

# Liberal Arts Core Requirements

The purpose of the Liberal Arts Core (LAC) is to actively engage students to become self-aware participants in their own personal development through thoughtful and informed decision making, promotion of life-long learning, enlarging the scope of their world to global issues and diverse cultures, and increasing their strategies for solving complex problems they will encounter in the future. For more information about the University of Northern Iowa Liberal Arts Core go to <http://www.lac.uni.edu>.

## I. Core Competencies 11 units

Courses in written and oral communication enhance students' abilities to read and listen critically and to write and speak effectively by attention to how the gathering, analyzing, and presenting of evidence and conclusions can be designed for specific purposes and audiences. Courses in quantitative techniques enhance students' abilities to use quantitative data effectively and to apply relevant mathematical and statistical concepts and methods to diverse problems and situations. Personal wellness promotes the acquisition of knowledge and the development of skills and attitudes necessary for implementing positive health-related decisions.

- 1A. Writing and Reading** (3 units required)  
ENGLISH 1005 College Writing and Research, 3 units  
ENGLISH 2015 Craft of Academic Writing, 3 units
  - ACT English and Reading scores of 27 or above, or consent of department.ENGLISH 2120 Critical Writing About Literature, 3 units
  - ACT English and Reading scores of 27 or above, or consent of department.UNIV 1000 First-Year Cornerstone: Integrated Communication I and UNIV 1010 First-Year Cornerstone: Integrated Communication II, 6 units  
Advisory: Students must successfully complete both courses in their first year of college, or they will not satisfy Category 1A and 1B.
- 1B. Speaking and Listening** (3 units required)  
COMM 1000 Oral Communication, 3 units  
UNIV 1000 First-Year Cornerstone: Integrated Communication I and UNIV 1010 First-Year Cornerstone: Integrated Communication II, 6 units  
Advisory: Students must successfully complete both courses in their first year of college, or they will not satisfy Category 1A and 1B.
- 1C. Quantitative Techniques and Understanding** (3 units required)  
Advisory: Students are expected to take the ALEKS placement exam before taking a math course, and should be placed in the recommended course for their major based on ALEKS placement score. Students who have not taken ALEKS should wait to enroll in a math course until after taking ALEKS.  
CS 1025 Modern Tools for Exploring Data, 3 units  
MATH 1100 Mathematics in Decision Making, 3 units
  - Must take ALEKS--no score requiredMATH 1420 Calculus I, 4 units
  - Requires ALEKS score of 76 or higherSTAT 1772 Introduction to Statistical Methods, 3 units
  - Requires ALEKS score of 50 or higherSTAT 1774 Introductory Statistics for Life Sciences, 3 units
  - Note: not offered regularly; contact Math department for appropriate ALEKS score.Advisory: Elementary Education students may meet the category 1C requirement by completing MATH 1204 Mathematical Reasoning for Teachers I.
- 1D. Dimensions of Wellbeing** (2 units required)  
Advisory: Students must complete one lecture and one lab.
- KAHHS 1020 Dimensions of Wellbeing – Lecture, 1 unit  
KAHHS 1030 Dimensions of Wellbeing – Lab, 1 unit

## II. Civilizations and Cultures 9 units

Courses in this category promote an understanding of Western and non-Western cultures and civilizations from ancient times to the present through historical accounts, literatures, philosophies, religions, and fine arts. Using methods of critical inquiry, students explore aspects of human nature, the shaping of thoughts and values, and their interrelations.

- 2A. Humanities** (6 units required)  
Advisory: Students must complete two Humanities courses.  
HUM 1021 Humanities I: Ancient, Classical, & Medieval, 3 units  
HUM 1022 Humanities II: Renaissance, Reformation & Enlightenment, 3 units  
HUM 1023 Humanities III: Age of Revolution to Present, 3 units
- 2B. Non-Western Cultures** (3 units required)  
Advisory: Students who transfer to UNI with an AA degree may still need to complete the LAC Category 2B requirement if they did not satisfy this category with a transferred course.  
HUM 3121 Russia/Soviet Union, 3 units  
HUM 3122 Japan, 3 units  
HUM 3123 Latin America, 3 units  
HUM 3124 China, 3 units  
HUM 3125 India, 3 units  
HUM 3127 Middle East, 3 units  
HUM 3128 Africa, 3 units  
HUM/ANTH 3132 Native North America, 3 units  
HUM/ANTH 3137 Native Central and South America, 3 units  
Advisory: SPAN 3020 Latin American Culture and Civilization may substitute for the Non-Western Cultures requirement.

