GENERAL EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION

General Education Requirements

General education requirements ensure students are introduced to a diverse range of liberal arts and sciences. Major requirements ensure that students concentrate sufficiently in at least one liberal art or science to attain proficiency. Graduation requirements (required 2.0 minimum GPA & 128 earned credits) ensure the academic integrity of each degree the College awards.

All WC students must satisfy the following general education requirements with a passing letter grade, unless otherwise noted:

The Writing Program

All students complete at least four deliberate writing experiences that comprise the Writing Program. These experiences, sequenced over four years develop students' knowledge, skills, and habits essential to the clear thinking, sharp inquiry, careful analysis, and effective expression at the heart of the college's tradition of liberal education. Writing is a prominent feature of the WC curriculum, and across all disciplines. It serves to help students discover the purpose and passion that guides their intellectual endeavors. The sequenced writing framework states how writing continues to be the core of the College's mission—and at the heart of our transformative student experience.

Students fulfill the Writing Program requirements by completing four courses, one in each of the following categories:

W1 Critical Inquiry:
W1 introduces all students to essential thinking activities of liberal arts education, including inquiry, critical thinking, discussion, writing, and argument. Students fulfill this requirement by completing a first-year seminar (FYS). Washington College's First-Year Seminar program (FYS 101) introduces new students to critical inquiry and learning, and the key academic skills required for sustained collegiate success. FYS 101 covers a wide range of topics, but all share three essential elements: the passion of a dedicated instructor, a small-seminar format where students contribute and learn from each other, and a sustained focus on careful reading, sound research, thoughtful discussion, and clear writing—the 'habits of critical inquiry' at the heart of liberal education.

FYS 101 courses introduce students to library research and information literacy; offer instruction on the writing process, rhetorical knowledge, and academic conventions; and include significant research, writing, revision, and presentation work.

Students may drop one FYS seminar and add another within the Drop/Add period but may not withdraw from an FYS seminar without the approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Success. Students approved to withdraw from an FYS seminar must enroll in an FYS seminar in the next possible semester. Students must earn a "D-" or better in FYS 101 First-Year Seminar in order to satisfy the requirement.

W2 Process of Writing:
W2 courses continue the development of rhetorical knowledge and critical thinking introduced in W1, while providing additional time and attention to the practice of all aspects of writing processes. Students must complete one W2 course by the end of their second year at Washington College, or by completion of 60 credits. Courses that fulfill this requirement are indicated on the course schedule every semester. The W2 requirement may not be fulfilled with transfer credit. The two exceptions are for students in the Direct Transfer program or transfer students eligible for the Flexible Transfer Curriculum Policy and who transferred in Freshman Composition I and Freshman Composition II.

W3 Writing in the Discipline:
The W3 requirement advances the larger program goals of persuasive analysis, flexible thinking, responsible inquiry, and effective expression into each department and major, focusing attention on the methods and modes of writing and critical thinking specific to a discipline or major field of study. Courses for requirement are indicated on the Self-Service Class Schedule/Catalog tile. Each major has a W3 course required, so simply completing a major ensures the W3 writing requirement is met.

W4 Senior Capstone Experience:
W4 is the capstone of the writing experience at Washington College. All seniors complete discipline-specific writing as part of their Senior Capstone Experience (SCE), demonstrating the elements of critical thinking, writing processes, rhetorical knowledge, and knowledge of conventions they have developed in previous writing experiences across the curriculum and in the major. Students complete the W4 requirement by completing a required SCE.

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Transfer Student General Education Requirements.

Transfer students with 28 or more transferable credits do not have to take an FYS 101 First-Year Seminar seminar. Note that first-time college students bringing in 28 or more transferable credit hours will not have this requirement waived: only transfer students with 28 or more transferable credits hours will have the requirement waived.

Students entering the College with Advanced Standing credits (AP, CIE, CLEP, or IB) may apply those credits toward the distribution requirements up to a total of 32 credit hours.

Students may drop one FYS seminar and add another within the Drop/Add period but may not withdraw from an FYS seminar without the approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Success. Students approved to withdraw from an FYS seminar must enroll in an FYS seminar in the next possible semester. Students must earn a "D-" or better in FYS 101 First-Year Seminar in order to satisfy the requirement.

Alternatives to General Education Requirements

Students who plan General Education outside of the normal guidelines may write a proposal to this effect and submit it to their advisor as a basis for discussion of the feasibility of the plan. After consultation with the advisor, the student sends the proposal to the Committee on Academic Standing and Advising (CASA) for a final decision. Approval of such proposals depends on convincing evidence the desired scheme provides an alternate way of adequately meeting the broad aims of the Distribution Requirement(s). Proposals must include provisions for meeting specific goals as the following: promotion of cultural breadth, introduction to empirical investigation, provision of some basis for aesthetic appreciation or creativity, acquaintance with the nature of language (natural or symbolic), and opportunity to view complex phenomena.

