Liberal Education Program

Current Requirements

Liberal Education Program (LEP) Requirements
Options
Liberal Education Writing Requirement
Category 1—Composition
Category 2—Math, Logic, and Critical Thinking
Category 3—Communication, Computer Science, and Foreign Languages
Category 4—Physical and Biological Sciences With Lab
Category 5—Physical and Biological Sciences Without Lab
Category 6—The Social Sciences
Category 7—Historical and Philosophical Foundations
Category 8—Contemporary Social Issues and Analysis
Category 9—Literary and Artistic Expression: Analysis and Criticism
Category 10—Literary and Artistic Expression: Performance

Requirements Effective Fall 2012

Mission Statement: The Goals of a Liberal Education
Total Credit Requirement for the Liberal Education Core
Part I. Language and Reasoning Skills (9 credits)
Part II. Knowledge Domains (21 credits)
Part III. Key Topics (9 credits)
Liberal Education Category Descriptions
Oral Communication and Languages
Logic and Quantitative Reasoning
Natural Sciences
Social Sciences
Humanities
Fine Arts
Global Perspectives
Cultural Diversity in the United States
Environmental Sustainability

Minnesota Transfer Curriculum
Liberal Education Program

The liberal education program (LEP) is the overall framework around which all UMD baccalaureate degree programs are designed. While depth is achieved through requirements for majors and minors, breadth is achieved by exposure to disciplined inquiry in the liberal education program’s 10 categories of knowledge.

In addition to providing breadth of knowledge, the liberal education program encourages critical and creative thinking, develops speaking and writing skills, provides practice in analytical study methods, examines basic values, encourages active citizenship and social responsibility, and provides awareness of historical traditions, intellectual and artistic endeavors, contemporary global issues, and diverse cultural values in the United States. Objectives for each of the 10 categories are presented in brief statements preceding the list of courses for each category on the following pages.

Candidates for any UMD baccalaureate degree must complete the lower division liberal education program. Some baccalaureate degree programs have requirements that exceed those specified here. Students should check their degree program requirements as well as those listed below.

Students are encouraged to complete a majority of the liberal education program in their first two years of study. It is the student’s responsibility to select, in consultation with an adviser, specific liberal education courses that are prerequisites for upper division courses in their major, minor, or degree programs. Students enrolled in pre-professional programs who do not intend to complete their degree at UMD are not required to complete the lower division liberal education program. However, these students should carefully select liberal education courses in consultation with their advisers to meet requirements of the institution in which they intend to complete their degree, especially if that institution requires the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum.

Advanced standing transfer students who are candidates for a UMD baccalaureate degree may have completed the 40 credits required in the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum at another institution as part of an associate of arts or baccalaureate degree program.

Advanced standing students who have completed an associate of arts or baccalaureate degree at another accredited Minnesota college or university are exempt from UMD’s liberal education requirements.

UMD approved a new liberal education program to be effective in fall 2012. The new LE program is outlined in “Requirements Effective Fall 2012,” which follow the “Current Requirements” beginning on this page.

Current Requirements

Liberal Education Writing Requirement

WRIT 1120—College Writing (3 cr) or its equivalent must be completed during the first two semesters of attendance at UMD as part of the UMD liberal education program or Minnesota Transfer Curriculum.

Entering freshmen who score a 4 or above on either of the Educational Testing Service Advanced Placement examinations in English: Literature and Composition or Language and Composition are granted 3 credits for WRIT 1120. Students scoring a 32 or above on the ACT English exam are exempt from WRIT 1120. UMD honors students are exempt from WRIT 1120 when they have taken WRIT 1015—Freshman Seminar: Honors, Cyber Theory and Practice and/or WRIT 1017—Freshman Seminar: Honors, The Rhetoric of Popular Culture. Students must contact their Student Affairs Office for this exemption to be processed.

For more information, contact the Department of Writing Studies.

Liberal Education Program (LEP) Requirements

Students intending to graduate from UMD must complete at least 35 semester credits from the LEP by

- completing at least one course within each of the 10 LEP categories except where an option is provided. One course is defined as a minimum of two credits from a single course designator (e.g., ECON, SOC, MU).
- completing one course that emphasizes cultural diversity within the United States. These courses are designated with one asterisk (*).
- completing one course that emphasizes international perspective. These courses are designated with two asterisks (**).

