

The UK Core – General Education Requirements

The University of Kentucky’s general education program – the UK Core – is foundational to a university education at the University of Kentucky. A university education is more than simply learning a set of skills in a specific area in preparation for a job or career. A university education is designed to broaden the students’ understanding of themselves, of the world we live in, of their role in our global society, and of the ideals and aspirations that have motivated human thought and action throughout the ages. It must help individuals effectively put into action their acquired knowledge, to provide the bases for critical thinking and problem solving, and to develop life-long learning habits.

The UK Core is composed of the equivalent of 30 credit hours in 10 course areas that address four broad learning outcomes. Depending on choice of major or courses, some students may take more than 30 credit hours to complete the UK Core.

The UK Core Learning Outcomes

The UK Core curriculum is based on a comprehensive set of student learning outcomes that all students are expected to be able to demonstrate upon completion of a baccalaureate degree at the University of Kentucky. All UK Core courses are designed to meet one or more of the following learning outcomes:

- I. Students will demonstrate an understanding of and ability to employ the processes of intellectual inquiry. [12 credit hours]**
Students will be able to identify multiple dimensions of a good question (i.e., interesting, analytical, problematic, complex, important, genuine, researchable); determine when additional information is needed, find credible information efficiently using a variety of reference sources, and judge the quality of information as informed by rigorously developed evidence; explore multiple and complex answers to questions/issues/problems within and across the four broad knowledge areas: arts and creativity, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, and natural/ physical/mathematical sciences; evaluate theses and conclusions in light of credible evidence; explore the ethical implications of differing approaches, methodologies or conclusions; and develop potential solutions to problems based on sound evidence and reasoning. Students will take four 3-credit courses, one in each of the four broad knowledge areas defined above.
- II. Students will demonstrate competent written, oral, and visual communication skills both as producers and consumers of information. [6 credit hours]**
Students will demonstrate the ability to construct intelligible messages using sound evidence and reasoning that are appropriate for different rhetorical situations (audiences and purposes) and deliver those messages effectively in written, oral, and visual form. Students will also demonstrate the ability to competently critique (analyze, interpret, and evaluate) written, oral, and visual messages conveyed in a variety of communication contexts. Students will take one 3-hour course focusing on the development of effective writing skills, and one 3-hour integrated communications course focusing on oral and visual communication skills, along with continued development of written communication skills.
- III. Students will demonstrate an understanding of and ability to employ methods of quantitative reasoning. [6 credit hours]**
Students will (a) demonstrate how fundamental elements of mathematical, logical and statistical knowledge are applied to solve real-world problems; and (b) explain the sense in which an important source of uncertainty in many everyday decisions is addressed by statistical science, and appraise the efficacy of statistical arguments that are reported for general consumption. Students will take one 3-hour course on the application of mathematical, logical and statistical methods, and one 3-hour course devoted to a conceptual and practical understanding of statistical inferential reasoning.
- IV. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the complexities of citizenship and the process for making informed choices as engaged citizens in a diverse, multilingual world. [6 credit hours]**
Students will recognize historical and cultural differences arising from issues such as ethnicity, gender, language, nationality, race, religion, sexuality, and socioeconomic class; students will demonstrate a basic understanding of how these differences influence issues of social justice, both within the U.S. and globally; students will recognize and evaluate the ethical dilemmas, conflicts, and trade-offs involved in personal and collective decision making. Students will take two courses, each with a topical or regional focus. The first course will include critical analysis of diversity issues as they relate to the contemporary United States. The second will be a non-US based course that includes critical analysis of local-to-global dynamics as they relate to the contemporary world. In addition, each course must address at least 2 of these 4 topics: societal and institutional change over time; civic engagement; cross-national/comparative issues; power and resistance.

The Curricular Framework and Relationship to the Learning Outcomes

Students must take one course from each of the areas listed below in order to complete the UK Core. A course taken to satisfy a requirement in one area of the UK Core cannot be used to satisfy a requirement in another area, even if a specific course is present in more than one area (e.g., some courses are designed to meet the learning outcomes in more than one area).