Distribution Requirements

To ensure breadth of learning, all students are required to complete courses from four categories listed below, unless a waiver is granted based on Advanced Standing credits (AP, CIE, CLEP, or IB), Community College Direct Transfer, or Transfer Credit equivalency.

Other than the Natural Science component, combining courses from two subjects to satisfy part of a distribution requirement is not allowed without permission from the Department Chairs housing the subjects. Theis permission must be obtained by the student and submitted in writing to the Registrar before the student takes the second of the two courses. Students may not use a single course to satisfy more than one distribution requirement simultaneously. However, courses offered to satisfy distribution requirements may also count toward any number of major or minor requirements.

I. Foreign Language

Complete one or two courses in a foreign language or otherwise fulfill the requirement, as detailed here:

- Students starting a new language or students placed in the 101 or 102 level: two semesters in the new or placement language.
- Students placed in the 200-level or above in French, German, Spanish, or Chinese complete one four-credit course.
- Students who have earned a 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement test have satisfied this requirement.
- Students whose native language is not English may satisfy the language requirement with that language pending approval from the Associate Chair of World Languages and Cultures. (Heritage speakers are not exempt from the language requirement.)
- Students with a language-based learning disability, and who are granted an accommodation by the Office of Academic Skills, may apply for an OAS accommodation (https://catalog.washcoll.edu/catalog/academic-resources/academic-skills-office-oas/). Students granted an OAS accommodation fulfill the Foreign Language Requirement by substituting two four-credit courses (eight credits total), taught in English, or in a foreign culture. Courses must be selected from the list of courses approved for this accommodation by the chair of the World Languages and Cultures department and available from the Office of Academic Skills.

II. Natural Science and Quantitative Skills

Students complete three courses, with two natural-science courses and one quantitative course (option A below), OR two quantitative courses and one natural-science course (option B below), as detailed here:

A. TWO NATURAL-SCIENCE COURSES AND ONE QUANTITATIVE-SKILLS COURSE (SEE 1 & 2 BELOW)

1. Complete a natural science general sequence. This option is for students who plan to major in biology, chemistry, environmental science, environmental studies, physics, or psychology, or who intend to apply to medical or veterinary school, also recommended for students seeking teacher certification and have an interest in the sciences:

BIO 111 General Biology I with Lab & BIO 112 General Biology II with Lab

CHE 120 Chem Principles Org Molecules with Lab & CHE 122 Chemical Principles Orgnc Molecules Lab AND CHE 140 Reactions of Organic Molecules with Lab & CHE 142 Reactions of Organic Molecules Lab

ENV 140 Exploring the Solid Earth with Lab & ENV 141 Atmosphere, Ocean & Environment w/Lab

PHY 101 College Physics I with Lab & PHY 102 College Physics II with Lab (algebra based)

PHY 111 General Physics I with Lab & PHY 112 General Physics II with Lab (calculus-based).

2. Complete any two (non-sequential) natural science courses. Any two of the non-major science courses on this list may be taken, or one of these may be paired with a course from the list under Option 1. Note that since BIO 100 courses are diverse, two BIO 100 courses on different topics may be paired.

BIO 100 Current Topics in Biology with Lab

CHE 120 Chem Principles Org Molecules with Lab & CHE 122 Chemical Principles Orgnc Molecules Lab

CRS 240 Estuarine Science

PHY 105 Astronomy with Lab

ENV 140 Exploring the Solid Earth with Lab

Students who complete two natural-science courses as specified above may complete the Natural Sciences and Quantitative requirement with just one Quantitative Skills course. The following courses count toward the quantitative component (majors may require a specific course from below).

BUS 109 Managerial Statistics

ECN 215 Data Analysis I

MAT Any Mathematics OR CSI Computer Science course

MUS Theory course (MUS 131 , MUS 132, or MUS 231)

PHL 108 Introduction to Logic

POL 209 Political Data Analysis

PSY 209 Statistics & Research Design I with Lab

B. Two quantitative-skills courses and one natural-science course:

A common pathway for students whose major (i.e. Business Management) has a two-course quantitative requirement. There are three main options:

Option 1: Complete any two Mathematics (MAT) and/or Computer Science (CSI) courses, with the exception that MAT 106 Stretch Differential Calculus I and MAT 107 Stretch Differential Calculus II must **both** be taken to count for this option. Some Math special-topics courses may not qualify—consult the department chair for specific special-topics courses.)

Option 2: Complete any two Music Theory courses: MUS 131 , MUS 132 or MUS 231 .

Option 3: Complete two quantitative-skills courses from this listing.

Code	Title	Credits	Notes
Select one of the following:			_____
BUS 109	Managerial Statistics		_____
ECN 215	Data Analysis I		_____
MAT 109	Statistical Inference & Data Analysis I		_____
POL 209	Political Data Analysis		_____
PSY 209	Statistics & Research Design I with Lab		_____
Select one of the following:			_____
BUS 209	Financial Analysis		_____
ECN 320	Econometrics		_____
Any MAT/CSI course besides MAT 106, MAT 107, and MAT 109			_____

Students completing two quantitative skills courses as specified above may complete the Natural Sciences and Quantitative requirement with any Natural Science course listed in Option A above.

