

CHAPTER 5

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

CORE LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES STUDIES PROGRAM (CORE) General Education Program and Requirements

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A liberal education is at the heart of a civil society.

—A. Bartlett Giamatti,

former President of Yale University and Commissioner of Baseball

A strong liberal education is critical for the development of effective leaders for the 21st century.

—Robert L. Hampton,

Associate Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies, University of Maryland

To earn a baccalaureate at the University of Maryland at College Park, all students complete both a major course of study and a campus-wide general education program.

The Purpose of General Education

Participation in a democratic society requires more than the central instruction provided by one major field of study. In our world of rapid economic, social, and technological change, a strong and broadly-based education is essential.

General education helps students achieve the intellectual integration and awareness they need to meet challenges in their personal, social, political, and professional lives. General education courses introduce the great ideas and controversies in human thought and experience. These courses provide the breadth, perspective, and rigor that allow UMCP graduates to claim to be “educated people.”

Most Americans change their careers three times during their lifetime. A solid general education provides a strong foundation for the life-long learning that makes career-change goals attainable.

General Education at UMCP = CORE Liberal Arts and Sciences Studies

- **CORE** makes up about one-third of your undergraduate courses.
- **CORE** helps you choose or change your major and the shape of your whole life by introducing you to new ways of viewing yourself and the world around you.
- **CORE** offers one of the best opportunities you will ever have to explore different fields of study.

Get the Most Out of CORE

- **PLAN** ahead and see an academic advisor regularly.
- **INVEST** in yourself; select CORE courses that will add to your understanding and appreciation of social, cultural, national, and international issues in the years ahead.
- **EXPLORE** the wide range of opportunities offered by the university as well as the speakers, events, theatres, museums, galleries, libraries, and many more general education resources outside the classroom.

The Core Liberal Arts and Sciences Studies Program (CORE) has been the required general education program at UMCP since Fall 1990. (See “Who Completes CORE.”)

CORE Liberal Arts and Sciences Studies Program (CORE)

The **CORE** Program strategically builds a sound skill and knowledge base over the student's four years of baccalaureate study and represents a third of the total academic work completed for graduation.

At UMCP, the CORE Program has four major components:

FUNDAMENTAL STUDIES build competence and confidence in basic writing and mathematics. Mastery of these basics greatly enhances success both during and after college. Students begin fulfilling Fundamental Studies requirements in their first year at UMCP.

DISTRIBUTIVE STUDIES introduce broad areas of learning in many disciplines. Through these courses, students explore different kinds of knowledge and the very nature of scholarship in the humanities, arts, natural sciences, mathematics, social sciences, and history. Students generally pursue Distributive Studies in the first two years of their coursework.

ADVANCED STUDIES allow students to enhance their degree and strengthen their critical thinking and writing skills by taking two upper-level courses outside their major after 56 credits. Students may substitute an approved CORE Capstone course in their major (after 86 credits) or a senior or honors thesis for one of these two courses.

HUMAN CULTURAL DIVERSITY encourages all members of our diverse undergraduate community to learn about attitudes and cultures different from their own. Students may complete the Cultural Diversity requirement at any time before graduation.

CORE Program Outline

Courses used to fulfill CORE Fundamental and Distributive Studies Requirements:

- MUST be selected from the approved CORE course list.
- MAY also be used to satisfy college, major, and/or supporting area requirements if the courses also appear on CORE Fundamental or Distributive Studies lists.
- MAY NOT be taken on a Pass-Fail basis.

I. CORE Fundamental Studies

Three Courses (9 credits) Required

1. One course in Introduction to Writing (Must be attempted within the first 30 credits; must be passed within the first 60 credits.)

Approved CORE Introduction to Writing Courses:

(Select the appropriate course based on requirements listed.)

- ENGL 101 Introduction to Writing
 ENGL 101A Introduction to Writing (Must be taken if student has TSWE [SAT verbal subtest] score below 330)
 ENGL 101H Introduction to Writing (Honors Students)
 ENGL 101X Introduction to Writing (Students for whom English is a second language may register for ENGL 101X instead of ENGL 101. To register for ENGL 101X, a student must present one of the following:
 (1) 550 or above on the TOEFL, *OR*
 (2) 220 or above on the Comprehensive English Language Test (CELT) administered at the College Park campus by the Maryland English Institute (MEI), *OR*
 (3) successful completion of the MEI's semi-intensive course in English.

Note: Based on scores from either the TOEFL or CELT, students may be required to complete a program of English language instruction for non-native speakers through the MEI before being allowed to register for ENGL 101X.

Exemptions from Introduction to Writing Requirement:

- SAT verbal score of 600 or above; OR
- AP English score of 4 or 5

2. One course in Mathematics (Must be attempted within the first 30 credits; must be passed within the first 60 credits.)

Approved CORE Fundamental Studies Mathematics Courses:

- MATH 110 Elementary Mathematical Models, or
 MATH 115 Pre-calculus, or
 Any 100- or 200-level MATH or STAT course except MATH 210, and MATH 211

Exemptions from Mathematics Requirement:

- SAT Math score of 600 or above; OR
- College Board Achievement Test in Mathematics, Level I or score of 600 or above; OR
- AP score of 3 or above in Calculus AB or BC; OR
- Any CLEP Subject Examination in Mathematics score of 60 or above.

3. One course in Professional Writing (Taken after reaching junior standing [at least 56 credits].)

Approved CORE Professional Writing Courses:

(Select the appropriate course based on requirements or interests listed.)

- ENGL 391 Advanced Composition
 ENGL 391H Advanced Composition (Honors Students)
 ENGL 391X Advanced Composition (English as a Second Language [ESL])
 ENGL 392 Advanced Composition (Pre-Law)
 ENGL 393 Technical Writing
 ENGL 393H Technical Writing (Honors Students)
 ENGL 393X Technical Writing (ESL)
 ENGL 394 Business Writing
 ENGL 395 Technical Writing (Pre-Med and Health careers)

Exemption from Professional Writing Requirement:

- Grade of "A" in ENGL 101 (NOT ENGL 101A or ENGL 101X), except for students majoring in Engineering. All Engineering majors must take ENGL 393.

Note: No exemption from the Professional Writing requirements will be granted for achievement on SAT verbal exam. Professional Writing courses cannot be used to fulfill Advanced Studies requirements.

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Nine Courses (28 credits) Required

See list of approved CORE courses in *Schedule of Classes*.

1. Humanities and the Arts—three courses required:

- One course from **Literature** list, and
- One course from **History/Theory of the Arts** list, and
- One more course from **Literature, OR History/Theory of Arts, OR Humanities** lists

2. Mathematics and the Sciences—three courses required:

- Up to two courses from Physical Sciences list, and
- Up to two courses from Life Sciences list, and
- Up to one course from Mathematics/Formal Reasoning list

Notes: One course MUST include or be accompanied by a lab taken in the same semester. More than one lab course may be taken. Courses must be taken from at least two of the three lists.

3. Social Sciences and History—three courses required:

- One course from Social/Political History list, and
- Two courses from Behavioral and Social Sciences list

Two Courses (6 credits) Required

CORE Advanced Studies Requirement: Two upper-level (300- or 400 level) courses outside the major taken after 56 credits. Students may substitute