



Western Oregon

UNIVERSITY

General Education

# Advising for General Education at WOU

A guide for advisors

<h2>General Education Program</h2> <p>Pursue diverse interests and gain fundamental skills for lifelong learning. Apply, communicate, and integrate ideas from a variety of disciplines. Gain abilities to think and act critically as citizens of a complex and ever-changing world.</p> <p><b>44-70</b></p>		
<h3>Foundations</h3> <p>Practice lifelong learning skills applicable throughout your college career</p> <p><b>10 -28</b></p>		<h3>Integrating Knowledge</h3> <p>Use high impact practices and make connections between different areas of interest for deeper comprehension. Prepare for a dynamic, complex and interconnected world.</p> <p><b>6-8</b></p>
<h3>First Year Seminars</h3> <p>Explore interesting topics in small classes while building foundational skills for college success</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<h3>Exploring Knowledge</h3> <p>Discover new content and ideas through exploration of a wide variety of scholarly topics. Begin your major, while also gaining knowledge beyond it</p> <p><b>20 -26</b></p>	

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*General Education is a crucial component of the learning experience at Western Oregon University, providing students with fundamental skills for lifelong learning. Students apply, communicate, and integrate ideas from a variety of disciplines. They gain abilities to think and act critically as citizens of a complex and ever-changing world. The curriculum empowers students to pursue diverse interests and perform varying roles in their personal, social, and professional lives.*



## For students beginning at WOU in 2019-20

The General Education requirements in the 2019-20 course catalog apply. These requirements have been crafted to prepare for and complement students' coursework in their majors. We encourage advisors and students to pay thoughtful attention to the timely completion of First Year Seminars and Foundational coursework in particular.

Freshman year			Sophomore year			Junior Year			Senior Year			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	
First Year Seminars												
Foundations												
Exploring Knowledge												
					Integrating Knowledge							
					Major coursework							

## General Education Courses

### First Year Seminars

All students begin in General Education with the practice of skills that help them successfully make the transition to collegiate practice. First Year Seminars provide students the opportunity to practice foundational skills (reading, information literacy, creative and critical thinking, technological literacy) around a topical theme in a small class setting. WOU students take both a writing-focused and a quantitative-focused seminar and should complete these by the end of their freshman year. First year seminar classes may be taken in any order.

The full list of First Year Seminar topics by term is available at [www.wou.edu/gened/fys-schedule](http://www.wou.edu/gened/fys-schedule).

FYS 107 (Writing-Focused Seminar)

FYS 207 (Quantitative-Focused Seminar)

Students in the Student Enrichment Program (SEP) should plan to take at least one SEP-aligned First Year Seminar. SEP-aligned First Year Seminars are cost-remitted for students in the Student Enrichment Program, and meet the SEP course requirements.

### Learning Communities

Learning communities are pairs of courses that fulfill General Education requirements, are linked thematically or topically and share a cohort of students. In 2019-20, students have the option to participate in learning communities through the First Year Seminars. Available learning communities can be found at [www.wou.edu/gened/fys-schedule](http://www.wou.edu/gened/fys-schedule). Learning community courses are graded separately from one another.

## Foundational Knowledge

The General Education program features a suite of courses that address distinct Foundational Skills to help set students up for continuing success in the classroom and beyond. Foundations courses include Mathematics, Writing, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Health Promotion. These courses will lay the groundwork for success in later coursework, both in the General Education program and in major coursework and should be taken within the first two years of college. We highly recommend students complete Writing and Mathematics requirements as soon as possible.

See [www.wou.edu/gened/requirements](http://www.wou.edu/gened/requirements) for a full list of currently approved General Education courses

## Mathematics

(one course or demonstrated competency, with the exception of elementary/middle education students who must take both MTH 211 and 212):

Students may show competency by scoring 61 or higher on the WOU ALEKS Math Assessment, earned in a proctored and timed testing environment (see <http://www.wou.edu/math/aleks/> for Math placement information).

