

General Education/Distribution Requirements

Fall 2021 Incoming Students

Summary

- I. The Writing Program
 - II. One or Two Courses in a Foreign Language
 - III. Three Courses in Natural Sciences and Quantitative Skills
 - IV. Three Courses in the Humanities and Fine Arts
 - V. Three Courses in Social Sciences
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I. The Writing Program

W1 Critical Inquiry - The First-Year Seminar (*Students must complete this course in their first year.*)

First-Year Seminars (FYS 101) introduce new college students to the excitement of critical inquiry and learning, and to the key academic skills required for sustained collegiate success. FYS courses cover 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.

All FYS 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.

W2 Process of Writing – courses that fulfill this requirement are indicated on the course schedule (*Students must complete this course by the end of their fourth semester at Washington College, or by completion of 60 credits. Transfer students must complete this course by the end of their second semester at Washington College, or by completion of 30 credits.*)

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.

W3 Writing in the Discipline – courses that fulfill this requirement are indicated on the course schedule

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.

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, demonstrating at an advanced level the elements of critical thinking, writing processes, rhetorical knowledge, and knowledge of conventions that they have been developing in their previous writing experiences.

II. Foreign Language Requirement

(Students must complete one or two courses in a foreign language depending on their placement level.)

- A. For students starting a new language or students placed in the 100-level of a previously studied language, complete two courses (eight credits) in that language.
- B. For students placed in the 200-level or above in French, German, Chinese, or Spanish, complete one course (four credits).
- C. Students who speak a native language other than English fluently are exempted from this requirement.
- D. Students with a language-based learning disability may apply for an accommodation through the College’s Office of Academic Skills. Students granted an accommodation by OAS will fulfill the requirement by substituting two courses, taught in English, in a foreign culture. To apply for this accommodation, complete the form on the OAS website:
<http://www.washcoll.edu/offices/academic-skills/foreign-language-substitution.php>.

III. Natural Science and Quantitative Skills Requirement

(Students must complete three courses, with at least one satisfying the Natural Science component [letter A] and another satisfying the Quantitative Skills component [letter B]. The third course is the student's option but must follow the pairing rules explained below.)

A. Natural Science Component: To fulfill the overall requirement with *two* Natural Science courses and *one* Quantitative Skills course, complete either option below.

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

- BIO 111, 112 General Biology
- CHE 120, 140 Chemical Principles of Organic Molecules, Reactions of Organic Molecules
- PHY 101, 102 College Physics (algebra-based)
- PHY 111, 112 General Physics (calculus-based)

Option 2: Complete any two natural science courses. Any two of the non-major science courses on this list may be taken, or one may be paired with a course from the list under Option 1.

- BIO 100 Current Topics in Biology
- BIO 104 Ecology of the Chesapeake Bay
- CHE 110 Chemistry of the Environment
- CRS 240 Estuarine Science
- PHY 100 Concepts in Contemporary Physics
- PHY 105 Astronomy
- ENV 140 Exploring the Solid Earth
- ENV 141 Atmosphere, Ocean, and Environment

Any *one* course from either option above will fulfill the Natural Science component for students taking *two* Quantitative Skills courses.

B. Quantitative Skills Component: To fulfill the overall requirement with *two* Quantitative Skills courses and *one* Natural Science course, complete one of the following two-course sequences exactly as listed below:

- Any combination of two Mathematics (MAT*) *and/or* Computer Science (CSI) courses; *or*
- Any combination of two Music Theory courses (MUS 131, 132, 231, 232)
- Select one course from Column A and one course from Column B. Please see department course listings for prerequisite restrictions and/or major requirements.

Column A	Column B
BUS 109 Managerial Statistics	BUS 209 Financial Analysis
ECN 215 Data Analysis	ECN 320 Econometrics
MAT 109 Statistics	Any MAT/CSI course other than MAT 109*
PSY 209 Statistics & Research Design I	

Note: Students may not receive academic credit for both BUS 109 and MAT 109.