Cultural diversity courses focus on being sensitive to and understanding significant differences among people in the United States. International perspective courses focus on understanding contemporary issues from a global perspective or understanding cultures and societies different from those in the United States.

Options

1. Students may take two courses from Category 4 (Physical and Biological Sciences Without Lab) and none from Category 5 (Physical and Biological Sciences With Lab) if the Category 4 courses have two different course designators.
2. Students may take two courses from Category 9 (Literary and Artistic Expression: Analysis and Criticism) and none from Category 10 (Literary and Artistic Expression: Performance) if the Category 9 courses have two different course designators. Art (ART) and Art History (ARTH) are considered the same course designator.
3. A maximum of 2 credits from approved PE and REC courses may be included in the total LEP credits but will not be applied to any category.
Category 1—Composition
Courses in this category should develop skills in composition and written communication.

WRIT 1120—College Writing (3 cr) or its equivalent

Category 2—Math, Logic, and Critical Thinking
Courses in this category should develop the ability to use and analyze formal symbolic systems. Emphasis should be on the theory and/or development of skills in specific symbolic systems, logic, linguistics and linguistic analysis, mathematics, statistics, and critical thinking.

GEOG 2552—Introduction to Maps and Cartographic Methods (3 cr)
LING 1811—Introduction to Language (3 cr)
MATH 1024—Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics (3 cr)
MATH 1160—Finite Mathematics and Introduction to Calculus (5 cr)
MATH 1234—Freshman Seminar: Topics (3 cr)
MATH 1250—Precalculus Analysis (4 cr)
MATH 1290—Calculus for the Natural Sciences (5 cr)
MATH 1296—Calculus I (5 cr)
PHIL 1008—Critical Thinking (4 cr)
PHIL 1018—Logic (4 cr)
PHIL 1118—Freshman Seminar Honors: Logic (4 cr)
STAT 1411—Introduction to Statistics (3 cr)
STAT 2411—Statistical Methods (3 cr)

Category 3—Communication, Computer Science, and Foreign Languages
Courses in this category should develop the ability to use and analyze human and computer languages. Emphasis should be on the theory and/or development of skills in the methods of human and computer languages, and rhetoric.

AMIN 1103*—Beginning Ojibwe I (3 cr)
AMIN 1104*—Beginning Ojibwe II (3 cr)
AMIN 2103*—Intermediate Ojibwe I (3 cr)
AMIN 2104*—Intermediate Ojibwe II (3 cr)
ASL 2001*—American Sign Language Studies I (3 cr)
ASL 2002*—American Sign Language Studies II (3 cr)
CHIN 1101**—Chinese I: A Practical Introduction to Everyday Mandarin Chinese (4 cr)
CHIN 1102**—Chinese II: A Practical Introduction to Everyday Mandarin Chinese (4 cr)
CHIN 1103—beginning Mandarin Chinese III (4 cr)
CHIN 1104—Beginning Mandarin Chinese IV (4 cr)
CHIN 1201**—Intermediate Chinese I: Mandarin Chinese (3 cr)
CHIN 1202**—Intermediate Chinese II: Mandarin Chinese (3 cr)
COMM 1000—Human Communication Theory (3 cr)
COMM 1112—Public Speaking (3 cr)
COMM 1222*—Interpersonal Communication (3 cr)

Category 4—Physical and Biological Sciences
Courses in this category should focus on the observation, identification, description, experimental investigation, and theory of natural phenomena.

AST 1061—Freshman Seminar: Observing the Universe (4 cr)
BIOL 1001—Biology and Society (4 cr)
BIOL 1011—General Biology I (5 cr)
CHEM 1104—Aspects of Chemistry Lab (1 cr)
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- **CHEM 1113**—Introduction to General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry I (5 cr)
- **CHEM 1151**—General Chemistry I (5 cr)
- **CHEM 1161**—Honors: General Chemistry I (5 cr)
- **GEOG 1414**—Physical Geography (4 cr)
- **GEOL 1110**—Geology and Earth Systems (4 cr)
- **GEOL 1130**—Introduction to Environmental Science (4 cr)
- **PHYS 1001**—Introduction to Physics I (5 cr)
- **PHYS 2011**—General Physics I (4 cr)

#### Category 5—Physical and Biological Sciences Without Lab

Courses in this category should focus on the observation, identification, description, experimental investigation, and theory of natural phenomena.