## III. Fine Arts, Literature, Philosophy and Religion 6 units

Courses in this category explore diverse forms of human expression and enhance understanding of how religious, philosophical, literary, and aesthetic ideas and experiences shape and reflect cultures and common patterns of human life. Students will develop knowledge of the complex interplay of culture, history, and human experience through critical examination of ideas and beliefs, ritual and symbol, moral codes and social values, story and poetry, visual art, music, theater, and dance.

- 3A. Fine Arts** (3 units required)  
ART 1002 Visual Inventions, 3 units  
Advisory: ART 1002 is a hands-on studio course requiring additional studio time.  
ARTHIST 1004 Visual Perceptions, 3 units  
MUSIC 1100 Soundscapes: Music in Culture, 3 units  
PEMES 2034 Survey of Dance History, 3 units  
THEATRE 1002 The Theatrical Arts and Society, 3 units  
Advisory: THEATRE 1002 requires attending evening performances.  
Advisory: MUS HIST 1020 History of Music II: Baroque and Classical may substitute for the Fine Arts requirement for all music majors.  
Advisory: THEATRE 3060 History of Theatre I may substitute for the Fine Arts requirement for all theatre majors.  
Advisory: ARTHIST 1111 Survey of Art History I or ARTHIST 1222 Survey of Art History II may substitute for the Fine Arts requirement for all art and graphic design majors.
- 3B. Literature, Philosophy or Religion** (3 units required)  
ENGLISH 1120 Literature: (topic), 3 units  
GER 1120 Introduction to German Literature in Translation, 3 units  
PHIL 1020 Philosophy: The Art of Thinking, 3 units  
RELS 1020 Religions of the World, 3 units

## IV. Natural Science and Technology

7 units

Courses in natural science promote an understanding of science as a human process that investigates matter and energy acting within complex organic and inorganic systems. Fundamental principles of both physical and life sciences are included.

Advisory: Students are required to take a course with a scheduled laboratory from either LAC Category 4A: Life Sciences or 4B: Physical Sciences.

Advisory: Only 6 hours are required for students who meet the LAC laboratory requirement with a course other than the one listed in Life or Physical Sciences.

Advisory: A student who receives CLEP credit in BOTH the physical and biological sciences shall be considered to have fulfilled the laboratory requirements.

### 4A. Life Sciences (3 or 4 units required)

Advisory: For all courses listed under Life Sciences, with the exception of ANTH 1001 Human Origins, a student must have satisfied university entrance requirements in English and Mathematics.

ANTH 1001 Human Origins., 3 units

BIOL 1012 Life: The Natural World, 3 units

BIOL 1013\* Life: The Natural World – Lab, 1 unit

(Pre- or corequisite BIOL 1012)

BIOL 1014 Life: Continuity and Change, 3 units

BIOL 1015\* Life: Continuity and Change – Lab, 1 unit

(Pre- or corequisite BIOL 1014)

\*Lab course

Advisory: The following major and/or minor courses may substitute for the Life Sciences requirement: BIOL 1033\* Principles of Microbiology (4), BIOL 2051\* General Biology: Organismal Diversity (4), BIOL 2052\* General Biology: Cell Structure and Function (4), BIOL 3101\* Anatomy and Physiology I (4), and SCI ED 1200\* Inquiry into Life Science (4).

### 4B. Physical Sciences (3 or 4 units required)

Advisory: For all courses listed under Physical Sciences, with the exceptions of EARTHSCI 1110 Astronomy Laboratory, EARTHSCI 1210 Elements of Weather Laboratory, and TECH 1015 Introduction to Sustainability, a student must have satisfied university entrance requirements in English and Mathematics.

