



General Catalog 2017-2018

Core Curriculum



Graduate



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CORE CURRICULUM

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THE SERVICE LEARNING DESIGNATION (SL)

Core Curriculum

Cura personalis — care for the whole person — is at the heart of our core curriculum. It's a principle that has guided our graduates' minds, bodies, and spirits for generations. The core curriculum, a collection of six required areas totaling 44 credits, is required for all undergraduate students pursuing a bachelor's degree.

Learning Outcomes

The following general learning goals guide the development of the curriculum. Students should:

- be able to speak and write effectively.
- be able to express ideas in an articulate and persuasive way.
- be able to understand a mathematical problem and design a solution.
- be exposed to a wide breadth of disciplines, as a foundation for a general liberal arts education.
- understand the process of seeking truth and disseminating knowledge.
- understand historical traditions.
- appreciate and be able to critically evaluate the arts.

understand the nature of society and the relationships between individuals and groups.

- understand the nature of the physical world, the uses of the scientific method, and the implications of technology.
- comprehend the variations of people's relationship with God and develop respect for the religious beliefs of others.
- understand the moral dimension of every significant human choice, taking seriously how and who we choose to be in the world.
- understand and value cultural and ethnic differences in a multicultural society and globalizing world.
- gain the skills and experiences necessary to link education to service.
- be exposed to opportunities to work for social justice.

Requirements

44 credits.

The University requirements for the baccalaureate degree include completion of the Core Curriculum.

Students must check with their advisors to determine which courses meet the requirements in each Area.

AREA A: FOUNDATIONS OF COMMUNICATION (8 CREDITS)

- Public Speaking (4 credits)
- Rhetoric and Composition (4 credits)*

*Minimum grade of C- or better

AREA B: MATH AND THE SCIENCES (8 CREDITS)

- Math or Quantitative Science (4 credits)
- Applied or Laboratory Science (4 credits)

AREA C: HUMANITIES (8 CREDITS)

- Literature (4 credits)
- History (4 credits)

AREA D: PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES, AND ETHICS (12 CREDITS)

- Philosophy (4 credits)
- Theology and Religious Studies (4 credits)

- Ethics (4 credits)

AREA E: SOCIAL SCIENCES (4 CREDITS)

- Social Sciences (4 credits)

AREA F: VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS (4 CREDITS)

- Visual and Performing Arts (4 credits)

SERVICE LEARNING AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to completing the Core Curriculum requirements, the baccalaureate degree candidate will have completed a minimum of two courses within the Core or within his/her major that integrate two mission-driven characteristics:

1. Service Learning and Cultural Diversity. These requirements may be met by completing course sections designated as "SL" and "CD". Courses that integrate service learning as well as courses that meet the Cultural Diversity designation are offered across disciplines and schools.
2. The Cultural Diversity Requirement will be met by

courses that promote understanding and appreciation of the richness and diversity of human culture. The Service Learning Requirement will be met by courses that integrate a form of community/public service into the academic undergraduate learning experience.

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Foreign Language Requirement

Requirements

Requirements vary by college or school. Students must pass each language course with a minimum grade of C- to move up to the next course level.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

- Bachelor of Arts: three consecutive semesters of the same language
- Bachelor of Science: two consecutive semesters of the same language

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Only students completing the Bachelor of Science in International Business have a language requirement:

three consecutive semesters of the same language.

SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH PROFESSIONS

No language requirement.

ADDITIONAL STUDY

Specific [majors and minors](#) may also require additional semesters of language study. Please check with the appropriate department or your academic adviser.

DOUBLE MAJORS

If there is a difference between the requirements of the two majors, students need to fulfill the higher requirement. A student majoring in science and arts is required to complete three consecutive semesters of the same language.

Courses to Fulfill Foreign Language Requirement

Review the [list of language classes](#) the department offers which allow students to fulfill their foreign language requirement.

LEARN MORE 

Waiver of Foreign Language

Requirement

Exemption from the foreign language requirement may be obtained through establishment of equivalent proficiency in the following ways.

1. AP Language Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Exam Credits

Exam

Students who scored a 4 or 5 on the AP language exam are automatically exempted from the Third-Semester language class (201) and, therefore, fulfill the foreign language requirement. They will also receive 8 units of foreign language credit.