- **AST 1040**—Introductory Astronomy (3 cr)
- **Biol 1010**—Home Horticulture (3 cr)
- **Biol 1087**—Freshman Seminar: Darwinian Medicine (3 cr)
- **Biol 1093**—Freshman Seminar: Biological Illustrations (3 cr)
- **Biol 1094**—Freshman Seminar: Northern Stream Ecosystems and the Angler (3 cr)
- **Biol 1098**—Freshman Seminar: Oceans and Human Health (3 cr)
- **Biol 2763**—Biology of Women (2 cr)
- **CHE 1010**—Persuasion (3 cr)
- **CHEM 1103**—Aspects of Chemistry (3 cr)
- **Note:** If taken in conjunction with CHEM 1104 will only count towards LE Category 4.
- **CHEM 1105**—From the Industrial Revolution to Green Chemistry (3 cr)
- **ECE 1501**—Freshman Seminar Honors: Renewable Energy (3 cr)
- **ES 2803**—Issues in Global Ecology (3 cr)
- **GEOL 1102**—Life and Death of the Dinosaurs (3 cr)
- **GEOL 1040**—Freshman Seminar: Topics (3 cr)
- **GEOL 1140**—Climate Change, Human History (3 cr)
- **GEOL 1610**—Oceanography (3 cr)
- **GEOL 2350**—Earth’s Resources (3 cr)
- **HLTH 1470**—Human Nutrition (3 cr)
- **PHYS 1011**—Introduction to Physics I (5 cr)
- **PHYS 2011**—General Physics I (4 cr)

#### Category 6—The Social Sciences

Courses in this category should deal with the empirical/descriptive study of individual behavior and social institutions affecting individuals as members of society, including psychological, social, cultural, economic, and political phenomena.

- **AAAS 1101**—Introduction to Black Caribbean Studies (3 cr)
- **AMIN 2210**—American Indian Politics: Law, Sovereignty, and Treaty Rights (3 cr)
- **ANTH 1604**—Cultural Anthropology (4 cr)
- **ANTH 1612**—Introduction to Archaeology (4 cr)
- **COMM 1010**—Persuasion (3 cr)
- **COMM 2929**—Intercultural Communication (4 cr)
- **ECON 1022**—Principles of Economics: Macro (3 cr)
- **ECON 1023**—Principles of Economics: Micro (3 cr)
- **GEOG 1304**—Human Geography (3 cr)
- **GEOG 2313**—Ecological Geography (3 cr)
- **POL 1011**—American Government and Politics (3 cr)
- **POLS 1500**—Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 cr)
- **PSY 1003**—General Psychology (4 cr)
- **PSY 2021**—Developmental Psychology (4 cr)
- **SOC 1101**—Introduction to Sociology (4 cr)

#### Category 7—Historical and Philosophical Foundations

Courses in this category should focus on the study of societies and/or cultures and the analysis of basic philosophical issues and traditions.

- **AAAS 1100**—Introduction to African and African American Studies (3 cr)
- **AAAS 1102**—Introduction to Atlantic Slave Trade (3 cr)
- **AMIN 1010**—American Indian Experiences up to 1900 (3 cr)
- **AMIN 1020**—American Indian Experience: 1900–present (3 cr)
- **AMIN 3420**—American Indians in Sports (3 cr)
- **ANTH 1601**—Prehistoric Cultures (4 cr)
- **ANTH 1602**—Prehistoric Cultures (4 cr)
- **CST 1020**—Landscapes, Environments, and U.S. Culture (3 cr)
- **ECON 3031**—History of Economic Thought (3 cr)
- **EDUC 1101**—Education in Modern Society (3 cr)
- **ENGL 1802**—Freshman Seminar: Asian Culture (4 cr)
- **HIST 1027**—Introduction to Islam (3 cr)
- **HIST 1095**—Freshman Seminar: Topics (3–4)
- **HIST 1207**—Dawn of Modern Europe (3 cr)
- **HIST 1208**—Europe in the Modern Age (3 cr)
- **HIST 1304**—U.S. History Part I: 1607–1877 (3 cr)
- **HIST 1305**—U.S. History Part II: 1865–Present (3 cr)
- **HIST 2325**—Muslim Societies (4 cr)
- **HIST 2345**—Science and Society: 1500–Present (3 cr)
- **HIST 2355**—United States Military History (3 cr)
- **HIST 2357**—Women in American History (3 cr)
- **HIST 2365**—Russia in the 20th Century (3 cr)
- **HIST 2515**—Pre-colonial Africa (3 cr)
- **HIST 3235**—History and Soccer: The Rise of the World’s Game (3 cr)
- **PE 2001**—Sport Ethics and Society (3 cr)