CHEM 1010\* Principles of Chemistry, 4 units

CHEM 1011 Molecules and Life, 3 units

EARTHSCI 1100 Astronomy, 3 units

EARTHSCI 1110\* Astronomy Lab, 1 unit

EARTHSCI 1200 Elements of Weather, 3 units

EARTHSCI 1210\* Elements of Weather Lab, 1 unit

(Intended for science teaching majors and minors)

EARTHSCI 1300\* Introduction to Geology, 4 units

GEOG 1210 Physical Geography, 3 units

GEOG 1211\* Physical Geography Laboratory, 1 unit

PHYSICS 1000 Physics in Everyday Life, 3 units

PHYSICS 1010\* Physics in Everyday Life Laboratory, 1 unit

TECH 1015 Introduction to Sustainability, 3 units

\*Lab course

Advisory: The following major/minor courses may substitute for the Physical Sciences requirement: CHEM 1020\* Chemical Technology (4), CHEM 1110\* General Chemistry I (4), CHEM 1130\* General Chemistry I-II (5), EARTHSCI 3328\* Fossils and Evolution (4), PHYSICS 1511\* General Physics I (4), PHYSICS 1701\* Physics I for Science and Engineering (4), SCI ED 1100\* Inquiry into Earth and Space Science (4), and SCI ED 1300\* Inquiry into Physical Science (4).

### Laboratory Requirement

#### Liberal Arts Core Administrative Policies

1. Liberal Arts Core courses may be used to satisfy requirements for both the Liberal Arts Core program and the major, minor, and program emphasis.
2. Departments offering a liberal arts core course may preclude their major or minor students from taking that particular course to satisfy the requirements for the liberal arts core, the major, or the minor.
3. Liberal Arts Core requirements can be met through CLEP examinations, departmental examinations and the Advanced Placement Program of the College Entrance Examination Board.
4. CLEP examinations do not include the mandatory laboratory course requirement. A student who receives CLEP credit in both the physical and biological sciences shall be considered to have fulfilled the laboratory requirement.
5. No Liberal Arts Core course may be taken for graduate credit.
6. No Liberal Arts Core course may have a non-Liberal Arts Core course as a prerequisite.
7. All courses taken to meet liberal arts core requirements must be taken for graded credit.
8. The Liberal Arts Core program requirements apply to all undergraduate degree programs. Note: Refer to the UNI Catalog for requirements for BAS degrees.

## V. Social Science

9 units

Courses in this category introduce students to the description and analysis of human behavior from different vantage points, ranging from the societal, cultural, and historical to the institutional and individual perspectives. There is also a focus on broadening one's understanding of diversity and global issues. In this category, students are exposed to a variety of social science disciplines, and learn how these fields study and analyze human attitudes, behaviors, and relationships.

Advisory: Students are required to complete one course from 5A, one course from 5B, and one course from 5C.

### 5A. Sociocultural and Historical Perspectives (3 units required)

ANTH 1002 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, 3 units

GEOG 1120 Human Geography, 3 units

HIST 1023 History of the United States, 3 units

SOC 1000 Introduction to Sociology, 3 units

WGS 1040 Women's and Gender Studies: Introduction, 3 units

### 5B. Individual and Institutional Perspectives (3 units required)

ECON 1031 Introduction to Economics, 3 units

Advisory: Satisfactory completion of both ECON 1041 Principles of Macroeconomics and ECON 1051 Principles of Microeconomics, through UNI or transfer, may substitute for ECON 1031 Introduction to Economics.

FAM SERV 1010 Human Identity and Relationships, 3 units

POL AMER 1014 Introduction to American Politics, 3 units

PSYCH 1001 Introduction to Psychology, 3 units

### 5C. Diversity and Global Issues (3 units required)

EDPSYCH 2030 Dynamics of Human Development, 3 units

GEOG 1110 World Geography, 3 units

POL GEN 1020 Contemporary Political Problems: (topic), 3 units

POL INTL 1024 International Relations, 3 units

SOC 1060 Social Problems, 3 units

SOC SCI 1020 Women, Men, and Society, 3 units

SW/SOC SCI 1041 Social Welfare: A World View, 3 units

SW 2045/SOC SCI 1045 American Racial & Ethnic Minorities, 3 units

## VI. Capstone Experience

2 units

Capstone courses provide opportunities for students to synthesize the diverse realms of thought they have studied and to apply the intellectual proficiencies they have acquired. The emphasis is on cultivating life-long learning through linking theory and academic preparation to practical problem-solving activities in multidisciplinary seminars or community-based learning courses.

Advisory: Junior standing is a prerequisite for all Capstone courses.

Advisory: The most current list of approved Liberal Arts Core Capstone courses is available in each semester's *Schedule of Classes*.

Advisory: The Capstone requirement must be fulfilled through UNI. No course from another institution will transfer to fulfill the Capstone requirement, regardless of equivalency.

Advisory: Students who transfer to UNI with an AA degree will still need to complete the LAC Category 6 requirement.