Course Areas by Learning Outcome	Credit Hours
Learning Outcome I: Intellectual Inquiry	
The Nature of Inquiry in Arts and Creativity	3
The Nature of Inquiry in the Humanities	3
The Nature of Inquiry in the Social Sciences	3
The Nature of Inquiry in the Natural, Physical and Mathematical Sciences	3
Learning Outcome II: Written, Oral and Visual Communication	
Composition and Communication I	3
Composition and Communication II	3
Learning Outcome III: Quantitative Reasoning	
Quantitative Foundations	3
Statistical Inferential Reasoning	3

Learning Outcome IV: Citizenship

Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA	3
Global Dynamics	3

UK Core Credit-Hour Total* **30**

**The UK Core is designed to provide the equivalent of 30 credit hours. Some courses in the UK Core require more than three credits, resulting in more than 30 credits in some cases.*

NOTE: At the time of publication, more courses were still being approved for many areas. In addition to the courses listed below, there may also be experimental UK Core courses listed under the prefix UKC. To check the most up-to-date list, go to: <http://academics.uky.edu/UGE/GenEdCourses/Lists/Course%20List/Allitemsg.aspx>.

Please consult your advisor for a complete list of options.

I. Intellectual Inquiry in Arts and Creativity

Courses in this area are hands-on courses that allow students to engage actively with the creative process. Students will define and distinguish different approaches to creativity, demonstrate the ability to critically analyze work produced by other students, and evaluate results of their own creative endeavors. In general education, a focus on creativity adds to the vitality and relevance of learning and will translate into graduates who are better prepared to face the challenges of a dynamic society.

To fulfill the Creativity and the Arts requirement, complete **one** of the following:

A-E 120	Pathways to Creativity in the Visual Arts	A-S 380	Black & White Darkroom Photography
A-S 102	Two-Dimensional Surface	CME 455*	Chemical Engineering Process Design I
A-S 103	Three-Dimensional Form	LA 111	Living on the Right Side of the Brain
A-S 130	Drawing	TA 110	Theatre: An Introduction
A-S 200	Digital Art, Space and Time	TA 120	Creativity and the Art of Acting
A-S 280	Introduction to Photographic Literacy	TA 140	Introduction to Dance

**Chemical Engineering students only.*

II. Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

These courses develop students' skills in *interpretation* and *analysis* of creations of the human intellect such as art and literature (including folklore, popular culture, film and digital media), philosophical and religious contemplation and argumentation, language systems, and historical narratives. In these courses, students gain the ability not only to analyze the works themselves but to *evaluate* competing interpretations of such works.

To fulfill the Humanities requirement, complete **one** of the following:

A-H 101	Introduction to Visual Studies	HIS 104	History of Western Civilization
A-H 105	Ancient through Medieval Art	HIS 105	A History of Europe from the Mid-Seventeenth Century to the Present
A-H 106	Renaissance through Modern Art	HIS 112	The Making of Modern Kentucky
A-H 334	Studies in Renaissance Art (Subtitle required)	HIS 121	War and Society, 1914-1945
AAS 264	Major Black Writers	HIS 202	History of the British People to the Restoration
ARC 314*	History and Theory III: 20th Century and Contemporary Architecture	HIS 203	History of the British People Since the Restoration
CLA 135	Greek and Roman Mythology	HIS 229	The Ancient Near East and Greece to the Death of Alexander the Great
CLA 191	Christianity, Culture, and Society: A Historical Introduction	HIS 230	The Hellenistic World and Rome to the Death of Constantine
CLA 229	The Ancient Near East and Greece to the Death of Alexander the Great	ID 161	History and Theory of Interior Environments I
CLA 230	The Hellenistic World and Rome to the Death of Constantine	ID 162	History and Theory of Interior Environments II
EGR 201	Literature, Technology, and Culture	MCL 100	The World of Language
ENG 191	Literature and the Arts of Citizenship	MUS 100	Introduction to Music
ENG 230	Introduction to Literature	PHI 100	Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality
ENG 234	Introduction to Women's Literature	RUS 125	Mapping Russia (Subtitle required)
ENG 264	Major Black Writers	RUS 270	Russian Culture 900-1900
ENG 281	Introduction to Film	SPA 371	Latin American Cinema (Subtitle required)
FR 103	French Cinema	SPA 372	Spanish Cinema (Subtitle required)
FR 225	French Film Noir	TA 171	World Theatre I
GER 103	Fairy Tales in European Context	TA 271	World Theatre II
GER 105	German Film Today	TA 273	World Theatre III
GWS 201	Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies in the Arts and Humanities	TA 274	World Theatre IV

**Architecture students only.*

III. Intellectual Inquiry in the Social Sciences

These courses promote an understanding of the relationships between individuals and society and how scholars have come to understand these relationships using conceptual models and processes of inquiry. Through a discipline-based study of social problems or themes, students will learn to critically evaluate the variety of social situations with which they may be confronted in their everyday lives.

