Liberal Arts Core

The Liberal Arts Core requirements are a set of principles that flexibly guide students to select courses and serve to define the common structural core of a liberal arts education at Syracuse. They were devised and adopted by the faculty of the college. They assure that each student's course of study includes the most important features of an education in the liberal arts. There are three fundamental parts to the Liberal Arts Core requirements: I. Liberal Skills; II. Divisional Perspective; and III. Critical Reflections.

I. Liberal Skills

The Liberal Skills Requirement asks each student to further develop fundamental intellectual skills of effective writing and gives the student a choice of whether to satisfy a requirement in second language skills or quantitative skills.

Writing Skills (3 courses)

Students are required to complete the following:

The first of these courses is chosen from Writing Studio 1: Practices of Academic Writing (WRT 105 or WRT 109) or First Year Seminar (CAS 100) or Composition for Non-Native Speakers of English (ENL 211).

During the second year, students will take the higher level Writing Studio 2: Critical Research and Writing (WRT 205 or WRT 209) or Advanced Academic Writing and Research for Non-Native Speakers of English (ENL 213).

Before WRT 205 (or WRT 209) or ENL 213 is taken, students will take a Writing-Intensive course (list below) in a subject matter other than writing, a course that has been specially designed to give attention to developing writing ability while studying another subject matter

The remainder of the Liberal Skills requirement includes either the **Language Skills or Quantitative Skills** requirement which gives students the option of demonstrating a university-level competence in either

- a language other than English, or
- the use of quantitative methods to understand and solve problems.

The Language Skills Requirement

Students satisfy the Language Skills option of the Liberal Skills Requirement by demonstrating that they have achieved a certain level of competence in a language other than English by either:

1. completing a 4-credit language course numbered 201, or a 3- or 4-credit language course numbered 202 or higher (see Advanced Language Work under Exemptions and Alternatives on page 14); or

2. satisfying one of the requirements listed under "Exemptions and Alternatives."

Beginners can complete the language requirement with a sequence of three 4-credit courses numbered 101, 102, and 201. Each of these courses includes four hours of class and two hours of independent laboratory work in a computer or audio/visual cluster weekly.

Courses numbered 101, 102, and 201 are available on a regular basis in Ancient Greek, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi/Urdu, Italian, Japanese, Kiswahili, Korean, Latin, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.

EXEMPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

The following options are also available to fulfill the requirement.

Advanced Placement. Students who receive 4 credits in French or Spanish Literature by the CEEB Advanced Placement examination thereby demonstrate a competency equivalent to Syracuse University language courses numbered 201. Such students thereby satisfy the Language Skills Requirement. Students who score a four in the following examinations thereby demonstrate a competency equivalent to Syracuse University language courses numbered 201 and satisfy the Language Skills Requirement: Chinese Language and Culture; Japanese Language and Culture, Latin, Spanish Literature .

Demonstrated Competence. Students who successfully complete an approved examination testing aural, reading, and composition skills meet the requirement. Petitions for an examination should be submitted to the language coordinator.

Advanced Language Work. One may fulfill the requirement by completing with a grade of C or better any 3- or 4-credit course taught in a language other than English numbered 202 or above offered by the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics.

International Students. Students whose native language is not English may petition to have the language requirement fulfilled by their knowledge of their natural language.

Study Abroad. Programs of Syracuse University Abroad (SUA) in Chile, China, France, India, Italy, and Spain offer the same courses that are available on campus for satisfying the language requirement.

Transfer Credit. Transfer credit for foreign language courses will not be considered for approval until it has been evaluated by the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics at Syracuse University to determine the appropriate course equivalent. Credit will be considered for acceptance by the College if taken at an accredited institution.

The Quantitative Skills Requirement

A student may satisfy the Quantitative Skills option of the Liberal Skills Requirement by successfully completing a **First Course** and a different **Second Course** drawn from the lists below. When planning a program, be aware that many courses in the second course list have prerequisite courses. Some courses appear on both lists.