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Information in this PDF is current as of February 2011. For up-to-date information, [www.catalogs.umn.edu/umd](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/umd).
PHIL 1001—Introduction to Philosophy (3 cr)
PHIL 1007**—Philosophy and World Religions (3 cr)
PHIL 1101—Honors: Introduction to Philosophy (3 cr)
POL 1610—Introduction to Political Theory (3 cr)
SPAN 2093—Spanish Historical Film and Fiction in Translation (4 cr)
WRIT 1506—Literacy, Technology, and Society (3 cr)
WS 1000*—Introduction to Women’s Studies (3 cr)

**Category 8—Contemporary Social Issues and Analysis**
Courses in this category should analyze contemporary issues and their relationship to individuals and/or social institutions in economic, political, educational, or religious systems.

ACCT 2005—Survey of Accounting (3 cr)
AMIN 2405—American Indian Families and Society: Culture and Tradition in History and Current Issues (3 cr)
AMIN 2407*—Boarding Schools and Beyond: A History of American Indian Education 1880–Present (3 cr)
AMIN 3206*—Federal Indian Policy (3 cr)
ANTH 1080**—Freshman Seminar: Understanding Global Cultures (3 cr)
ANTH 1095**—Freshman Seminar: Topics (3–4 cr)
BLAW 2001—The Legal Environment (3 cr)
COMM 2101—Foundations of Mass Communication (3 cr)
COMM 2102—Media Effects (3 cr)
CRIM 1301—Introduction to Criminology (4 cr)
CS 1094—Freshman Seminar: Computers and Society (3 cr)
CSD 2230*—Human Communication Disorders (3 cr)
CST 1050—Freshman Seminar: Bodies and Culture (4 cr)
CST 1101—Introduction to Cultural Studies (4 cr)
CST 2001*—Introduction Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Studies (4 cr)
ECON 1003—Economics and Society (3 cr)
EDUC 1100*—Human Diversity (3 cr)
EDUC 1201—Managing Planet Earth (3 cr)
GEOG 1202**—World Regional Geography (3 cr)
GEOG 2306—Environmental Conservation (3 cr)
GER 2040**—Berlin, Myth, Legend, and Reality (3 cr)
GER 2402**—Germany Today (3 cr)
HLTH 1100—Health and Wellness Strategies for Life (3 cr)
INTS 1070**—An Introduction to Scandinavia (3 cr)
PHIL 1003**—Ethics and Society (3 cr)
PHIL 2021—Science and Pseudo-Science: Thinking About Weird Things (3 cr)
PHIL 3242—Values and Technology (3 cr)
POL 1050**—International Relations (3 cr)
PSY 2023**—Marriages and Families Worldwide (4 cr)
PSY 2223*—Gender in Society (4 cr)
SOC 1080—Freshman Seminar: Development of Social Selves (3 cr)
SOC 1095—Freshman Seminar: Topics (3–4)
SOC 1201*—Sociology of the Family (3 cr)
SPAN 2540*—Latino Literatures and Cultures (3 cr)
SPED 1357*—Individuals With Disabilities in Society (3 cr)
SW 1210**—Global Issues (3 cr)
SW 1211**—Freshman Seminar: Global Issues (3 cr)
SW 1212**—Global Issues Honors Seminar (3 cr)
SW 1619*—Race, Class, and Gender in the United States (3 cr)
URS 1001—Introduction to Urban and Regional Studies (3 cr)
WRIT 1017—Freshman Seminar: Honors, The Rhetoric of Popular Culture (3 cr)
WS 2101*—Women, Race, and Class (3 cr)

**Category 9—Literary and Artistic Expression: Analysis and Criticism**
Courses in this category should familiarize students with the basic aims, elements, and principles of interpretation and criticism of literature, folklore, myth, the visual arts, dance, film, music, and theatre. Emphasis should be on principles and techniques of analysis, interpretation, and criticism.

