introductory French II	4 hours	SPA 201	Intermediate Spanish I	3 hours
FR 108	Introduction to Intensive French	4 hours	SPA 202	Intermediate Spanish II	3 hours
FR 201	Intermediate French I	3 hours	THR 100	Introduction to Theatre	3 hours
FR 202	Intermediate French II	3 hours	THR 105	Introduction to Dance	3 hours
			THR 200	Plays on Film	3 hours

Area III. Natural Sciences and Mathematics (11 hours)

Study in the natural sciences and mathematics emphasizes the scientific method and applies quantitative or inductive reasoning. Requirements include at least 11 semester hours with at least three semester hours in mathematics at the pre-calculus algebra level or higher and at least eight semester hours in the natural sciences. All courses in the natural sciences must include laboratory experiences. Disciplines in the natural sciences include, but are not limited to, astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology, and physics.

The following courses satisfy Area III of the Core Curriculum:

AST 101 and 111	Astronomy of the Universe and Laboratory	4 hours
AST 102 and 112	Astronomy of Stellar Systems and Laboratory	4 hours
AST 103 and 113	Astronomy of the Solar System and Laboratory	4 hours

AST 105 and 115	Extraterrestrial Life and Laboratory	4 hours
BY 101 and 102	Topics in Contemporary Biology and Laboratory	4 hours
BY 111 and 112	Extended Topics in Contemporary Biology and Laboratory	4 hours
BY 123	Introductory Biology	4 hours
BY 124	Introductory Biology	4 hours
CH 105 and 106	Introductory Chemistry I and Laboratory	4 hours
CH 107 and 108	Introductory Chemistry II and Laboratory	4 hours
CH 115 and 116	General Chemistry I and Laboratory	4 hours
CH 117 and 118	General Chemistry II and Laboratory	4 hours
ENV 108 and 109	Human Population & the Earth's Environment and Laboratory	4 hours
ES 101 and 102	Physical Geology and Laboratory	4 hours
ES 103 and 104	History of the Earth and Laboratory	4 hours
MA 105	Pre-calculus Algebra	3 hours
MA 106	Pre-calculus Trigonometry	3 hours
MA 107	Trigonometry	4 hours
MA 109	Survey of Calculus	3 hours
MA 110	Finite Mathematics	3 hours
MA 125	Calculus I	4 hours
MA 126	Calculus II	4 hours
MA 227	Calculus III	4 hours
MA 252	Introduction to Differential Equations	3 hours
MA 260	Introduction to Linear Algebra	3 hours
PH 201	College Physics I	4 hours
PH 202	College Physics II	4 hours
PH 221	General Physics I	4 hours
PH 222	General Physics II	4 hours
PHS 101	Physical Science	4 hours

Area IV. History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences (12 hours)

Study in history and the social and behavioral sciences deals primarily with the study of human behavior, social and political structures, and economics. Requirements include 12 semester hours with at least a three-semester hour course in history and at least six semester hours from among other disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences. Disciplines include, but are not limited to, anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, and sociology. As part of the common Core Curriculum, students must complete a six-semester hour sequence either in literature (Area II) or in history (Area IV).

The following courses satisfy Area IV of the Core Curriculum:

ANTH 101	Introductory Cultural Anthropology	3 hours	HY 121	The United States Since 1877	3 hours
ANTH 106	Introductory Archaeology	3 hours	ITS 101	Introduction to International Studies	3 hours
ANTH 120	Language and Culture	3 hours	PSC 101	Introduction to American Government	3 hours
EC 210	Principles of Microeconomics	3 hours	PSC 102	Introduction to Comparative Politics	3 hours
EC 211	Principles of Macroeconomics	3 hours	PSC 103	Introduction to International Relations	3 hours
GEO 121	World Regional Geography	3 hours	PSC 221	American State and Local Government	3 hours
HY 101	Western Civilization I	3 hours	PY 101	Introduction to Psychology	3 hours
HY 102	Western Civilization II	3 hours	PY 201	Honors Introduction to Psychology	3 hours
HY 104	World History to 1600	3 hours	PY 212	Developmental Psychology	3 hours
HY 105	World History, 1600 to present	3 hours	SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology	3 hours
HY 120	The United States to 1877	3 hours	SOC 245	Contemporary Social Problems	3 hours
			WS 100	Introduction to Women's Studies	3 hours

Satisfying Core Curriculum Requirements with Alternative Credit

Students may satisfy certain goals of the Core Curriculum by presenting credit earned through the following: Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), and Credit by Examination (CBE). Students with AP, IB, or CLEP credit must have official documents sent to the Office of Academic Programs and Policy, 470 Hill University Center, 1400 University Boulevard, (205) 934-5503, for evaluation and acceptance before credit can be posted on the UAB transcript.

Who is Required to Fulfill the Core Requirements?

1. First time college freshmen who have no credit for college work (excepting credit earned while still enrolled in high school);
2. Those returning UAB students or transfer students who are enrolling as a degree student after an absence from college of more than 12 months;
3. Students who enrolled for the first time in any institution of higher education in Fall 1998 or later and who subsequently transferred to the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Any student with a valid articulation contract from an Alabama two-year school will be able to enroll under the terms of the contract. Contracts prior to Fall 1998 must have been submitted to UAB's Office of Admission according to the procedures in place at the time.

Since Fall Term 2000, all undergraduate students entering UAB have been subject to the 1998 Core Curriculum requirements.

School-wide Requirements

In addition to fulfilling UAB's Core Curriculum as described above, students with majors in many schools must satisfy school-wide requirements. Please consult the appropriate school section of this catalog for these specific requirements.