AP Literature Exam

Students who scored a 4 or 5 on the AP literature exam are automatically exempted from the Fourth-Semester (202) and, therefore, fulfill the foreign language requirement. They will also receive 8 units of foreign language credit.

International Baccalaureate Exam

Students who scored 4-7 in the higher level exam are automatically exempted from the Third-Semester class (201) and, therefore, fulfill the language requirement. They will also receive 8 units of foreign language credit.

If students who plan to continue studying language beyond the foreign language requirement at USF, please contact the

2. Transferring Language Credits

USF generally accepts all college-level courses completed at regionally accredited institutions for transfer. Once the official transcript has been processed, students should check Degree Evaluation to see whether the requirement is fulfilled. If not, they can take the next level of class they are eligible for or contact the department to ensure you enroll in the right class.

3. Taking the Foreign Language Placement Test

Students who are fluent in a foreign language can choose to test out of the foreign language requirement by taking the **Foreign Language Placement Test**, which we offer online in Chinese, Filipino, French, German, Japanese and Spanish, or schedule individual proficiency interviews with faculty in other languages.

Students can only take the online placement test once for a given language. Multiple attempts for the same language are disallowed, as only the first score will be recorded.

Students who test higher than the pre-determined cutoff score are required to contact the department to schedule individual interviews with

our faculty to confirm proficiency in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

4. Non-Native Speakers of English: Evidence of foreign language proficiency

If students originally came from a country where a language other than English is spoken and have studied up to eighth grade or higher in an educational setting where the language of instruction is not English, they may apply for waiver of foreign language requirement by providing transcripts for completed classes, following the waiver request process.

If students do not have any transcripts, and the language they speak is offered at USF, they must take the **Foreign Language Placement Test** to demonstrate evidence of proficiency. A follow-up proficiency interview will be arranged with the faculty in the department.

If the language students speak is not offered at USF, the department will make reasonable efforts to arrange proficiency testing and review evidence of proficiency.

Submitting Foreign Language

Waiver Requests

1. Take the **foreign language placement test** in the language you would like to waive;
2. Complete the **foreign language waiver request form**;
3. Contact the **department** to schedule individual interviews or provide evidence of proficiency.

If you wish to apply for a waiver in a language which does not have a placement exam, please skip Step 1 and go directly to Step 2 and 3.

- **CONTACT INFO**

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FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

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The Cultural Diversity Designation (CD)

The CD designation will also be assigned by the College Curriculum Committees. Courses with the CD designation must develop the capacities listed below.

Students will:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the factors that create diversity in human societies, including, for example, gender, race, class, and ethnicity.
- Understand the relationships among diversity, inequality, and justice.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the effects of global interdependence on contemporary societies, for example, the role of migration and immigration, economic, political, and cultural globalization on contemporary societies.

- Demonstrate familiarity with the historical contributions of traditionally marginalized groups to contemporary ideas, values and culture.

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The Service Learning Designation (SL)

For courses across the curriculum to receive the Service Learning Designation (SL), the course must be approved as meeting the service learning criteria outlined below. The College Curriculum Committees will determine whether or not a course receives the designation through normal college curriculum procedures.

The integration of service learning into a course has five key components:

1. Service activities are mandatory.
2. Clear connections exist between service activities and the academic discipline.
3. Service activities benefit the client or community in a meaningful way.

4. Students engage in a carefully articulated reflection process around the service, the discipline, and themselves; and
5. Faculty assess the student learning outcomes of the service experience.

Note: Course sections with an SL designation meet the graduation requirement for a service learning course experience. SL-designated courses are specifically directed to meet mission identity in curricular structure, as articulated in the Core Curriculum. Service learning activity may vary by course and discipline. The average across the nation is 20-25 hours of service per 15-week semester.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Discover how to apply and extend what is learned in the classroom while addressing the needs and issues of the community agency that hosts the service learning experience.
- Analyze their own beliefs, values, assumptions and identities while learning about the beliefs, voices and values of others.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the extent to which all individuals share the need to be ethically engaged in furthering the welfare of their communities.

- Demonstrate the ability to properly identify the demographic characteristics, socio-cultural dynamics, needs and strengths of a group or community
- Reflect on the personal and academic impact of their experiences with a community or agency.
- Demonstrate learning from multiple sources of knowledge and an appreciation for the reciprocity between scholarly knowledge and community action.
- Think critically and act compassionately as they promote social justice.