AMIN 1606—Introduction to American Indian Literature (3 cr)
AMIN 2605—Survey of American Indian Arts (3 cr)
ART 1001**—Art Today (3 cr)
ART 1003—Introduction to Design (3 cr)
ART 1814*—Creating Across Cultures (3 cr)
ART 1900—Visual Literacy (3 cr)
ARTH 1303—History of World Art I (3 cr)
ARTH 1304**—History of World Art II (3 cr)
ARTH 1400—Freshman Seminar Honors: Paris in the Age of Impressionism (3 cr)
ARTH 2300**—The City as a Work of Art (3 cr)
ARTH 2390*—American Art of the 20th Century (3 cr)
ARTH 2815*—Women Artists in History (3 cr)
CST 1010—Romanticism and Revolution (4 cr)
DN 1001**—Introduction to the World of Dance (3 cr)
ENGL 1001—Great American Authors (3 cr)
ENGL 1101—Literature Appreciation (3 cr)
ENGL 1507—Time and Place (4 cr)
ENGL 1535—King Arthur in History, Literature, and Art (4 cr)
ENGL 1575—20th-Century Literature (4 cr)
ENGL 1582**—Introduction to World Literatures (3 cr)
ENGL 1583**—Introductory Study of Major Topics in Contemporary African Literature (3 cr)
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ENGL 1585**—Australian and New Zealand Literature and Culture (4 cr)
ENGL 1666—Tales of Terror (4 cr)
ENGL 1801—Freshman Seminar: American Gothic (4 cr)
ENGL 1803—Freshman Seminar: Unseen Reality (4 cr)
ENGL 1805—Freshman Seminar: Satire and Humor (4 cr)
ENGL 1907—Introduction to Literature (3 cr)
ENGL 2571—Contemporary Literature (4 cr)
ENGL 2581*—Women Writers (4 cr)
ENGL 3223—Shakespeare (3 cr)
FA 1102—Creating Art (3 cr)
FR 2315**—French Cinema (4 cr)
GER 2315**—German Film: History and Analysis (3 cr)
MU 1001**—Introduction to Music (3 cr)
MU 1003—Beethoven to the Beatles (3 cr)
MU 1005*—Jazz Studies (3 cr)
MU 2001**—Ethnic and Folk Music of the World (3 cr)
MU 2003—Survey of American Music (3 cr)
MU 2005*—African Roots of American Music (3 cr)
PHIL 1021—Classical Mythology (3 cr)
RUSS 2595**—Special Topics (Various Titles to be Assigned) (4 cr)
TH 1001—Introduction to Theatre Arts (3 cr)
TH 1051—Introduction to Film (3 cr)
TH 1053—Film and Society (3 cr)
TH 1071—Musical Theatre History (3 cr)
TH 3871—Playwriting (3 cr)

Category 10—Literary and Artistic Expression: Performance

Courses in this category should provide opportunities for creative expression through participation, production, or performance of literary or artistic expression and should pay significant attention to larger theoretical issues.

ART 1002—Introduction to Art (3 cr)
ART 1005—Freshman Seminar: Introduction to Art (3 cr)
ART 1006—Freshman Seminar: Fundamentals of Drawing (3 cr)
ART 1009—Fundamentals of Drawing (3 cr)
ART 1015—Freshman Seminar: 3-D Design (3 cr)
ART 1405—Fundamentals of Ceramics I (3 cr)
ART 1605—Fundamentals of Photography (3 cr)
ART 1607—Freshman Seminar: Fundamentals of Photography (3 cr)
ART 2810—Art in Elementary Education (3 cr)
DN 1101—Modern Dance Technique I (2 cr)
DN 1111—Jazz Dance Technique I (2 cr)
DN 1131—Ballet Technique I (2 cr)
MU 1501—Concert Band (1 cr)
MU 1502**—Symphonic Wind Ensemble (1 cr)
MU 1503**—Symphony Orchestra (1 cr)
MU 1504—Chamber Orchestra (1 cr)
MU 1505*—Jazz Ensemble (1 cr)
MU 1510—Concert Chorale (1 cr)
MU 1511**—University Singers (1 cr)
MU 1512—Chamber Singers (1 cr)
MU 1513*—Vocal Jazz Ensemble (1 cr)
TH 1099—Theatre Practicum I (1 cr)
TH 1111—Acting Fundamentals I (3 cr)

PE and Rec Courses

A maximum of 2 credits of 1xxx physical education and recreation courses may be included in the total liberal education credit requirement, but these courses are not applied to any category.