To fulfill the Social Sciences Requirement, complete **one** of the following:

ANT 101	Introduction to Anthropology
ANT 102	Archaeology: Mysteries and Controversies
CLD 102*	The Dynamics of Rural Social Life
CPH 201	Introduction to Public Health
ECO 101	Contemporary Economic Issues
GWS 200	Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies in the Social Sciences
PS 235	World Politics
PSY 100	Introduction to Psychology
SOC 101*	Introduction to Sociology

*Students may not receive credit for both SOC 101 and CLD 102.

IV. Intellectual Inquiry in the Natural, Physical and Mathematical Sciences

These courses engage students in the fundamental processes of science through the exploration of an area in science. Students will be expected to use their knowledge of scientific concepts to formulate predictions, collect and analyze data, and construct explanations for the questions posed.

To fulfill the Natural, Physical and Mathematical Sciences requirement, complete **one** of the following:

ANT 230	Introduction to Biological Anthropology	GLY 110	Endangered Planet: An Introduction to Environmental Geology
AST 191	The Solar System	GLY 120	Sustainable Planet: The Geology of Natural Resources
BIO 102	Human Ecology	PHY 120	How Things Work
BIO 103	Basic Ideas of Biology	PHY 211	General Physics
CHE 105*	General College Chemistry I	PHY 231**	General University Physics
CHE 111*	Laboratory to Accompany General Chemistry I	PHY 241**	General University Physics Laboratory
ENT 110	Insect Biology	PLS 104	Plants, Soils, and People: A Science Perspective
GEO 130	Earth's Physical Environment		
GEO 135	Global Climate Change		

*CHE 105 and 111 are paired courses. To earn UK Core credit, both courses must be completed. CHE 111 may be taken concurrently with CHE 105 or after CHE 105 has been completed. Students must sign up for them separately.

**PHY 231 and 241 are paired courses. To earn UK Core credit, both PHY 231 and PHY 241 must be completed. They may be taken in either order and students must sign up for them separately.

V. Composition and Communication I

In this course, students are introduced to the process of writing, speaking, and visually representing their own ideas and the ideas of others; they also practice basic interpersonal communication skills and the ability to communicate with multiple audiences.

To fulfill the Composition and Communication I requirement, complete **one** of the following:

- score of **32** or above on the English component of the ACT
- score of **700** or above on SAT I Verbal
- score of **3, 4** or **5** on the AP English Language Exam
- CIS 110 Composition and Communication I
- WRD 110 Composition and Communication I

VI. Composition and Communication II

In this course, students research public controversies and work in teams to analyze and argue for a solution to these controversies in oral, written, and visual/digital forms for multiple audiences.

To fulfill the Composition and Communication II requirement, complete **one** of the following:

- CIS 111 Composition and Communication II
- WRD 111 Composition and Communication II

VII. Quantitative Foundations

These courses are concerned with the application of mathematical concepts and skills to solve real-world problems. In order to perform effectively as professionals and citizens, students must become competent in reading and using quantitative data, in understanding quantitative evidence and in applying basic quantitative skills to the solution of real-life problems.

To fulfill the Quantitative Foundations requirement, complete **one** of the following:

GLY 151	Dynamic Earth
GLY 185	Quantifying the Bluegrass Water Supply
MA 111	Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics
MA 123	Elementary Calculus and Its Applications
MA 113	Calculus I
MA 137	Calculus I With Life Science Applications
PHI 120	Introductory Logic

NOTE: Students must have demonstrated basic proficiency in math skills as determined by a minimum Math ACT of 19 or the appropriate math placement test to take these courses.

VIII. Statistical Inferential Reasoning

These courses will encourage students to evaluate claims based on statistical principles by providing an understanding of the conceptual and practical applications of statistical reasoning and thinking. Students will receive an introduction to the science of statistics, and while students will be expected to reason with statistical ideas and make sense of statistical information, computations are not the focus.

