

The University Core Curriculum

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The function of a university education is not only to prepare students for successful careers in their chosen fields but also to provide them with the knowledge and skills to develop a rational and lucid personal identity, to introduce them to a variety of perspectives from which to grasp the complexity of experience, and to help them gain an appreciative understanding of the natural and cultural environments in which they live and their roles as responsible citizens of the world, the nation, and the state. The Core Curriculum is designed to help fulfill these objectives. All undergraduate students are required to complete the University Core Curriculum.

Basic skills are emphasized throughout the Core Curriculum. Students will write and have their writing critiqued and graded for quality, not only in the two writing courses, but throughout the Core Curriculum. The purpose is not only to encourage mastery of a set of skills, but also to allow students to think, to see connections among ideas, and to reach meaningful conclusions. The development of effective oral communication skills by students is also emphasized in each Core Curriculum course. To the degree possible, the application of mathematical skills is also incorporated throughout the university curriculum, particularly in the Core science courses.

At the time of their admission to the university, transfer students receive a Degree Audit Report System (DARS) report from the Office of Admissions and Records. This evaluation shows Core Curriculum equivalencies for transfer credits. Questions about this evaluation should be directed to a Core Curriculum evaluator in Admissions and Records, the student's advisor, or the Advising Center. **It is recommended that transfer students bring with them an unofficial copy of all previous college transcripts and their DARS report when meeting with their advisor for the first time.**

Core Curriculum Objectives

1. Compose and communicate effectively in a range of media for a variety of rhetorical and creative purposes;
2. Demonstrate an ability to frame and analyze a problem, find and interpret relevant information, develop and evaluate possible solutions, come to well-grounded conclusions, and craft an appropriate argument, report, application, or other expression of such inquiry;
3. Understand and apply the knowledge, perspectives, principles, and modes of reasoning employed in the fine arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics;
4. Understand how the knowledge, perspectives, principles, and modes of reasoning embodied in the fine arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics have contributed to human achievement;
5. Develop habits of mind that foster integrative thinking and the ability to transfer knowledge and skills from one setting to another.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of culture and cultural difference, and develop the habits of mind that allow for intercultural understanding and responsible individual and social choices for citizens of the global community.

Core Curriculum Requirements

The University Core Curriculum consists of a minimum of 33 credits, selected from the following eight areas of study:

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. Natural sciences

4. Social sciences
5. Fine arts
6. Core Humanities
7. Capstone courses
8. Diversity

Students are responsible for keeping track of their progress throughout the Core Curriculum. It is strongly recommended that students complete lower division Core Curriculum requirements by the beginning of their junior year. Requests for substitutions, waivers and exceptions must be made before the senior year. It is also strongly recommended that students meet with their academic advisor each semester before registering for classes. Classes completed at the university or at any NSHE institution to satisfy Core Curriculum requirements must be taken for a letter grade.

Students who change their major must choose the catalog of the year of the latest change of major or the year of graduation. **The University Core Curriculum requirements, however, are established at the time of the student's admission and enrollment in a regular degree-seeking program at the University of Nevada, Reno.**

See the Course Offerings section of this catalog for course descriptions and prerequisites.

Core English and Math Completion Policy

Competence in writing and mathematics is foundational to success at the university. Therefore, it is the policy of the University of Nevada, Reno that all degree-seeking students must be continuously enrolled in appropriate pre-Core or Core Mathematics and English courses until the University Core Curriculum Mathematics and English requirements are completed.

For further information, contact your college advisement officer, the Advising Center, or the Office of Admissions and Records.

1. ENGLISH (first-year writing courses)—3-8 credits

Each student's initial placement in first-year English courses will be based on ACT/SAT test scores. Placement information (on ACT and SAT examination scores, and alternative placement) is available on the Core Writing Program web page.

English Course	ACT English	SAT Verbal
ENG 098	17 or below	430 or below
ENG 100I	18 to 20	440 to 500
ENG 101	21 to 29	510 to 670
ENG 102, 102H*	30 or above	680 or above

*Honors level

Students who complete ENG 102 will satisfy the Core Curriculum requirement. Normally, students take ENG 101 during their first semester at the university and ENG 102 during the second semester. Students whose college entrance examination scores place them into ENG 100I may take this course by itself as a prerequisite to ENG 101 or they may take this course in combination with ENG 105 and ENG 106 as a prerequisite to ENG 102. Students who need extra practice in writing skills take ENG 098 before registering for ENG 101.

Placement scores do not always reflect appropriate English placement. If you believe your test scores do not accurately reflect your writing skill level, you may require an alternative placement evaluation. In Core Writing, we recognize that your actual writing, not just your test score, may best determine individual placement.

