

---

# General Education

---

<http://gened.uncc.edu>

The General Education program is central to UNC Charlotte's basic mission of providing all of its undergraduates with a liberal arts education. The program approaches the liberal arts in its traditional meaning of learning the arts appropriate for living the educated, responsible life of a free (*liberālis*) citizen. It provides all undergraduate students, regardless of their majors, with the foundations of the liberal education they will need to be informed people who have the ability to act thoughtfully in society, the ability to make critical judgments, and the ability to enjoy a life dedicated to learning and the pleasures of intellectual and artistic pursuits.

The General Education program is designed to develop both the broad and integrative knowledge and the critical competencies and skills that are expected of a college graduate. However, students will develop both knowledge and skills throughout their college experience and not just in general education courses. For this reason, students are encouraged to intentionally choose the particular courses they take to fulfill the General Education requirements to explore areas of interest or develop capacities. In particular, students should carefully consider the relationship between requirements for their major and general education since some overlap is possible. For this reason, **students should consult with their advisor when choosing General Education classes.**

The General Education Program is administered by University College but individual courses are taught by faculty from all of the colleges. Thus, requests for exceptions to any aspects of the General Education requirements for individual students must be approved by the Dean of University College, but matters relating to the course itself need to be addressed by the department and college offering the course.

---

## I. Development of Fundamental Skills of Inquiry (9-10 hours)

### Writing and Inquiry

Students take one course, UWRT 1103 (3 credits) or UWRT 1104 (4 credits). Most students will take UWRT 1104. Eligibility for placement into UWRT 1103 is determined by a student's prior academic record. After completing these courses students are expected to be able to write clearly and concisely in standard English and to be generally prepared to do college-level writing and research. Transfer students may have credit for other UWRT courses that will satisfy this requirement.

### Mathematical and Logical Reasoning

One three-credit course in mathematics (MATH) and a second three-credit course selected from mathematics (MATH), statistics (STAT), deductive logic (PHIL 2105) or computer science principles (ITSC 1110) are required. Most undergraduates at UNC Charlotte major in programs that require mathematics or statistics as related work. For these students, the related mathematics requirements determine the courses taken to meet the General Education requirement.

### Basic Skills of Information Technology

Incoming students are expected to have already developed the basic computer skills necessary to use word processing software, email, and the internet. By the end of their first year at UNC Charlotte, students are expected to have developed the basic skills necessary to find and evaluate information from the internet and bibliographic and database sources in Atkins Library. These skills are developed in UWRT 1103 or UWRT 1104, and help with bibliographical and database search skills is available in the information commons of the Library.

---

## II. Inquiry in the Sciences (10 hours)

### Two Courses in the Natural Sciences, at least one of which must be taken with a laboratory

These courses introduce students to the methods of various science disciplines. They provide an understanding of the current scientific knowledge of the world, how that knowledge is secured, and how scientific knowledge changes over time. Selected from:

Astronomy (PHYS 1130)  
Bioinformatics (BINF 1101)  
Biological Anthropology (ANTH 2141)

Biology (BIOL 1110, 1115)  
Chemistry (CHEM 1111, 1112, 1200, 1203, 1204, 1251, 1252)  
Earth Sciences (ESCI 1101)  
E-Science (ITIS 1350)  
Geography (GEOG 1103)  
Geology (GEOL 1200, 1210)  
Kinesiology (KNES 2168, 2169)  
Meteorology (METR 1102)  
Physics (PHYS 1100, 1101, 1102, 1201, 1202, 1203, 2101, 2102)  
Psychology (PSYC 1101)

### **One Course in the Social Sciences**

These courses introduce students to the methods of the social sciences and to the applications of these methods for gaining a scientific understanding of the social world. Selected from:

Anthropology (ANTH 1101)  
Economics (ECON 1101, 2101, 2102)  
Geography (GEOG 1105)  
Political Science (POLS 1110)  
Sociology (SOCY 1101)

---

## **III. Themes of Liberal Education for Private and Public Life (12 hours)**

The UNC Charlotte faculty has developed a set of Liberal Studies (LBST) courses dedicated exclusively to General Education that address core areas of knowledge and critical competencies. Despite the fact that topics vary, and courses are offered from various departments, LBST courses may not be repeated for credit.

Each student must take a total of four (4) LBST courses

### **ONE 1000-level LBST course in Arts and Society (LBST 110X)**

Art is indispensable to the structure and fabric of all societies, and each course examines this fundamental connection from the perspective of a specific art form. Selected from:

- LBST 1101 The Arts and Society: Dance
- LBST 1102 The Arts and Society: Film
- LBST 1103 The Arts and Society: Music
- LBST 1104 The Arts and Society: Theater
- LBST 1105 The Arts and Society: Visual Arts

### **THREE 2000-level courses chosen from the following**

- **LBST 2101** -- Western Cultural and Historical Awareness

Each section of this course examines a major aspect of Western culture through the process of analyzing the present in terms of the past.

- **LBST 2102** -- Global and Intercultural Connections

All liberally educated people need to have the ability to understand the world from the point of view of more than one culture and be able to analyze issues from a global perspective.

- **LBST 221X** -- Ethical Issues and Cultural Critique

Each of these courses deals with an important contemporary issue, and each one gives significant attention to ethical analysis and cultural critique in the liberal arts. Selected from:

- LBST 2211 Ethical Issues in Personal, Professional, and Public Life
- LBST 2212 Literature and Culture
- LBST 2213 Science, Technology, and Society
- LBST 2214 Issues of Health and Quality of Life
- LBST 2215 Citizenship (3)

- **LBST 2301 – Critical Thinking and Communication**

Each section of this course will continue to develop critical thinking and communication competencies begun in UWRT 1103 or UWRT 1104. Topics vary between sections.