AP Credit. Students may meet Foundations: Mathematics requirements with AP credit:

MTH 243 (credit may be earned with AP Statistics test score of 3 or higher)

MTH 251 (credit may be earned with AP Calculus AB/BC test score of 3 or higher)

## Writing

(up to two courses or demonstrated competency):

Students may demonstrate WR 121 competency by earning a 560-800 score on the writing portion of the SAT and/or a 21-30 score on the writing portion of the ACT. (see <http://www.wou.edu/english/first-year-writing/> for Writing placement information)

AP Credit. Students may meet Foundations Writing requirements with AP credit:

WR 121(credit may be earned with an AP English Language/Composition score of 3 or higher)

## Communication and Language

(one course, 3-4 credits)

Critical Thinking:

(one course; 3-4 credits)

Health Promotion:

(one course; 3-4 credits)

## Exploring Knowledge

The goal of Exploring Knowledge Courses is to provide students with perspectives beyond what they will learn in their major by promoting discovery of new content and ideas through exploration of a wide variety of scholarly topics. Students are required to select courses from each of the three perspective areas and may count any of these courses toward their major or minor.

See [www.wou.edu/gened/requirements](http://www.wou.edu/gened/requirements) for a full list of currently approved General Education courses

### Literary and Aesthetic Perspectives (2 courses, 3-4 credits each)

*Students may take 3-4 credits of MUEN coursework to fulfill of one of the two courses required for Exploring Knowledge: Literary and Aesthetic Perspectives.*

### Scientific Perspectives (2 courses, 4-5 credits each)

*Many Scientific Perspectives courses require a co-requisite lab*

### Social, Historical and Civic Perspectives (2 courses, 3-4 credits each)

## Integrating Knowledge

Integrating Knowledge courses promote linkages between academic disciplines and provide students with opportunities to think critically as citizens of a multifaceted and dynamic world. These courses also feature High Impact Practices. Making connections between disciplines and different areas of interest and inquiry enables students to gain a deeper comprehension about wide-ranging phenomena in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. As these are typically upper division courses, students are expected to have worked on their foundational skills and taken some of their Exploring Knowledge coursework prior to entering their courses in Integrating Knowledge.

Students do not need to take different High Impact Practices to meet this requirement.

See [www.wou.edu/gened/requirements](http://www.wou.edu/gened/requirements) for a full list of currently approved General Education courses

### Citizenship, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness (1 course; 3-4 credits)

### Science, Technology, and Society (1 course; 3-4 credits)

## Catalog Year and General Education

A catalog year for degree, general education, and program requirements is assigned to students according to their first term of enrollment. Students may choose a catalog year greater than their term of admission, but in no case shall a catalog year be more than seven years old. The assigned or chosen catalog year for university and general education requirements may differ from the catalog year assigned or chosen for major/concentration/minor/certificate requirements.

### Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (LACC) requirements

Prior to 2019-20, the Liberal Arts Core Curriculum fulfills the majority of General Education requirements. This core of 55 credits includes:

COM 111 (3 credits)

Creative Arts (9 credits with at least one credit from three of four program areas)

PE 131 and an additional activity course (4 credits)

Laboratory Science (12-15 credits)

Literature (8 credits)

Philosophy or Religion (3 credits)

Social Science (11-12 credits, with 8-9 credits in sequence)

Writing 122 (4 credits; most students also take WR 121 as a prerequisite for 8 credits)

Past LACC guides are available at <http://www.wou.edu/advising/laccs/>

Students who began their General Education coursework prior to 2019-20 and wish to shift to the updated requirements should be able to effectively apply courses they took to fulfill LACC and BA/BS requirements to the General Education categories. The General Education office will review petitions for exceptions to requirements in the few cases where LACC or additional General Education requirements do not align to General Education or major requirements. Students with more than 30 credits of coursework at the time they change catalog years to 2019-20 will not be required to take First Year Seminars.

### Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science

As of 2019-20, Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science requirements are built into the major program and are no longer part of General Education. Students should confer with their major advisor to determine these requirements. If students change their General Education catalog year to 2019-20, they will meet the requirements for the Baccalaureate degree (BA or BS) identified by the program by completing the major.