For complete alternative placement process instructions, please go to the Core Writing placement web page at http://www.unr.edu/da/engl/cwp/student_resources/course_placement.htm, come by the office in FH 131, or call (775) 784-6709.

International students must complete ENG 114 and any prerequisite.

	Credits
ENG 100I, ENG 105 and ENG 106 OR	
ENG 101—Composition I.....	3-5
ENG 102—Composition II.....	3

2. MATHEMATICS—3-6 credits

Students should review the Core Mathematics section in the program description for their major before selecting a course from the list below. Students should consult with college or program advisors before enrolling in Core courses.

Students must place into mathematics courses using ACT or SAT math scores, or by taking a math placement test. Math placement information is available in the current class schedule and <http://www.unr.edu/math/placement/>

Students satisfy the mathematics requirement by completing one of the Core mathematics courses identified here. The mathematics requirement is centered around three principles. First, students should have a basic education in mathematical skills and concepts; second, students should take other courses that utilize these skills and concepts; and third, learning how to learn is one of the most important things for students.

	Credits
MATH 120—Fundamentals of College Mathematics.....	3
MATH 127 R—Precalculus II*.....	3
MATH 128—Precalculus and Trigonometry**.....	5
MATH 131—Quantitative Reasoning*.....	3
MATH 176—Introductory Calculus for Business and Social Sciences.....	3
MATH 181—Calculus I.....	4
APST 270—Introduction to Statistics*.....	4
STAT 152—Introduction to Statistics*.....	3

* Must also complete MATH 126 R with a C- or better, or achieve satisfactory score on placement examination to receive Core credit. See class schedule for more information.

** The two semester sequence, MATH 126 R and MATH 127 R, also satisfies the MATH 128 requirement. See the class schedule for more information.

NOTE: In regards to MATH 127 R and above, sequencing rules in effect for many math courses prohibit students from earning credit for a lower numbered math course after receiving credit for a higher numbered math course. Sequencing rules are included in the course descriptions of applicable courses.

3. NATURAL SCIENCES—6 credits

Students should review the Core Natural Sciences section in the program description for their major before selecting courses from the lists below. Students should consult with college or program advisors before enrolling in Core courses

At least one course must be taken from Group A. The second course may be taken from either Group A or Group B. All Core Natural Science courses include significant mathematical content. Students should complete the previously listed mathematics requirement (or have a mathematics placement score qualifying them for calculus) before they take Core courses in natural sciences. Another option is to be concurrently enrolled in MATH 128 or higher, as well as in any Core Natural Science course. Individual exceptions to this rule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. All natural science courses taken for Core Curriculum credit must include appropriate laboratory experiences.

Group A

	Credits
ATMS 121—Climate Change and It's Environmental Impacts.....	4

BIOL 100—Biology: Principles and Applications.....	3
BIOL 125—How Science Works: Case Studies.....	3
BIOL 191—Introduction to Organismal Biology I AND	
BIOL 192—Principles of Biological Investigation.....	5
CHEM 100—Molecules and Life in the Modern World.....	3
CHEM 121—General Chemistry I.....	4
CHEM 122—General Chemistry II.....	4
CHEM 201—General Chemistry for Scientists and Engineers I.....	4
CHEM 202—General Chemistry for Scientists and Engineers II.....	4
GEOG 121—Climate Change and It's Environmental Impacts.....	4
GEOL 100—Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Natural Disasters.....	3
GEOL 101 & 103—General Geology with lab.....	4
PHYS 100—Introductory Physics.....	3
PHYS 151 R—General Physics I and Lab.....	4
PHYS 152 R—General Physics II and Lab.....	4
PHYS 180-180L—Physics for Scientists and Engineers I with lab.....	4
PHYS 181-181L—Physics for Scientists and Engineers II with lab.....	4
PHYS 182-182L—Physics for Scientists and Engineers III with lab.....	4

Group B

	Credits
ANTH 102 R—Introduction to Physical Anthropology.....	3
AST 109—Planetary Astronomy.....	3
AST 110—Stellar Astronomy.....	3
ATMS 117—Meteorology.....	3
ENV 100—Humans and the Environment.....	3
GEOG 103—Physical Geography.....	3
NUTR 121—Human Nutrition.....	3
PSY 103—Introduction to Psychology as a Natural Science*.....	3
VM 200—Companion and Service Animal Science: Care and Management.....	3

* **NOTE:** Credit may only be awarded for either PSY 101 (see Social Sciences selection) or PSY 103.