---

## **IV. Critical Thinking and Communication (0-3 Hours)**

Critical thinking and communication skills are recognized as core competencies for students earning a baccalaureate degree, regardless of major. While students continue to develop these skills in advanced courses in their major, the general education program provides an important foundation.

Each student must take **ONE** general education course that carries the Critical Thinking and Communication (CTC) attribute.

- **MOST** students will meet this requirement by selecting LBST 2301 as one of their 2000-level LBST options. LBST 2301 is the only course offered at UNC Charlotte that carries the CTC attribute. Students will choose this course and any two of the other 2000-level LBST options.
- **SOME** transfer students may have taken courses at a previous institution that satisfy this requirement. This transfer equivalency is shown on the advising transcript and the Degree Works audit. (Students may consult an advisor if in doubt but the Degree Works audit is definitive.) Students with transfer credit for this requirement **WILL NOT** take LBST 2301.

---

## **V. Advanced Communication Skills (6-9 Hours)**

### **Writing in the Disciplines (W)**

Six semester hours, including at least three semester hours in the major. These courses are spread throughout the curriculum and are indicated with a (W) after the course title. These courses assume that students have already developed the basic grammatical and compositional skills needed to write college-level English, and they build on these skills to develop writing strategies appropriate to the discipline of the department offering the course.

### **Oral Communication (O)**

At least one course designated as an oral communication course. These courses are spread throughout the curriculum and are indicated with an (O) after the course title. If a course is designated as both a writing in the discipline course (W) and an oral communication course (O), a student may apply that course to both requirements.

### **Foreign Languages**

There are no foreign language requirements associated with the General Education Program. Requirements related to foreign languages are determined at the college or department levels. The specific foreign language requirements for each major are listed under each college's or department's section in the *Catalog*.

---

## **For Transfer Students**

Students holding an Associates' degree (Associate of Arts, Associate of Sciences, Associate of Fine Art, and Associate of Engineering) from a North Carolina Community College are deemed to be exempt from the lower level general education requirements. Those students need only complete the Writing Intensive course in their major to satisfy the UNC Charlotte General Education requirements. For all other transfer students, credit for General Education requirements is given on course by course basis.

**UNC Charlotte General Education Program  
Advising Worksheet**

<b>I. Development of Fundamental Skills of Inquiry</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Courses Taken</b>
Writing and Inquiry	<b>Either</b> UWRT 1103 <b>or</b> UWRT 1104 (or other transfer credit for a UWRT course)	<b>3-4</b>	
Mathematics and logical reasoning	<i>MATH 1xxx</i>	<b>3</b>	
Mathematics and logical reasoning	<b>One of the following:</b> <i>MATH 1xxx, STAT 1xxx, PHIL 2105, ITSC 1110</i>	<b>3</b>	

<b>II. Inquiry in the Sciences</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Courses Taken</b>
<b>Two of the following and one must be with a Lab:</b> <i>ANTH 2141</i> <i>BINF 1101</i> <i>BIOL 1110, 1115</i> <i>CHEM 1111, 1112, 1200, 1203, 1204, 1251, 1252</i> <i>ESCI 1101</i> <i>GEOG 1103</i> <i>GEOL 1200, 1210</i> <i>KNES 2168</i> <i>ITIS 1350</i> <i>METR 1102</i> <i>PHYS 1100, 1101, 1102, 1130, 1201, 1202, 1203 2101, 2102</i> <i>PSYC 1101</i>		<b>4</b>	<b>(with lab)</b>
<b>One of the following:</b> <i>ANTH 1101</i> <i>ECON 1101, 2101, 2102</i> <i>GEOG 1105</i> <i>POLS 1110</i> <i>SOCY 1101</i>		<b>3-4</b>	<b>(with or without lab)</b>
		<b>3</b>	

<b>III. Themes of Liberal Education for Private and Public Life</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Courses Taken</b>
ONE <b>LBST</b> at the <b>1000-</b> level (Arts and Society). Choose one from... <i>LBST 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105</i>		<b>3</b>	
THREE <b>LBST</b> at the <b>2000-</b> level. Choose three from...			
	<i>LBST 2101</i> (Western Culture and Historical Awareness)	<b>9</b>	
	<i>LBST 2102</i> (Global Understanding)		
	<i>LBST 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, or 2215</i> (Ethical and Cultural Critique)		
	<i>LBST 2301</i> (Critical Thinking and Communication)		
(MOST students will <b>need</b> to choose LBST 2301 to meet the CTC requirement, see below)			

<b>IV. Critical Thinking and Communication</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Courses Taken</b>
ONE course with the CTC attribute. Either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Take LBST 2301 as one of your three 2000-LBST courses, OR</li> <li>● Satisfy the CTC requirement with transfer credit</li> </ul>		<b>0-3</b>	

<b>V. Advanced Communication Skills</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Courses Taken</b>
Writing in the discipline course (in the Major)	Three semester hours (typically one course) designated as Writing Intensive ('W'). <b>Must</b> be in the major.	<b>3</b>	
Writing in the discipline course	Three semester hours (typically one course) designated as Writing Intensive ('W'). <b>May</b> be in the major.	<b>3</b>	
Oral Communication	One course with the 'O' designation (Courses can double count for O and W)	<b>0-3</b>	

Note: Foreign Language requirements are set by the College and Program of your academic major(s).