GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
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A University of Wisconsin-Platteville education consists of two main components: the core curriculum commonly called general education and the academic major. The core curriculum provides a broad foundation of knowledge and skills; the academic major focuses on the knowledge and skills of a specific field. The overall goal is to empower graduates to live thoughtfully, concerned about their professional careers, as well as public issues that reach far beyond their professional circle, local community, or nation. More specifically, a rigorous UW-Platteville education in the arts and sciences enables students to:

- Apply their knowledge to recognize and solve a wide variety of problems
- Appreciate and create works of excellence
- Develop an informed perspective on national and international issues
- Participate ethically and wisely in a diverse society

These goals reflect the opening statement of the Select Mission in which the University of Wisconsin-Platteville pledges itself to: promote excellence by using a personal, hands-on approach to empower each student to become broader in perspective, intellectually more astute, ethically more responsible, and to contribute wisely as an accomplished professional and knowledgeable citizen in a diverse global community.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The full impact and value of a UW-Platteville education is impossible to measure. Many of its benefits are not recognized until after the student has graduated. Nevertheless, some of its benefits are measurable. Measurable student learning outcomes are listed below, under the goal to which they are most closely connected. For each of these student learning outcomes, UW-Platteville students shall:

1. APPLY THEIR KNOWLEDGE TO RECOGNIZE AND SOLVE A WIDE VARIETY OF PROBLEMS

   ▶ Mathematical Reasoning Skills
   1. Recognize mathematical patterns to solve problems
   2. Demonstrate ability to work with numbers, space, and data

   ▶ Effective Communication Skills
   3. Construct articulate explanations using the language of each discipline being studied
   4. Organize written and spoken material in a coherent and logical pattern that is also mechanically sound
   5. Demonstrate knowledge of the processes of human communication and develop critical listening skills
   6. Read, write, listen, and speak at a basic level in a language other than English

   ▶ Critical Thinking Skills
   7. Demonstrate skills in problem-solving
   8. Distinguish between valid and invalid reasoning
   9. Assess the plausibility of proposed solutions
   10. Demonstrate knowledge of scientific methods

2. APPRECIATE AND CREATE WORKS OF EXCELLENCE

   ▶ Knowledge of the Arts and Sciences
   1. Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental ideas at the heart of the arts and sciences, including fine arts, history, humanities, mathematics, the natural sciences, and the social sciences; it also includes the disciplines that cut across these categories, namely, ethnic studies, women’s and gender studies, and international education

   ▶ Creative Thinking Skills
   2. Demonstrate appreciation for the creative works of others
   3. Demonstrate the ability to create works of personal expression
3. DEVELOP INFORMED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

▶ International Awareness
   1. Demonstrate knowledge of cultures other than one’s own
   2. Demonstrate knowledge of the ideologies, cultures, places, political, and economic systems that shape the world

▶ Cultural Awareness
   3. Demonstrate knowledge of the history, culture, customs, values, lifestyles, and contributions of the populations of color in the United States
   4. Demonstrate knowledge of the cultural constructs that perpetuate stereotypes and social interaction based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation
   5. Identify the social and political structures that support racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination
   6. Recognize the influence the students’ own culture, gender, racial identity, and experiences have on their own attitudes towards people different from themselves

4. PARTICIPATE ETHICALLY AND WISELY IN A DIVERSE SOCIETY

▶ Individual Responsibility
   1. Recognize that personal choices have consequences on ourselves, others, and the environment

▶ Social Responsibility
   2. Distinguish between ethical and unethical behavior
   3. Demonstrate knowledge of the multiple viewpoints regarding ethics, justice, and other questions of human meaning and value
   4. Recognize the importance of individual engagement on a local, regional, national, or international level
   5. Recognize the impacts of technology and scientific innovation on society and the environment

These student learning outcomes are satisfied by successful completion of core curriculum courses and courses in the student’s major.
**CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

Effective fall 2014 for new incoming freshmen. Effective fall 2015 for re-entrant and new transfer students.

Must have 42 credits of 3000 level or higher course numbers of the minimum 120 undergraduate credits needed for graduation.

Core curriculum requirements consist of a minimum of 43 credits. These credits come from the different liberal studies areas discussed in more detail below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Education Competency Requirements</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English 1130</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English 1230</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math (1630 or higher)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>2–3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Assessment</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Activity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language*</td>
<td>0–8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanities, Fine Arts, and History:</th>
<th>12 credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Includes: humanities (English, ethnic studies, foreign language (French, German, Spanish, second level or higher), philosophy, social and environmental justice, women’s and gender studies)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts (art, music, theatre, women’s and gender studies)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second course – same discipline 2000 level or higher</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Sciences:</th>
<th>9 credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Includes: agricultural business, criminal justice, economics, energy, entrepreneurship, ethnic studies, geography, media studies, political science, psychology, sociology, speech, women’s and gender studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First discipline</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second discipline</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second course – same discipline 2000 level or higher</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Sciences:</th>
<th>8 credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Includes: biology, chemistry, physical geography, geology, physics, physical science, or soil and crop science. Labs required in both courses.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First discipline</td>
<td>4–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second discipline</td>
<td>4–5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International, Gender, and Ethnic Studies:</th>
<th>9 credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some courses may count for more than one category to fulfill university requirements.*

* Two years of the same high school language with a minimum of “C” average in the second year fulfills this requirement.
ENTRY YEAR EXPERIENCE

Required of all students who enter UW-Platteville with fewer than 30 credits.