To fulfill the Statistical Inferential Reasoning requirement, complete **one** of the following:

STA 210	Making Sense of Uncertainty: An Introduction to Statistical Reasoning
PSY 215*	Experimental Psychology
PSY 216*	Applications of Statistics in Psychology

**PSY 215 and 216 are paired courses and are restricted to Psychology majors and minors. To earn UK Core credit, both PSY 215 and PSY 216 must be completed. They may be taken in either order and students must sign up for them separately.*

IX. Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA

These courses promote a student's understanding of historical, societal, and cultural differences, such as those arising from race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, language, nationality, religion, political and ethical perspectives, and socioeconomic class; engage students in grappling with conflicts, compromises, and/or ethical dilemmas stemming from the complex and diverse cultural contexts of US communities; and foster effective and responsible participation in a diverse community or society in the United States.

To fulfill the Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA requirement, complete **one** of the following:

A-H 360	Visual Culture of Politics	HIS 108	History of the United States Through 1876
AAS 235	Inequalities in Society	HIS 109	History of the United States Since 1877
AAS 261	African American History 1865-Present	HIS 112	The Making of Modern Kentucky
APP 200	Introduction to Appalachian Studies	HIS 261	African American History 1865-Present
CLD 360	Environmental Sociology	PHI 335	The Individual and Society
ENG 191	Literature and the Arts of Citizenship	PS 101	American Government
GEN 100*	Issues in Agriculture	SOC 235	Inequalities in Society
GEO 220	U.S. Cities	SOC 350	Topics in Sociology (Subtitle required)
GEO 221	Geographies of Immigrant America	SOC 360	Environmental Sociology
GEO 320	Geography of the United States and Canada	SPA 208	U.S. Latino Culture and Politics
GWS 301	Crossroads of Gender, Class, and Race (Subtitle required)	TA 286	Social Action Theatre

**GEN 100 is for College of Agriculture students only.*

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X. Global Dynamics

These courses equip students to participate in a diverse, multiethnic, multilingual world community. Toward this end, students consider issues of equality, ethical dilemmas, global trends, social change, and civic engagement in the context of local cultures outside the U.S.

To fulfill the Global Dynamics requirement, complete **one** of the following:

A-H 310	Studies in East Asian Art (Subtitle required)	HIS 105	A History of Europe From the Mid-Seventeenth Century to the Present
ANT 160	Cultural Diversity in the Modern World	HIS 121	War and Society, 1914-1945
ANT 222	Middle East Cultures	HIS 202	History of the British People to the Restoration
ANT 225	Culture, Environment and Global Issues	HIS 203	History of the British People Since the Restoration
ANT 242	Origins of New World Civilization	HIS 206	History of Colonial Latin America, 1492-1810
ANT 311	Global Dreams and Local Realities in a "Flat" World	HIS 208	History of the Atlantic World
ANT 321	Introduction to Japanese Culture, Meiji (1868) to Present	HIS 296	East Asia Since 1600
ANT 329	Cultures and Societies of Eurasia and Eastern Europe: Socialism and Post-Socialist Change	JPN 320	Introduction to Japanese Culture, Pre-Modern to 1868
CLD 380	Globalization: A Cross-Cultural Perspective	JPN 321	Introduction to Japanese Culture, Meiji (1868) to Present
GEO 160	Lands and Peoples of the Non-Western World	LAS 201	Introduction to Latin America
GEO 161	Global Inequalities	MUS 330	Music in the World (Subtitle required)
GEO 162	Introduction to Global Environmental Issues	PHI 343	Asian Philosophy
GEO 163	Global Conflicts	PLS 103	Plants, Soils, and People: A Global Perspective
GEO 164	iWorlds: Global Information Geographies	PS 210	Introduction to Comparative Politics
GEO 222	Cities of the World	RUS 125	Mapping Russia (Subtitle Required)
GEO 255	Geography of the Global Economy	RUS 271	Russian Culture 1900-Present
GEO 260	Geographies of Development in the Global South	RUS 370	Russian Folklore (in English)
GEO 261	Global Dynamics of Health and Disease	SAG 201	Cultural Perspectives on Sustainability
GER 342	War, Peace, and Terror in Germany and Europe	SOC 180	Societies in Global Perspective
GWS 302	Gender Across the World (Subtitle required)	SOC 380	Globalization: A Cross-Cultural Perspective

Foreign Language Requirement

Foreign language is no longer explicitly required as part of the new UK General Education, the UK Core. However, foreign language proficiency is still an expectation for students who enter UK, and is still considered to be an important part of the students' educational background.

Any first-time freshman or transfer student must demonstrate that they have completed two high school credits in a single foreign language, or two semesters at the postsecondary level. A student who has not completed the high school foreign language requirement will be required to take a two-semester sequence in one foreign language at the University of Kentucky prior to graduation.