PE 1220—Intermediate Swimming (1 cr)
PE 1300—Ballroom Dance (1 cr)
PE 1304—Square Dance (1 cr)
PE 1402—Tennis (1 cr)
PE 1410—Golf (1 cr)
PE 1414—Bowling (1 cr)
PE 1500—Cross-Country Skiing (1 cr)
PE 1502—Alpine Skiing (1 cr)
PE 1507—Introduction to River Kayaking (1 cr)
PE 1508—Flat Water Canoeing (1 cr)
PE 1510—Whitewater Kayaking (2 cr)
PE 1512—Fishing Skills (1 cr)
PE 1530—Rock Climbing (1 cr)
PE 1600—Physical Fitness (1 cr)
PE 1601—Aerobics (1 cr)
PE 1612—Karate (1 cr)
PE 1614—Self Defense (1 cr)
PE 1616—Weight Training (1 cr)
PE 1706—Volleyball (1 cr)
PE 1708—Basketball (1 cr)
REC 1201—Outdoor Skills I (2 cr)
REC 1202—Outdoor Skills II (2 cr)
Requirements Effective
Fall 2012

Note: Students who begin at UMD in fall 2012 will be required to fulfill the following liberal education program requirements. Students who began at UMD prior to the fall of 2012 may also follow these requirements to fulfill their liberal education program.

Mission Statement: The Goals of a Liberal Education

A liberal education prepares individuals to lead productive and socially responsible lives in a diverse and rapidly changing world. The Liberal Education Program at UMD helps students develop competencies that can be adapted for use in any occupation and by virtually any individual. Liberal education at UMD is not restricted to any particular part of the curriculum but is woven through each student’s course of study, including core requirements and requirements for the major.

The new program, effective fall 2012, includes detailed criteria that bind courses together and help to create a common experience across the disciplines. It promotes greater integration of liberal education throughout the student’s undergraduate education by encouraging the incorporation of liberal education courses into the major and in upper division courses.

Liberally educated students are “Prepared, Informed, and Committed.”

Prepared to
• identify, analyze, and solve problems, demonstrating critical and analytical thinking competency within and across various fields of knowledge
• think creatively, demonstrating intellectual curiosity, imagination, and flexibility
• communicate effectively through writing and speaking
• work productively, independently, and through collaboration
• access, evaluate, and make use of information gathered through multiple methodologies

Informed about
• the foundations of knowledge and inquiry about nature, culture, and society
• the past and its relevance to the present and the future
• controversies and unanswered questions in multiple domains of knowledge

Committed to
• lifelong learning
• civic engagement and social responsibilities
• knowledge and competence across cultures
• considering ethical implication of ideas and actions
• understanding contemporary global issues

Total Credit Requirement for the Liberal Education Core

The new Liberal Education (LE) Core requires a maximum of 39 credits of course work; however, a single course can be used to satisfy multiple requirements, reducing the total number of credits.

Part I. Language and Reasoning Skills (9 credits)

a. Writing and Information Literacy—WRIT 1120 (3 credits)

b. Oral Communication and Languages (3 credits)

c. Logic and Quantitative Reasoning (3 credits)

Part II. Knowledge Domains (21 credits)

a. Natural Sciences (6 credits, 2 designators, 1 lab)

b. Social Sciences (6 credits, 2 designators)

c. Humanities (6 credits, 2 designators)

d. Fine Arts (3 credits)

Part III. Key Topics (9 credits)

a. Global Perspectives (3 credits)

b. Cultural Diversity in the United States (3 credits)

c. Environmental Sustainability (3 credits)
  • A LE Core course that meets the criteria for Part II (Knowledge Domain) and Part III (Key Contemporary Topic) may be used to fulfill both requirements.
  • A course in the major that meets the criteria for Parts I.b.; I.c., II and/or III may be used to satisfy both major and LE Core requirements.