▶ An Introduction to College Course (one credit)
  • All sections must contain:
    o A core component of “survival skills” for freshmen (e.g., time management skills, information about campus resources, advising, etc.)
    o Information about engagement opportunities (e.g., PACCE)
    o Discussion of diversity issues
    o A participation requirement - Students are required to attend/participate in a minimum of three events or activities during the semester (may count participation in one meeting of a student organization as one event)
COMPETENCIES

A total of 13–21 credits. At UW-Platteville, the competencies are comprised of the basic skills:

▶ English Composition (6 credits)
  Students must be able to write and read effectively.

▶ Foreign Language (0–8 credits)
  Students must be able to use a language other than English. Two years of the same high school language with a minimum of “C” average in the second year fulfills this requirement.

▶ Mathematics (3 credits)
  Students must have a basic competency in computation, problem solving, and quantitative reasoning.

▶ Speech (2–3 credits)
  Students must be able to understand spoken English and communicate using it effectively.

▶ Wellness/Physical Activity (2 credits)
  Students must know how to achieve and maintain both their physical and mental well being.

The design of the basic competency program assumes that high school graduates have met the minimum standards of the university. Opportunities for testing out of certain basic requirements for the baccalaureate degree will exist. Students with exceptionally strong high school backgrounds may earn general education credit by CLEP (College Level Examination Program) or AP (Advanced Placement) testing. Entering students who do not meet minimum standards on the UW System English and Mathematics Placement Tests may be required to take remedial courses in these areas, and such courses will not count toward general education or graduation requirements.
LIBERAL STUDIES AREAS

Students must take a minimum 29 credits; at least six credits at the 2000 level or above.

▶ Ethnic Studies (3 credits)
The purpose of ethnic studies is to awaken the minds and spirits of students to the issues of race and ethnicity in the United States and the social realities and moral challenges of racism in U.S. culture. It strives to help students fulfill their intellectual, moral, and social potential, and encourages them to remove barriers that can prevent others from achieving their own potential.

▶ Fine Arts/History/Humanities (12 credits)
  • The purpose of the study of fine arts is to help students become familiar with the historical and cultural heritage of the fine arts. They should also gain a basic understanding of the creative processes, forms, and concepts used in the arts.
  • The purpose of the study of history is to challenge students to understand and assess our past, in order to form a clearer perception of the present and to deal more effectively with public issues.
  • The purpose of the study of humanities is to explore the range of human thought and experience—achievements and failures, joys and sorrows, comedy and tragedy, life and death. It should challenge students to understand and evaluate how others, past and present, historical and fictional, have struggled with these issues.

This requirement is met by taking at least three credits in approved courses in each of these three areas: fine arts, history, and humanities. The remaining three credits must be a second, advanced course (2000 level or above) in the same discipline chosen from the fine arts, history, or humanities.

▶ Gender Studies (3 credits)
The purpose of gender studies is to help students come to a better understanding of themselves as responsible individuals operating within a gendered cultural context, paying special attention to perspectives involving women.
International Education (3 credits)
The purpose of international education is to challenge students to understand our place within the world and to provide basic knowledge about cultures, people, or nations beyond the borders of the United States.

Natural Sciences (8 credits)
The purpose of studying the natural sciences is to help students understand nature and how the processes of scientific investigation lead to new discoveries. The credits must be taken in approved courses in two areas (for example, biology, chemistry, geography, geology, physics, physical science, and soil and crop science). In each area the course must include a laboratory component.

Social Sciences (9 credits)
The purpose of studying the social sciences is to develop an understanding of social systems, the dynamics of individual and group behavior, and the forces that operate in social relationships. At least three credits must be taken in approved courses in each of two disciplines listed below (agricultural business, criminal justice, economics, ethnic studies, geography, media studies, political science, psychology, sociology, speech, and women’s and gender studies). The remaining three credits must be a second, advanced course (2000 level or above) in one of the two disciplines previously chosen.

A course may fulfill more than one liberal arts requirement, but no student may use a single course to fulfill more than two liberal studies requirements. Courses that double-count must be approved by both sponsoring programs (e.g., ethnic studies and social sciences). Interdisciplinary courses are encouraged.

Writing Emphasis (WE) Requirement (6 credits)
“Writing Emphasis” courses must meet the requirements below. WE courses may be either general education courses or discipline-specific courses; in the former case, courses are also expected to satisfy all appropriate general education guidelines. More information about the writing emphasis can be found at www.uwplatt.edu/general-education.

In addition, the following requirements must be satisfied.
- WE courses must be numbered at the 2000 level or higher.
- WE courses must include ENGLISH 1230/Freshman Composition II as a prerequisite.
GENERAL RULES

1. Only approved courses may be used to fulfill the core curriculum requirements. All approved core curriculum courses must meet at least four of the UW-Platteville Student Learning Outcomes.
2. Every student must earn a minimum of 42 credits in upper-division courses (courses numbered 3000 or above).
3. All students must earn 32 credits in residence at UW-Platteville and also 23 of their last 32 credits in residence.