

## Revised Liberal Studies Curriculum (approved May 2009)

### Liberal Studies

All undergraduate students must fulfill the requirements of the university's Liberal Studies program. This involves a minimum of 49 credits divided among Learning Skills, Knowledge Areas and Capstone. The number of credits may increase or decrease depending on student choices. Different colleges and sometimes departments within colleges may have specific variations as to how these Liberal Studies requirements are to be met.

Liberal Studies provides the broad vision and understanding that enable individuals to enjoy full, rich lives and to play constructive roles in their communities. IUP's Liberal Studies curriculum is designed to meet Indiana University of Pennsylvania's *Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes* as outlined below:

1. **Informed Learners understand nature and society through forms of inquiry fundamental to the sciences, the humanities, and the arts. Learners are informed by knowledge and ways of knowing that extend beyond core concepts enabling them to link theory and practice.**

Informed Learners demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the ways of modeling the natural, social and technical worlds
- the aesthetic facets of human experience
- the past and present from historical, philosophical and social perspectives
- the human imagination, expression and traditions of many cultures
- the interrelationships within and across cultures and global communities
- the interrelationships within and across disciplines

2. **Empowered Learners are critical thinkers who demonstrate intellectual agility and creativity and the ability to manage or create change. They are able to derive meaning from experience and observation. They communicate well in diverse settings and employ various strategies to solve problems. They are empowered through mastery of intellectual and practical skills.**

Empowered Learners demonstrate:

- effective oral and written communication abilities
- ease with textual, visual and electronically-mediated literacies
- problem solving skills using a variety of methods and tools
- information literacy skills including the ability to access, evaluate, interpret and use information from a variety of sources
- the ability to transform information into knowledge and knowledge into judgment and action
- the ability to work within complex systems and with diverse groups
- critical thinking skills including analysis, application and evaluation
- reflective thinking and the ability to synthesize information and ideas

3. **Responsible Learners are engaged citizens of a diverse democratic society who have a deep sense of social responsibility and ethical judgment. They are responsible for their personal actions and civic values.**

Responsible Learners demonstrate:

- intellectual honesty
- concern for social justice
- civic engagement
- an understanding of the ethical and behavioral consequences of decisions and actions on themselves, on society and on the physical world
- an understanding of themselves and a respect for the identities, histories, and cultures of others

## Liberal Studies Requirements

The Liberal Studies program consists of Learning Skills, Knowledge Areas, Capstone and Competency-Across-the-Curriculum requirements.

**Note:** Specific courses may be required or recommended by colleges or major departments; see degree program outlines for specifications. In order to meet Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) mandates, exceptions to the Liberal Studies requirements for Teacher Education majors will be necessary.

### LEARNING SKILLS

21-22cr

First Year Seminar	3 (1)
English Composition I and II	6
Mathematics	3-4
Dimensions of Wellness	3 (2)
Global and Multicultural Awareness	3 (3)
Oral or Technical Communication	3 (4)

### KNOWLEDGE AREAS

28-29cr

#### Humanities

9cr

One course in history, one in literature and one in philosophy or religious studies.

#### Fine Arts: One Course from List

3cr

#### Natural Science: Choose 1 Option

7-8cr

#### Option I (8 credits): Two-semester Laboratory Course Sequence

Any two courses with laboratories (4cr each) from the natural science laboratory course list.

#### Option II (7 credits): One Laboratory plus One Non-laboratory Courses

One course with a laboratory (4cr) from the natural science laboratory course list and one course (3cr) from the natural science non-laboratory course list.

#### Social Science: Three Courses from List

9cr

### CAPSTONE

0-3cr (5)

### TOTAL

49-54cr

- (1) Students may fulfill the First Year Seminar requirement by completing a total of three credits from the menu of First Year Seminar courses that includes one, two and three credit courses.
- (2) Students may fulfill the Dimensions of Wellness requirement by completing a total of three credits from the menu of Dimensions of Wellness courses that includes one, two and three credit courses.
- (3) Students may fulfill the Global and Multicultural Awareness requirement by completing one course from a menu of approved Global and Multicultural Awareness courses. This requirement may also be fulfilled by completing an approved foreign language course. Students who complete an approved study abroad program or pass an appropriate foreign language proficiency test will be considered to have met this requirement.
- (4) This requirement may be fulfilled by completing an approved Oral or Technical Communication course.
- (5) All students must fulfill this requirement by completing an approved Capstone course – either an interdisciplinary course outside the major or a major’s course that has been approved as a Capstone option. The credits for the capstone requirement may be counted either in the Liberal Studies section or in the major’s section, but the requirement is considered to have been met if an LS approved major’s capstone

course is completed. In order to apply zero credits to Liberal Studies for the Capstone requirement students must complete the capstone course in the major.

### **COMPETENCY-ACROSS-THE-CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

Students must also complete courses that fulfill six specified competencies. These may be completed in any part of the student's curriculum with exceptions explained below.

1. Global Citizenship (1 course)
2. Information Literacy (1 course)
3. Oral Communication (1 course)
4. Quantitative Reasoning (1 course)
5. Scientific Literacy (1 course)
6. Written Communication (2 courses)

The Competency-Across-the-Curriculum (CAC) Requirements may be completed in any part of the student's curriculum, including major courses, Liberal Studies courses and/or electives with the following exceptions:

1. the Mathematics course taken to fulfill the Learning Skills requirement does not also fulfill the Quantitative Reasoning CAC.
2. the English Composition courses taken to fulfill the Learning Skills requirements do not also fulfill the Written Communication CAC. At least one Written Communication CAC course must be accomplished in the student's primary major.
3. the Global and Multicultural Awareness course taken to fulfill the Learning Skills requirement does not also fulfill the Global Citizenship CAC.
4. the Oral Communication course taken to fulfill the Learning Skills requirement does not also fulfill the Oral Communication CAC.
5. the Technical Communication course taken to fulfill the Learning Skills requirement does not also fulfill the Information Literacy CAC.
6. the Natural Science courses taken to fulfill the Knowledge Areas requirement do not also fulfill the Scientific Literacy CAC.