See department course listings for prerequisite restrictions and/or major requirements. Completing the Natural Science and Quantitative distribution requirement is not the same as fulfilling a major requirement. Students should complete the Option best aligned with major requirements,.

Students may not receive academic credit for both BUS 109 Managerial Statistics and MAT 109 Statistical Inference & Data Analysis I

III. Humanities and Fine Arts Distribution Requirement

Complete three courses, two humanities courses and one fine-arts course (option A below), OR two fine-arts courses and one humanities course (option B below).

A. TWO HUMANITIES COURSES AND ONE FINE-ARTS COURSE

Choose one of the options and add a fine-arts course:

Communication and Media Studies option: Two of the following classes: CMS 101 Intro to Communication & Media Studies, CMS 201 Contemporary Popular Film & TV, CMS 251 Digital Storytelling, or CMS 310 Race, Class, and Gender in Popular Media.

English option: ENG 101 Literature and Composition and one 200-level English course, or two 200-level English courses.

Foreign Language option: Any two courses taught in the same foreign language 303 or above, e.g. FRS, GRS, or HPS 303+ (except HPS 307).

International Literatures and Cultures option: Two International Literatures and Culture courses.

Philosophy option: Two Philosophy courses (except PHL 108).

Any one course from the options above will fulfill the Humanities component for students taking *two* Fine Arts courses.

B. TWO FINE-ARTS COURSES AND ONE HUMANITIES COURSE

Choose one fine-arts option and add a humanities course:

Art & Art History option: Two four-credit Art or Art History courses.

Dance option: Eight DAN credits (except DAN 181, DAN 182, DAN 183, DAN 184, DAN 185 DAN 186, DAN 285, or DAN 381).

Music option: Eight MUS credits (except MUS 131 MUS 132, and MUS 231)

Theatre option: Eight credits of Theatre courses (except THE 375).

Any *one* course from the list above, or a combination of four credits from the same department, will fulfill the Fine Arts component for students taking *two* Humanities courses.

IV. Social Science Distribution Requirement

Students must complete three four-credit courses, with two from one department and the third from a different social-science department, as detailed below. Students must select an option from the two-course pathway, and an option in a different social-science department from the one-course pathway.

Two-course pathway (two courses from the same department):

Code	Title	Credits	Notes
Anthropology and Archeology option:			_____
any two ANT courses			_____

Code	Title	Credits	Notes
Economics option:			_____
Select 1 Sequence From Below			_____
ECN 111 & ECN 112	Principles of Macroeconomics and Principles of Microeconomics		_____
OR			_____
ECN 111	Principles of Macroeconomics		_____
or ECN 112	Principles of Microeconomics		_____
and any other ECN course with the exception of ECN 215. ENV 117 may also be taken.			_____

Code	Title	Credits	Notes
Education option:			_____
EDU 251	Principles of Education		_____
EDU 252	Educational Psychology		_____

Code	Title	Credits	Notes
History option:			_____
HIS 111	Introduction to History		_____
And select 1 Course From Below			_____
HIS 201	History of the United States to 1865		_____
HIS 202	History of the United States Since 1865		_____
HIS 203	Modern World History I		_____

HIS 204	Modern World History II		_____
HIS 205	Early Origins of Western Civilization I		_____
HIS 206	Early Origins of Western Civilization II		_____

Code	Title	Credits	Notes
Political Science option:			_____
POL 102	American Government and Politics		_____
POL 104	Introduction to World Politics		_____
OR			_____
POL 102	American Government and Politics		_____
and any 200- or 300-level POL course			_____
OR			_____
POL 104	Introduction to World Politics		_____
and any 200- or 300-level POL course			_____

Code	Title	Credits	Notes
Psychology option:			_____
PSY 111 & PSY 112	General Psychology and General Psychology	8	_____
OR Either			_____
PSY 111	General Psychology		_____
or PSY 112	General Psychology		_____
AND 1 Course From Below			_____
PSY 202	Life-Span Development		_____
PSY 205	Drugs & Behavior		_____
PSY 220	Human Sexuality		_____

Code	Title	Credits	Notes
Sociology option:			_____
SOC 101	Intro to Sociology		_____
and any 200-level SOC course			_____

One-course pathway (one introductory course from a social-science subject, to be combined with a two-course pathway, as detailed above):

Anthropology and Archaeology (ANT) option: Any ANT course (note that some courses have prerequisites).

Economics (ECN) option: ECN 111, or ECN 112.

Education (EDU) option: EDU 251 or EDU 252

History (HIS) option: HIS 111 or any 200-level HIS course.

Political Science (POL) option: POL 102 or POL 104.

Psychology (PSY) option: PSY 111 or PSY 112.

Sociology (SOC) option: SOC 101