Core Curriculum with Goals, Objectives, and Learning Outcomes

Core Curriculum (32-41 hours)

Mission:

The purpose of the Core Curriculum is to provide an educational foundation in the liberal arts tradition that promotes inquiry, creativity, and critical thinking.

The Core Curriculum provides opportunities for students to develop skills in the following: critical thinking and reasoning, written and oral communication, and quantitative and information literacy.

The Core Curriculum provides opportunities for students to apply the above mentioned skills in the practice of the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts in the context of global and diverse cultural perspectives.
I. Core Skills (13-21 hours)

Goal: The Core Curriculum seeks to develop skills in reasoning, reading, writing, and quantifying, as well as a variety of information and communication skills.

Objective: Students will utilize these skills in order to understand, question, revise, and generate knowledge.

A. Critical thinking and reasoning (3 hours)
   Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:
   1. identify arguments
   2. evaluate arguments through reasoning
   3. formulate arguments for a thesis

B. Critical Reading, Writing, and Information Literacy (4-8 hours)
   Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:
   1. read for comprehension
   2. write for a specific audience and purpose, employing discipline-specific language
   3. locate, evaluate, and apply information appropriate to a specific audience and purpose

C. Communication Across Cultures (3-6 hours)
   Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:
   1. apply foreign language skills consistent with the level of study
   2. identify cultural perspectives through language study

D. Quantitative Literacy (3-4 hours)
   Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:
   1. interpret quantitative results in context
   2. apply mathematical and/or statistical concepts to solve problems

II. Core Concepts (19-20 hours)

Goal: The Core Curriculum seeks to introduce students to methods of inquiry and practice within and across disciplines, including scientific concepts and the practice of scientific inquiry, individual and social human behavior, and humanistic thought and expression from a national and global perspective.

All students are required to take one course in Scientific Concepts, two courses with different prefixes in Human and Social Behavior, and two courses with different prefixes in Humanistic Thought and Expression. In addition, students must take one additional course from any one of the concept areas.
A. Scientific Concepts (4 hours)

Objective: Students will recognize scientific evidence and apply the basic principles of scientific inquiry.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

1. apply the methods of scientific inquiry
2. analyze evidence using scientific methods

B. Human and Social Behavior (6 hours)

Objective: Students will recognize a variety of social perspectives and contexts, and identify connections among individual and group behaviors within and across cultures.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

1. apply methods of inquiry to investigate social behavior
2. analyze and illustrate the connections among individual and group behaviors

C. Humanistic Thought and Expression (6 hours)

Objective: Students will recognize, identify, and engage with a variety of perspectives and concepts in the humanities and the arts, and evaluate forms of human expression within and across cultures.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

1. apply methods of inquiry in the humanities and arts
2. critically interpret forms of human and artistic expression

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