Liberal Education Category Descriptions

Oral Communication and Languages

Courses approved for liberal education credit in Oral Communication will have as their primary focus the development of the knowledge and skill sets necessary for effective oral communication.

Logic and Quantitative Reasoning

Courses approved for liberal education credit in Logic and Quantitative Reasoning will develop students’ logic and/or quantitative reasoning skills and enable them to apply these skills to a variety of everyday situations.

Natural Sciences

Liberal education courses in the natural sciences teach students how to formulate and test scientific hypotheses, interpret experimentally obtained data, and draw conclusions from the data. They also create a link between scientific ideas and problems that arise in the everyday world.

Social Sciences

Social sciences are those branches of knowledge that investigate how cultural, social, and structural factors influence human social behavior. Liberal education courses in these fields introduce students to the major theoretical perspectives in the given field, such that students understand the meaning and application of key concepts, learn how to both test and build theory, and articulate policy implications of theory.
Humanities
The humanities are those branches of knowledge concerned with human thought and culture. In humanities courses, students learn to describe, analyze, interpret, and otherwise critically examine the products and processes of human culture, including material artifacts, activities, and systems of meaning and value (such as particular philosophical, linguistic, and intellectual traditions or innovations).

Fine Arts
The fine arts use imagination, creativity, and discipline-specific skills to reflect the complexity of human life. Fine arts courses develop a student’s ability to think and act with creativity, demonstrating intellectual curiosity, imagination, and flexibility. These courses also develop the student’s ability to appreciate the aesthetic value of static and kinetic fine art.

Global Perspectives
Courses approved for the Global Perspective requirement focus on developing an awareness of contemporary global topics and transnational connections. Global topics entail interrelationships among cultures, societies, nations, and other social units worldwide, and they include transnational processes such as migration, urbanization, trade, diplomacy, and information flow. Courses will examine global topics facing at least one country other than the United States, with an emphasis on shifts in cultural, economic, political, and social relationships. Students will have the opportunity to consider matters such as the rights and responsibilities of global citizenship and to develop greater cross-cultural competence.

Cultural Diversity in the United States
Courses approved for the Cultural Diversity in the United States requirement focus on creating awareness of diverse cultural values and increasing a commitment to knowledge and competence across various cultures, with an emphasis on those represented in the United States. Courses can come from a variety of disciplines, including interdisciplinary approaches involving two or more departments. These courses provide students with an opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the culturally complex social fabric of the United States and to enhance their abilities to interact with the diverse groups that make up our nation.

Environmental Sustainability
Courses approved for the Environmental Sustainability requirement focus on developing an awareness of the interaction of the natural environment with societal needs and desires. Courses can come from a variety of disciplines, including interdisciplinary approaches involving two or more departments. Courses will examine ways in which the science of the natural environment interacts with economic, social, and political forces in a local, national, and/or global context.
Minnesota Transfer Curriculum

The Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MTC) is a collaborative effort among two- and four-year public colleges and universities in Minnesota to help students transfer their work in general/liberal education. Completion of a defined transfer curriculum at one institution enables a student to receive credit for such work upon admission to any other participating institution. This does not guarantee that all credits within the transfer curriculum will be accepted at other participating institutions. This transfer curriculum consists of 10 areas of competency and completion of these is certified at the sending Minnesota institution. Note: The MTC competencies differ from the UMD liberal education categories. Completing UMD’s liberal education program does not necessarily mean that the MTC competencies are also complete.

Students who transfer to UMD and have completed the MTC elsewhere are considered to have met UMD liberal education requirements and are not required to complete additional liberal education coursework. If only some, but not all, competencies of the MTC have been completed elsewhere, these competencies will satisfy equivalent competencies at UMD.

Students intending to transfer from UMD to public colleges and universities within Minnesota, and who wish to fulfill the MTC, must adhere to the following general requirements:

• Complete at least 40 semester credits. These could include credits transferred to UMD from another institution.
• Only apply a maximum of 10 credits of S-N courses to the MTC.
• Satisfy the 10 specified competencies of the MTC.

The list of UMD courses that can be used to do this is available from the UMD Office of Financial Aid and Registrar, 139 Darland Administration Building, UMD, Duluth, MN 55812; or can be found online at www.d.umn.edu/registrar/mtc.htm.