*The 2-semester Stretch Differential Calculus sequence will count as two courses toward the Quantitative distribution requirement. Only taking one course out of the sequence will not count towards the requirement. Designated MAT special topics courses may be excluded. Please read the course descriptions carefully.

Any *one* of the following courses will fulfill the Quantitative Skills component for students who complete *two* Natural Science courses:

- BUS 109 Managerial Statistics
- ECN 215 Data Analysis
- Any Mathematics/Computer Science course (MAT*/CSI)
- Any Music Theory course (MUS 131, 132, 231 or 232)
- PHL 108 Logic
- PSY 209 Statistics & Experimental Design

Note: PHL 108 and PSY 209 do not pair with another course and are offered only to students choosing to satisfy the Quantitative Skills component by taking one course. Additionally, students fulfilling the Quantitative component with two courses may use BUS 109 and MAT 109 interchangeably; however, students may only receive credit for one Statistics course.

IV. Humanities and Fine Arts Requirement (*Students must complete three courses, with at least one satisfying the Humanities component [letter A] and another satisfying the Fine Arts component [letter B]. The third course is the student's option but must follow the pairing rules explained below.*)

A. Humanities Component: To fulfill the overall requirement with *two* Humanities courses and *one* Fine Arts course, complete one of the following options listed below:

- CMS CMS 101 Intro to Communication & Media Studies and CMS 201 Contemporary Popular Film & TV
- ENG ENG 101 and one 200-level English course, *or* any two 200-level English courses
- FLS Any two courses taught in the same foreign language and numbered 303 or above, e.g. FRS, GRS, or HPS 303+ (except HPS 307)
- ILC Any two International Language/Culture courses
- PHL Any two Philosophy courses (except PHL 108)

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

B. Fine Arts Component: To fulfill the overall requirement with *two* Fine Arts courses and *one* Humanities course, complete one of the following options listed below:

- ART Any two Art or Art History courses (except ART 375)
- DAN Eight credits of Dance courses (except DAN 181-186, 285, 310, 375 381)
- THE Any two Theatre courses (except THE 181-186, 285, 375 or 400)
- MUS Eight credits of Music courses (except MUS 131, 132, 231 or 375), including applied music (private instruction) and musical ensembles

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.

V. Social Science Requirement

(*Students must complete three courses, with at least two from the same department.*)

To fulfill the Social Science requirement, complete a two-course sequence or pairing from any department listed below plus one additional course from a different department on the list. The third course must be one of the bulleted courses on this list. An indented course will not count as the third course unless otherwise noted.

Anthropology

ANT 105 Introduction to Anthropology *and* ANT 107 Introduction to Environmental Archaeology

Economics

- ECN 111, 112 Macro- *and* Microeconomics, *or*
- ECN 111 *or* 112, *plus any one of the following:*
ECN 117, 218, 219, 312, 317, 318, 320, 410, 411, 415 or 416

Note: Students planning to take one Economics course and two courses from another department may complete either ECN 111, 112, or 117 to satisfy the third course.

Education

- EDU 251, 252 Principles of Education *and* Educational Psychology

History

- HIS 111 Introduction to History, *plus any other History course or*
Any two of the following 200-level History courses:
- HIS 201 History of the United States I
- HIS 202 History of the United States II
- 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

Note: Students do not need to take the 200-level courses in any certain pair or sequence. Any combination of the 200-level History courses will satisfy the requirement.

Political Science

- POL 102, 104 American Government & Politics *and* Introduction to World Politics, *or*
- POL 102 *or* 104, American Government and Politics *or* Introduction to World Politics, *plus any 200- or 300-level POL course*

Psychology

- PSY 111, 112 General Psychology I *and* II, *or*
- PSY 111 *or* 112, *plus any one of the following:*
 - PSY 202 Lifespan Developmental Psychology
 - PSY 205 Drugs and Behavior
 - PSY 220 Human Sexuality

Sociology

- SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology, *plus any 200-level SOC course*