The undergraduate curriculum is composed of two parts. The General Education Program is broad in scope, requiring study in several areas. It affords an introduction to some of the major areas of human knowledge and endeavor, and lays the foundation for continued study and for the student’s contribution to society. In addition, the various undergraduate degree programs call for more specialized study that deepens the learning that shapes the minds and spirits of tomorrow's leaders. As a community of learning, Mercer is a student-centered university, committed to the Baptist heritage in higher education. Together, the schools and colleges at Mercer seek to prepare students to be innovators in the realms of teaching, learning, research, scholarship and service.

General Education

Mercer University’s founding vision, articulated by Jesse Mercer in the 1830s, dedicates us to promote free inquiry, religious liberty, and inclusiveness -- values consonant with Baptist heritage. University President William D. Underwood underscored that vision in 2006, noting that “...the extent to which a university transforms the lives of individual students, who in turn transform their communities, represents the ultimate measure of a university’s greatness.” To put this transformative vision into practice within the communities we serve, a Mercer University education emphasizes experiences that infuse intellectual growth, cultural understanding, civic responsibility, and moral discernment with practical competencies.

The distinctiveness of their programs and traditions notwithstanding, Mercer University’s undergraduate colleges and schools share learning goals and competencies that reflect Mercer’s mission to educate the whole person. These undergird the General Education Curricula, which provide the necessary foundation for disciplined study and lifelong learning.

General Education is designed to help students cultivate and refine habits of mind that prepare them to contribute constructively and meaningfully to society. Toward this end, General Education strives to instill in persons broader perspectives while empowering them to find fuller and richer citizenship in a world in which different cultures, social institutions, and technologies intersect in multiple and diverse ways.

Four Student Goals of General Education

A Mercer education is designed to foster intellectual growth, cultural understanding, civic responsibility, and moral discernment. Critical thinking is essential to attaining these goals and is demonstrated in and through the exercise and development of the following practical competencies:

- Communicating effectively in writing
- Communicating effectively orally
- Reasoning quantitatively
- Analyzing observed phenomena through the use of scientific reasoning
- Reasoning from diverse perspectives
- Acting perceptively and responsibly

In accordance with the university’s accrediting body and in collaboration with the faculty of the colleges and schools, these competencies are built through satisfactory completion of the following requirements.

Requirements of General Education

General Education core requirements must include at least one course (3 credit hours) in each of the six broad categories listed below, and sum to at least 30 hours. Each school/college may select its own general education requirements from among the list of approved courses in each category and may choose to require more than the minimum number of hours
and courses. Individual schools/colleges may also include additional college core requirements. Students should consult the requirements of their respective college to determine which courses are needed for graduation.

Communication (both written and oral communication competencies in English must be addressed):

Written Communication: GBK 101; GBK 202; GBK 203; INT 101; INT 201; LBST 175; LBST 180; TCO 141; WRT 120;
Oral Communication: COM 210; COMM 171; GBK 304; INT 301; TCO 141
Other Communication: ENGL 300; any foreign language; INSY 102; LBST 275; LBST 280

Religion
CHR 101; CHR 150; CHR 170; ENG 225; GBK 203; HIS 160; PHI 240; RELG 110; RELG/LITR 115; RELG 120; RELG 130; RELG 215; RELG 220; RELG 225; RELG/WGST 320; RELG/SOCI 356;

Humanities/Fine Arts
Humanities: CHR 210; CHR 270; CLA 101; CLA 102; COMM 251; ENG 224; ENG 226; ENG 233; ENG 234; ENG 235; ENG 237; ENG 263; ENG 264; GBK 202; GBK 305; FLL 195; HIS 110; HIS 145; HIS 165; HIS 176; HIST 101; HIST 102; HIST 200; HIST 201; HIST 202; HIST 210; HIST 220; HIST 366; HIST 367; HIST 368; JMS 220; JMS 225; JMS 230; LITR/RELG 115; LITR 207; LITR 247; LITR 277; LITR 334; PHI 176; PHI 190; PHIL 215; PHI 230; PHI 260; PHI 265; PHI 269; POL 176; SCLT 201; SOCI/RELG 356; WLT 101;
Fine Arts: ART 106; ART 107; ART 108; ART 115; ART 116; ART 223; ART 224; ART 225; ART 226; ART 254; ARTH 101; COMM 104; COMM 205; LBST 250; LBST 255; MUS 151; MUSC 150; PHO 230; THR 115; THR 218; (3 credit hours may also be selected from the 1-hour music ensembles to meet this requirement: MUS 182; MUS 183; MUS 191; MUS 192; MUS 197; MUS 198)

Behavioral/Social Science
AFR 190; AFR 210; ANT 101; COM 230; COM 250; ECN 150; ECN 151; ENV 250; GBK 407;
GEO 111; GHS 200; JMS 101; JMS 240; ORGL 210; PHI 237; POL 101; POL/IAF 253; PSY 101; PSYC 111; SEP 200;
SOC 101; SOC 210; SOCI 111; WGS 180; WGST 210

Quantitative Reasoning
CSC 204; MAT 104; MAT 133; MAT 141; MAT 191; MAT 192; MATH 129; MATH 130; MATH 140;
MATH 160; MATH 220; PHI 180; STA 126

Scientific Reasoning (including a lab)
BIO 102; BIO 110; BIO 202; BIOL 101; BIOL 105; CHM 110; CHM 111; CHM 112; ENB 150; ENV 105; ENV 110; ENVS 210; ENVS 215; PHY 102; PHY 105; PHY 108; PHY 109; PHY 115; PHY 141; PHY 142; PHY 161; PHY 162; PHYS 106;
PHYS 220; PHYS 225; SCIE 100; SCIE 215; SCIE 220; SCIE 250

Note: Any cross-listed course taken to fulfill the requirements of one category cannot also be used for a second category.

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