

LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES CORE CURRICULUM

Columbia College Chicago is committed to offering students educational opportunities in the arts, communications and public information within the context of an enlightened and comprehensive liberal education. The Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) Core Curriculum is comprised of those requirements that are shared by all students at the college, thus it seeks to foster a community of teachers and learners that is complementary to individual majors. This curriculum assists students in examining the world through the approaches and content of subject fields such as history, the humanities, languages, mathematics, the social sciences and the sciences, utilizing diverse approaches and lenses that create a broad palette of knowledge to inspire and contextualize students' work and prepare them to be productive and engaged citizens of our nation and our world.

LAS Core Objectives

Students should be able to:

- read for both comprehension and pleasure
- write as both a communicative and an expressive practice
- conduct research and as part of that process learn to measure, evaluate, and assess
- reflect on and appreciate human endeavor across cultures and eras
- consider and examine, historically and comparatively, human behavior, ethical issues, and social institutions
- reason scientifically and understand scientific methods
- understand and use basic mathematical concepts and skills
- utilize various tools of analysis to enable critical thinking
- express themselves orally in a clear and effective manner

The LAS Core Curriculum is distributed through four rubrics:

- I. **Foundations of Communication: Knowledge and Practices** – Students will read for comprehension, pleasure, and to develop their critical thinking abilities. They will learn to write clearly and effectively and demonstrate an understanding of academic formatting conventions. They will learn to speak clearly and effectively and will develop an informed perspective on the relationship between the liberal arts and sciences and the fields within the Fine, Performing and Media Arts.
- II. **Culture, Values and Ethics** – Students will become acquainted with the diversity of human behavior and the diversity of functions of social institutions. They will examine basic ethical questions that have confronted humankind as well as various approaches to these questions. They will develop textual literacies and awareness of literary issues by reading, analyzing and writing poetry, drama, fiction and non-fiction.

III. Historical Narratives and Civic Consciousness – Students will develop basic historical literacy concerning the historical periods they study, be exposed to research methodologies commonly employed by historians, and critically consider diverse sources and learn to use effective tools for arriving at conclusions and supporting various theses. Students will develop an appreciation for historiography and its profound effect on their ability to think critically about current events.

IV. The Physical and Material World – Students will understand and practice the scientific methods of questioning, analysis, testing and ‘proving.’ They will come to appreciate the cumulative nature of advances in scientific knowledge. They will develop computational literacy sufficient to function responsibly and effectively in society.

Students are required to:

- Take 24 hours of LAS Core credit by the attainment of 60 credit hours
- Take Comp I and Comp II by the attainment of 45 credit hours
- Take at least 6 hours of LAS Core credit at a level of 2000 or above
- Take one course that satisfies a Global Awareness requirement and one that satisfies a U.S. Pluralism requirement (appropriate courses are so designated)**
- Take 42 hours of LAS Core credit for the BA and 36 hours for the BFA as outlined below

Summary Outline

Area	Hours
Foundations of Communication: Knowledge and Practices	12 (9 for BFA)
New Millennium Studies: First Year Seminar	3
English Comp I and II	6
Oral Communication	3 (not required for BFA)
Culture Values and Ethics	15 (12 for BFA)*
Humanities	6
Literature	3
Social Sciences	6
Historical Narratives and Civic Consciousness	6
History	6

The Physical and Material World	9
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Science with lab component	3

*For the BFA, students take 12 hours under the rubric of Culture, Values and Ethics, three hours each in the humanities, social sciences and literature. The remaining three hours may be taken in either the humanities or the social sciences.

**Courses designated with Global Awareness credit are those whose content concentrates on areas outside of the United States. Those designated with U.S. Pluralism credit are those whose content concentrates on diverse communities in the United States.

The requirements above apply to all students admitted to the college as of fall semester 2005. All continuing students admitted prior to fall semester 2005 are held to the previous General Education requirements.

Senior Seminar will continue to be offered through August 2005. All seniors are required to take it. After August 2005 those students who are held to the previous General Education requirements will replace Senior Seminar with 3 hours of elective credit in LAS.

The current Freshman Seminar will continue through August 2005. Students are encouraged to take it.

New Millennium Studies: The First-Year Seminar will begin being offered in fall semester 2005. Twenty-five percent of each succeeding entering freshman class will take this seminar (e.g. 25% the first year, 50% the second year, etc.) for each of the next four years until all entering freshmen students are enrolled. Any entering freshman not enrolled in the seminar during the phase-in period will take 3 hours of elective credit in LAS.