Students who choose to complete the General Education requirements in catalog years prior to 2019-20 will need to complete the appropriate Additional Graduation Requirements:

#### Bachelor of Arts (pre-2019-20)

Writing Intensive (6 credits)

Second language proficiency through third term of second year (with a grade of C- or higher in final course)

Mathematics/Computer Science (6 credits)

#### Bachelor of Science (pre-2019-20)

Writing Intensive (6 credits)

Cultural Diversity (6 credits)

Mathematics/Computer Science (11-12 credits)

Additional information on these requirements can be found at

<http://www.wou.edu/advising/bachelor-of-arts-or-bachelor-of-science/>

## Transfer of General Education Courses

### Two-Year Degrees

Students who have completed a two-year transfer degree (such as an AAOT or ASOT) will meet the WOU General Education requirements as a block through the completion of that two-year degree.

### Oregon Transfer Module

Students who have earned the Oregon Transfer Module (OTM) will meet all WOU General Education requirements with the exception of Integrating Knowledge (2 courses, 6-8 credits).

### Interstate Passport\*

Western Oregon University is an Interstate Passport network member. Upon completion of university-identified passport requirements, the university records completion of the Passport on the student record. The Interstate Passport enables successful transfer of a block of lower-level general education learning to other institutions participating in the Interstate Passport Network. Learn more at <https://interstatepassport.wiche.edu/>.

WICHE Passport Blocks	WOU General Education Requirement	Credits
Quantitative Literacy	Mathematics + FYS Quantitative-focused	8-12
Written Communication	Writing + FYS Writing-focused	8-12
Oral Communication*	Communication and Language <i>*courses that meet the passport oral communication learning outcomes</i>	3-4
Critical Thinking	Critical Thinking + Health Promotion	7-8
Creative Expression	Literary and Aesthetic Perspectives	6-8
Natural Science**	Scientific Perspectives <i>**WOU students should take one life science and one physical science to fulfill their passport block</i>	6-8
Human Society & the Individual	Social, Historic, & Civic Perspectives	6-8
Human Cultures + Teamwork & Value Systems***	Citizenship, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness + Science, Technology and Society <i>***WOU students should take at least one course with that features collaborative learning to meet Teamwork and Value Systems passport block</i>	6-8
	Total	50-68

## Core Transfer Map



In 2017 the State Legislature passed House Bill 2998, a bill designed to streamline transfer between Oregon’s community colleges and public four-year universities. The legislation directed the HECC to bring together community colleges and universities to establish statewide “foundational curricula,” now called the Oregon Transfer Compass, of at least 30 credits that can be transferred to every institution in Oregon. The course distribution requirements of the Oregon Transfer Compass can be found at <https://www.oregon.gov/highered/policy-collaboration/Pages/transfer-2998.aspx>.

The fulfillment of WOU General Education requirements by the Oregon Transfer Compass is identified in the table below:

Oregon Transfer Compass Curriculum	WOU General Education Requirement
WR 121	Foundations: WR 121
Arts & Letters	Exploring Knowledge: Literary and Aesthetic Perspectives
Social Sciences	Exploring Knowledge: Social, Historic, and Civic Perspectives* *Also meets the cultural literacy requirement
Natural Sciences	Exploring Knowledge: Scientific Perspectives
Mathematics	Foundations: Mathematics

### First Year Seminars and credits completed

Students transferring to WOU with 30 or more credits of coursework are assumed to have met the spirit and purpose of the First Year Seminars, so the FYS courses will be waived when a student transfers to WOU with 30 or more credits of coursework completed in a college or university course (Advanced Placement credits do not count toward this 30 credits). This is in alignment with the Oregon Core Transfer Map and with similar institutional policies at other Oregon public universities that have similar seminars.

### Individual Course Transfer

We recognize two possible mechanisms by which a student brings individual transfer courses to their WOU General Education portfolio.

