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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcome I: Intellectual Inquiry</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Nature of Inquiry in Arts and Creativity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature of Inquiry in the Humanities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature of Inquiry in the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature of Inquiry in the Natural, Physical and Mathematical Sciences</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Learning Outcome II: Written, Oral and Visual Communication</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Composition and Communication I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composition and Communication II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcome III: Quantitative Reasoning</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Foundations</td>
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<td>Statistical Inferential Reasoning</td>
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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/AllItemsMsg.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 102 Two-Dimensional Surface
A-S 103 Three-Dimensional Form
A-S 130 Drawing
A-S 200 Digital Art, Space and Time
A-S 280 Introduction to Photographic Literacy
A-S 380 Black & White Darkroom Photography
CME 455* Chemical Engineering Process Design I
LA 111 Living on the Right Side of the Brain
TA 110 Theatre: An Introduction
TA 120 Creativity and the Art of Acting
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
A-H 105 Ancient through Medieval Art
A-H 106 Renaissance through Modern Art
A-H 334 Studies in Renaissance Art (Subtitle required)
AAS 264 Major Black Writers
ARC 314* History and Theory III: 20th Century and Contemporary Architecture
CLA 135 Greek and Roman Mythology
CLA 191 Christianity, Culture, and Society: A Historical Introduction
CLA 229 The Ancient Near East and Greece to the Death of Alexander the Great
CLA 230 The Hellenistic World and Rome to the Death of Constantine
EGR 201 Literature, Technology, and Culture
ENG 191 Literature and the Arts of Citizenship
ENG 230 Introduction to Literature
ENG 234 Introduction to Women’s Literature
ENG 264 Major Black Writers
ENG 281 Introduction to Film
FR 103 French Cinema
FR 225 French Film Noir
GER 103 Fairy Tales in European Context
GER 105 German Film Today
GWS 201 Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies in the Arts and Humanities
HIS 104 History of Western Civilization
HIS 105 A History of Europe from the Mid- Seventeenth Century to the Present
HIS 112 The Making of Modern Kentucky
HIS 121 War and Society, 1914-1945
HIS 202 History of the British People to the Restoration
HIS 203 History of the British People Since the Restoration
HIS 229 The Ancient Near East and Greece to the Death of Alexander the Great
HIS 230 The Hellenistic World and Rome to the Death of Constantine
ID 161 History and Theory of Interior Environments I
ID 162 History and Theory of Interior Environments II
MCL 100 The World of Language
MUS 100 Introduction to Music
PHI 100 Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality
RUS 125 Mapping Russia (Subtitle required)
RUS 270 Russian Culture 900-1900
SPA 371 Latin American Cinema (Subtitle required)
SPA 372 Spanish Cinema (Subtitle required)
TA 171 World Theatre I
TA 271 World Theatre II
TA 273 World Theatre III
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
- AST 191 The Solar System
- BIO 102 Human Ecology
- BIO 103 Basic Ideas of Biology
- CHE 105* General College Chemistry I
- CHE 111* Laboratory to Accompany General Chemistry I
- ENT 110 Insect Biology
- GEO 130 Earth’s Physical Environment
- GEO 135 Global Climate Change
- GLY 110 Endangered Planet: An Introduction to Environmental Geology
- GLY 120 Sustainable Planet: The Geology of Natural Resources
- PHY 120 How Things Work
- PHY 211 General Physics
- PHY 231** General University Physics
- PHY 241** General University Physics Laboratory
- PLS 104 Plants, Soils, and People: A Science Perspective

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-H 310</td>
<td>Studies in East Asian Art (Subtitle required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANT 160</td>
<td>Cultural Diversity in the Modern World</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANT 222</td>
<td>Middle East Cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANT 225</td>
<td>Culture, Environment and Global Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANT 242</td>
<td>Origins of New World Civilization</td>
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<td>ANT 311</td>
<td>Global Dreams and Local Realities in a “Flat” World</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANT 321</td>
<td>Introduction to Japanese Culture, Meiji (1868) to Present</td>
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<td>ANT 329</td>
<td>Cultures and Societies of Eurasia and Eastern Europe: Socialism and Post-Socialist Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLD 380</td>
<td>Globalization: A Cross-Cultural Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEO 160</td>
<td>Lands and Peoples of the Non-Western World</td>
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<td>GEO 161</td>
<td>Global Inequalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEO 162</td>
<td>Introduction to Global Environmental Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEO 163</td>
<td>Global Conflicts</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEO 164</td>
<td>iWorlds: Global Information Geographies</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEO 222</td>
<td>Cities of the World</td>
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<td>GEO 255</td>
<td>Geography of the Global Economy</td>
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<td>GEO 260</td>
<td>Geographies of Development in the Global South</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEO 261</td>
<td>Global Dynamics of Health and Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 342</td>
<td>War, Peace, and Terror in Germany and Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWS 302</td>
<td>Gender Across the World (Subtitle required)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.