4. SOCIAL SCIENCES—3 credits

Students should review the Core Social Sciences section in the program description for their major before selecting a course from the list below. Students should consult with college or program advisors before enrolling in Core courses

	Credits
ANTH 101—Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.....	3
ANTH 201—Peoples and Cultures of the World.....	3
ANTH 202—Archaeology.....	3
RECO 100—Society and the Economic Value of Nature.....	3
RECO 202—Natural Resources, Environment, and the Economy.....	3
ECON 100—Introduction to Economics.....	3
ECON 102—Principles of Microeconomics.....	3
ECON 103—Principles of Macroeconomics.....	3
GEOG 106—Introduction to Cultural Geography.....	3
GEOG 200—World Regional Geography.....	3
HON 220—Introduction to Economic Theory and Policy.....	3
PSC 101—American Politics: Process and Behavior.....	3
PSC 211—Comparative Government and Politics.....	3
PSC 231—World Politics.....	3
PSY 101—General Psychology*.....	3
SOC 101—Principles of Sociology.....	3
WMST 101—Introduction to Women's Studies.....	3

* **NOTE:** Credit may only be awarded for either PSY 101 or PSY 103

(see Natural Sciences, Group B selection).

5. FINE ARTS—3 credits

Students should review the Core Fine Arts section in the program description for their major before selecting a course from the list below. Students should consult with college or program advisors before enrolling in Core courses

	Credits
ART 100—Visual Foundations.....	3
ART 252 R—Cinema I/The Silent Era.....	3
ART 253—Cinema II/The Sound Era.....	3
ART 260 R—Survey of Art History I.....	3
ART 261—Survey of Art History II.....	3
DAN 265—History of Dance I: Ancient Civilizations- 18th century.....	3
DAN 266—History of Dance II: 20th Century.....	3
DAN 467—Dance Criticisms and Aesthetics.....	3
MUS 121—Music Appreciation.....	3
MUS 122 R—Survey of Jazz.....	3
MUS 123 R—History of American Popular Song.....	3
MUS 124 R—History of American Musical Theater.....	3
MUS 128—Masterworks of Music.....	3
MUS 341—Music History I.....	3
MUS 342—Music History II.....	3
PHIL 202—Introduction to the Philosophy of the Arts.....	3
SOTA 101—Introduction to the Arts.....	3
THTR 100—Introduction to the Theatre.....	3
THTR 105—Introduction to Acting.....	3
THTR 210—Theatre: A Cultural Context.....	3

Students may also fulfill the fine arts requirement by completing three, one-credit music performance courses from the following list: MUSE 101, 102, 105, 112, 114, 121, 191, MUSA 151-174.

6. CORE HUMANITIES—9 credits

All three Core Humanities courses are required. Students are not permitted to begin the Core Humanities sequence before successful completion of ENG 102. CH 201 must be taken first. CH 202 and 203 may be taken in any order. CH 203 satisfies the U.S. and Nevada Constitution requirements.

After admission to and matriculation at the University of Nevada, Reno, **only Core Humanities courses taken here or at another NSHE institution will satisfy the requirement.**

	Credits
CH 201—Ancient and Medieval Cultures.....	3
CH 202—The Modern World.....	3
CH 203—American Experiences and Constitutional Change.....	3

7. CAPSTONE COURSES—6 credits

Students should review the Capstone section in the program description for their major before selecting Capstone courses. Students should consult with college or program advisors before enrolling in Core courses.

Students should take the last two courses in the University Core Curriculum during their senior year. The pair of required Capstone courses build upon the Core Curriculum and courses in the student's major. The courses deal with ethical and substantive issues, problems and themes that affect the world community; they offer an analysis of different cultures and traditions, or issues relating to science and society.

Students must complete all other Core Curriculum requirements, including the Core Humanities sequence, prior to enrolling in Capstone courses.

At least one Capstone course must be taken outside the department of the student's major. (Students in ABET-accredited engineering programs may take both Capstone courses in the major.) Capstone courses are identified each semester in the class schedule. Students with questions about the appropriateness of a particular Capstone course should see their advisor.

NOTE: Students who have satisfied ALL requirements to graduate with a dual major have satisfied the Capstone requirement for both majors if they have satisfied the Capstone requirement for one of the majors. **If the student retreats to the pursuit of a single major, then the original Capstone policy applies and at least one Capstone course must be taken outside the major department.**

8. DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT—3 credits

Students should review the Diversity section in the program description for their major before selecting a Diversity course. Students should consult with college or program advisors before enrolling in Core courses.

A student may meet the Diversity requirement either (1) by completing a Diversity course, or (2) successfully completing (for credit) a university sanctioned study abroad course of at least five weeks duration. Designated Diversity courses have as their primary focus a topic related to non-western cultures or to excluded groups within western culture. Designated Diversity courses that are used to fulfill other Core Curriculum or major/minor requirements automatically meet the Diversity requirement. Diversity courses are identified each semester in the class schedule.