#### WOU course articulation

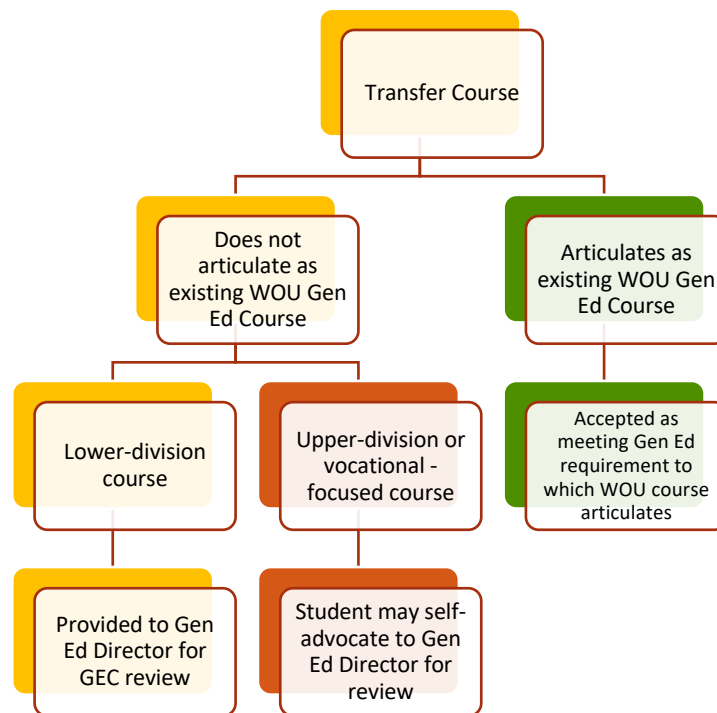
For courses that already articulate to an existing WOU course that meets a WOU General Education requirement the course will articulate as meeting that requirement.

Want to know how a transfer course might articulate? [Check the transfer articulation database!](#)

### No WOU course articulation

For courses that do not articulate to an existing WOU course, following initial review by the Admissions office, lower-division courses that are not specifically vocational in purpose will be supplied to the General Education director for dissemination to, and review by, the General Education Committee. Courses that are determined by the General Education Committee to meet a WOU General Education requirement will be articulated with an attribute to meet that requirement. Any permanent articulation of a course to a General Education requirement will be applied within Banner and Degree Tracks to apply to General Education requirements from the 2019-20 academic year forward.

Students with courses that do not meet review criteria may self-advocate to the General Education director for review of courses to meet General Education requirements.





## Petition Process

Students can petition to waive a General Education Requirement or substitute a non-articulated General Education course by using the [Academic Petition form](#) available at the registrar's office submitting it to the General Education Office in ITC 205C, or emailing it to [gened@wou.edu](mailto:gened@wou.edu).

The General Education Task Force and Committee thoughtfully established the General Education Requirements as the *minimum* standard that each WOU degree-holder must meet. The requirements are not unnecessarily onerous, and every WOU student can be reasonably expected to meet the minimum standard without exception. Thus, only students with extraordinary circumstances ought to be encouraged to petition the minimum requirements. While the petition avenue is always available to all students, we discourage faculty/staff from pointing students to the petition process unless there is truly an extraordinary circumstance. Examples of situations that do not rise to the level of "extraordinary" are: a student wanting to graduate sooner, a student feeling as though they have taken enough credits in non-major-related courses, a student with transfer credits where they met the Gen Ed requirements at a different institution (any student with an Interstate Passport through WICHE will automatically meet our Gen Ed requirements, as will any student with an Oregon Transfer degree from an Oregon Community College).

If a student's catalog year is before 2019-20

There are three categories of General Education requirements:

1. LACC (Liberal Arts Core Curriculum)
2. Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science requirements
3. Writing Intensive, Cultural Diversity, or Quantitative Literacy/Math/Computer Science course designations

If a student's catalog year is 2019-20 or after

There are four categories of General Education requirements:

1. First Year Seminars
2. Foundational Knowledge
3. Exploring Knowledge
4. Integrating Knowledge

Any waivers or substitutions of General Education courses will apply only to General Education requirements and not to program requirements that may also be fulfilled by the same course.

There are University-wide requirements for all students seeking a bachelor's degree, such as earning 180 credits, earning a 2.00 cumulative GPA, and earning 60 upper division credits. These requirements are not reviewed by the General Education program.

There are program-specific requirements related to a student's major or minor; students should contact their major/minor department directly for more information on how to request a waiver of any program-specific requirements (including BA/BS requirements in catalog years 2019-20 or after). These requirements are not reviewed by the General Education program.

If a student petition is denied by the General Education office, follow up review may be requested by the Provost or designated representative.