Any student who completes a calculus course numbered 284 or higher with a grade of C or better is thereby exempt from the need to take an additional course to complete the Quantitative Skills Requirement. Calculus courses numbered 285 or higher may simultaneously be used to partially satisfy the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Divisional Requirement. MAT 284 cannot be used to meet both the Quantitative Skills Requirement and the Natural Science and Mathematics Divisional Requirements. It can only be used to meet one of these requirements.

Consult the course descriptions for information on when credit for certain mathematic courses is disallowed.

First Course:

MAT 121 Probability and Statistics for the Liberal Arts I

MAT 183 Elements of Modern Mathematics

MAT 193 Algebra-Infused Precalculus (to be followed by MAT 285 or MAT 295)

MAT 194 Precalculus (to be followed by MAT 285 or MAT 295)

MAT 221 Elementary Probability and Statistics I

MAT 285 Life Sciences Calculus I, *or*

MAT 295 Calculus I

STT 101 Introduction to Statistics

Second Course: ***(Note: Some of these courses have prerequisites)***

GEO 386 Quantitative Geographical Analysis

MAT 122 Probability and Statistics for the Liberal Arts II

MAT 222 Elementary Probability and Statistics II

MAT 284 Business Calculus

MAT 285 Life Sciences Calculus I, *or*

MAT 295 Calculus I

MAT 286 Life Sciences Calculus II, *or*

MAT 296 Calculus II

MAX 201 Quantitative Methods for the Social Sciences

PSY 252 Statistical Methods II

*SWK 361 Foundations of Social Work Research

*Apply as Non-Arts & Sciences credit

Many students will satisfy the Quantitative Skills Requirement by taking a pair of statistics courses. Both MAT 121 and STT 101 provide introductions to statistics with emphasis on the analysis of real data sets. They do not assume any prerequisite mathematical preparation, although in MAT 121 it is desirable that students have a reasonable level of competence in high school algebra. Students who complete MAT 121 may satisfy the Quantitative Skills Requirement by choosing from among MAT 122 (the continuation of MAT 121), MAX 201 (an introduction to quantitative analysis in the study of public affairs), and SWK 361 (an introduction to quantitative methods in social work). Note that MAT 121 is a prerequisite for MAT 122.

Only students who have mastered high school algebra should contemplate any of the remaining options for satisfying the quantitative skills requirement.

II. Divisional Perspective

1. A student must take four 3- or 4-credit courses in each of the three curricular divisions of the College of Arts and Sciences: the Humanities, the Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and the Social Sciences divisions.
2. In each division, two of the courses must constitute an approved sequence.
3. Of the twelve courses used to satisfy the divisional requirement, no more than three courses may be taken from a single department or program (even if the courses of the department or program are in more than one division), with the exception of 3-credit HNR courses offered by the Renée Crown University Program. Any course cross listed is considered to belong to each of the departments in the cross listing. Therefore it counts as one of the maximum of three allowed from a single department to fulfill the divisional

distributional requirement. Experience Credit and Independent Study credit cannot be used to satisfy the Divisional Perspective Requirement.

4. In each division, no more than one course may be selected from schools and colleges outside the College of Arts and Sciences.
5. In the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Division, at least one laboratory course must be included.

III. Courses for the Critical Reflections Requirement

Students are required to take two courses from the list provided on the College of Arts and Sciences web site. These courses may be simultaneously used to partially satisfy other liberal arts core requirements or requirements for majors and minors.

Transfer credit is not accepted for Critical Reflections requirements except when defined in articulation agreements.

Liberal Skills Requirement

- Writing Intensive Requirement

Divisional Perspective Requirement

- Humanities Division
- Natural Sciences and Mathematics Division
- Social Sciences Division

Critical Reflections Requirement

- Critical Reflections on Ethical and Social Issues Requirement