



CHAPTER 5

# GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Studies  
2130 Mitchell Building, 405-9359  
<http://www.inform.umd.edu/GenEd>

*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, College Park

To earn a baccalaureate at the University of Maryland, 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 adviser 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 approximately one-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 lists.
- 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 . C O R E   F u n d a m e n t a l   S t u d i e s

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:**

- AP English and Language Composition test score of 4 or 5, *OR*
- SAT verbal score 670 or above. (In April 1995, the Educational Testing Service recentered the scores on the SAT. If taken before April 1995, one must have received a score of 600 or above to be exempt from Freshman Writing. This recentering does not reflect a raising of the requirement for exemption, but a change in the scoring system which the ETS uses.)

**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 113 College Algebra with Applications; *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 requirement will be granted for achievement on SAT verbal exam. Professional Writing courses cannot be used to fulfill Advanced Studies requirements.**

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### II. CORE Distributive Studies Requirements

Nine Courses (28 credits) Required

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

**Note:** There is no specific requirement for a course from the Humanities (HO) list.

#### 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. There is no specific requirement for a course from the Mathematics and Formal Reasoning lists.

#### 3. Social Sciences and History—three courses required:

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

***It is not enough to offer a smorgasbord of courses. We must insure that students are not just eating at one end of the table.***

—A. Bartlett Giamatti

### III. CORE Advanced Studies

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 a CORE-approved senior capstone course in their major taken after 86 credits, or a senior or honors thesis for **one** of the two required Advanced Studies courses. The other course **must** be outside the major. Students completing double majors or double degrees will have fulfilled the campus Advanced Studies requirement, unless their primary major or college has additional requirements.

The following may **NOT** be used to fulfill Advanced Studies requirements:

- Professional Writing courses (courses that meet the Fundamental Studies upper-level writing requirement);
- courses used to meet Distributive Studies requirements;
- internships, practica, or other experiential learning types of courses;
- courses taken on a pass/fail basis.

One independent studies course (minimum of three credits, outside the major) may be used toward Advanced Studies requirements as long as it is consistent with the rules above **and** the faculty member supervising the independent study agrees that it is appropriate for Advanced Studies.

If you have questions about the requirements, call the Office of Undergraduate Studies at 405-9359.

**STUDENTS:** CORE allows you to choose your two Advanced Studies courses from a wide range of upper-level offerings outside your major. Please select courses that make sense in terms of your educational goals and interests, that increase your knowledge, and that strengthen your critical thinking and writing skills. Consult with faculty and contact your adviser for assistance in planning. A list of recommended courses is available from 2130 Mitchell Building, 405-9359.

**Notes:** CORE Capstone courses must be taken within the major and after reaching senior standing (86 credits). A senior thesis (minimum of 3 credits) or successful completion and defense of an honors thesis in either the General Honors or a Departmental Honors Program (minimum of 3 credits) counts as CORE Capstone credit.

### IV. CORE Human Cultural Diversity

One Course (3 credits) Required

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

Cultural Diversity courses focus primarily on: (a) the history, status, treatment, or accomplishment of women or minority groups and subcultures; (b) non-Western culture, or (c) concepts and implications of diversity.

**Note:** A number of CORE Human Cultural Diversity courses also satisfy CORE Distributive Studies, Advanced Studies, or a college, major, and/or supporting area requirement.

***...All life is interrelated, whatever affects one of us, affects all.***  
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

For complete CORE course lists and more information consult:

• *Schedule of Classes*, revised each semester.  
<http://www.ads-rr.umd.edu/UMPublications/Scheduling/SchedOfClasses/soc.html>

• **Inform** on-line information system updated regularly. (Access through student Workstations at Maryland [WAM] account. Campus visitors may use terminals in the Stamp Student Union and at other locations.) If you have access to the World Wide Web, the address for the CORE Liberal Arts and Sciences Studies Program (which includes current CORE approved course lists) is: <http://www.inform.umd.edu/GenEd>

• **CORE 101: A Student Guide to the CORE Program**, available from your college advising office, Undergraduate Studies (2130 Mitchell Building), or on reserve at the Reserve Desk, Ground Floor, Hornbake Library.

#### Who Completes CORE?

The CORE Program must be completed by all students entering the University of Maryland, College Park in May 1990 and thereafter who have earned eight or fewer credits from the University of Maryland, College Park or any other college. Students who enter the University with nine or more credits earned before May 1990 from the University of Maryland, College Park or any other college may complete their general education requirements under the University Studies Program (USP), subject to certain limitations. (See USP and "Statute of Limitations ..." section below.) Advanced Placement (AP) and other examination-based credits will **not** be considered in these determinations.

#### University Studies Program (USP)

For detailed information about USP requirements, see undergraduate catalogs dated 1992 or earlier, or contact the CORE program at 2130 Mitchell Building, 405-9359. Information on USP is also contained on the Inform system at: <http://www.inform.umd.edu/GenEd/.usp.html>.

**NOTE:** Students who graduate under USP requirements August 1994 and thereafter must fulfill the Advanced Studies requirements described in the Fall 1994 and subsequent catalogs. (See CORE Advanced Studies section above.)

#### Maryland Public Community College Students

For the purpose of determining which general education program is required (CORE or USP), students transferring to the University of Maryland, College Park from Maryland Public Community Colleges shall be treated as if their registration dates were concurrent with enrollment at this University.

#### Statute of Limitations for Previous General Education Programs at UMCP (GEP, GUR, USP)

Undergraduate students returning to the College Park campus after August 1987 will no longer have the option of completing general education requirements under the older General Education Program (GEP) or the General University Requirements (GUR). Thereafter, following any substantive change in general education requirements (like the change in Fall 1990 from USP to CORE), undergraduate students returning or transferring to College Park after a separation of five continuous years must follow the requirements in effect at the time of re-entry. An exception may be granted to those students who at the time of separation had completed 60 percent of the general education requirements then in effect.