University General Education

University General Education Requirements

To ensure that each graduate of UNO possesses certain academic skills, experiences the breadth of a liberal education and develops an appreciation for the diversity that exists in the nation and world, the faculty have adopted University general education requirements. These requirements are effective beginning Fall semester 2011 for all UNO undergraduate programs. The requirements apply to all incoming first year and transfer students. Students enrolled in UNL-administered programs should contact their advisors to determine the applicable requirements.

Effective summer 2013, students transferring from Metropolitan Community College (MCC) with an Associate in Arts (LATAA) degree COMPLETED after 2010 will have fulfilled the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) general education requirements.

Approved general education courses are found at http://www.unomaha.edu/general-education/approved-courses/index.php.

Fundamental Academic Skills (Total 15 Hours)

English and Writing: 9 Hours

Nine hours, to include ENGL 1150 and ENGL 1160 and one additional three-hour Single Writing Instruction course or Group Writing Instruction course that contains multiple writing assignments and written instruction. Writing in the Discipline course(s) are determined by the student’s major. Students may “test out” of ENGL 1150 and/or ENGL 1160. Contact the Department of English for more information.

The work of the university is to construct and share knowledge. Because this work is done largely by means of the written word, it is important for students to gain control over written language. Proficiency in reading, research, and written expression is essential for professional success and effective citizenship. The foundational writing courses (Composition I and Composition II) provide instruction in general academic literacy while writing in the discipline course(s), preferably taken in the student’s major, introduce research and language practices specific to the disciplines.

After completing Composition I, successful students shall be able to do the following:

• Closely read, critically interpret, evaluate, and respond to other writers’ texts;
• Write papers with a clear thesis, logical structure, and cohesive, well-developed paragraphs;
• Write papers with clear, varied, well-constructed sentences, with usage and mechanics conforming to standard edited English; and
• Demonstrate an understanding of writing as a complex, recursive process whereby ideas are explored, developed, and communicated to a particular audience for a particular purpose.

After completing Composition II, successful students shall be able to do the following:

• Demonstrate further development of the writing skills learned in Composition I;
• Locate and evaluate information in print and electronic sources and integrate the information into their own texts, citing the sources appropriately;
• Analyze arguments in other writers’ texts; and
• Craft well-informed, carefully-reasoned arguments of their own, using the genre appropriate for the rhetorical context (e.g. position paper, proposal, evaluation).

After completing the writing in the discipline course(s), students shall be able to do the following:

• Demonstrate further development of the writing skills learned in foundational composition courses;
• Engage in the major discipline’s research practices, using the databases, bibliographies, and documentation conventions appropriate to the discipline;
• Use the writing strategies and genres expected in the relevant academic and professional communities; and
• Demonstrate command of the major discipline’s discourse practices, vocabulary, and style.

Note: Consult with an advisor in your major to determine the appropriate advanced writing course or writing-intensive courses.

Mathematics: 3 Hours

MATH 1310 3 hours. Students may “test out” of MATH 1310. Contact the Mathematics Department for more information.

Algebra is a foundational branch of mathematics that involves operations and relations, and which emphasizes the process of formulating, solving, interpreting, and applying equations of many different types to solve many different real-world problems, using systems of abstract symbols. It is a branch of mathematics with significant applications across a wide variety of disciplines.

Successful students shall be able to do the following:

• Demonstrate competency in quantitative reasoning that applies algebra;
• Demonstrate competency in symbolic reasoning in the solution to real-world problems;
• Demonstrate competency in computational reasoning as it relates to the application of algebraic processes and concepts; and
• Demonstrate an ability to solve real-world problems using quantitative, logical, or computational approaches that are typical of mathematical thinking.

*Students with an ACT MATH score of 23 or higher are considered to be proficient in MATH 1310. The Math Placement Exam or Compass Exam into MATH 1320 or high does NOT equal proficiency of MATH 1310.

Public Speaking: 3 Hours

Students must complete one of the following 3-credit hour courses – CMST 1110 or CMST 2120. Students may “test out” of CMST 1110. Contact the School of Communication for more information.

The goal of the public speaking requirement is to help students acquire the knowledge and skills needed for effective oral communication in academic, career or community life.

Successful students shall be able to do the following:

• Create and develop messages demonstrating effective audience analysis and adaptation;
• Create and develop messages demonstrating effective information gathering, analysis, and evaluation;
• Create and deliver messages demonstrating effective organizational development and use of supporting materials from credible sources; and
• Present appropriate messages, including effective use of language, nonverbal delivery, and visual information/technology.
Distribution Requirements (Total 25 Hours)

Natural and Physical Sciences: 7 Hours from at Least Two Different Disciplines with 1 Lab
Understanding the nature of scientific inquiry and the operation of the natural, physical, and technological world is essential for making personal and public policy decisions. Students must complete 7 credit hours of coursework representing at least two different disciplines in this category with at least one laboratory course.

Successful students shall be able to do the following:

- demonstrate a broad understanding of the fundamental laws and principles of science and interrelationships among science and technology disciplines;
- demonstrate a broad understanding of various natural and/or physical phenomena that surround and influence our lives;
- describe how scientists approach and solve problems including an understanding of the basic components and limitations of the scientific method; and
- solve problems and draw conclusions based on scientific information and models, using critical thinking and qualitative and quantitative analysis of data and concepts in particular to distinguish reality from speculation.

Humanities/Fine Arts: 9 Hours from at Least Two Disciplines
The humanities and fine arts seek to help students understand, analyze, and explore the human condition. Studying the humanities and fine arts thus contributes to personal growth and well-being as well as to living in and contributing to various communities. Students must complete 9 credit hours of coursework representing at least two different disciplines in this category.

Successful students shall be able to do the following:

- demonstrate an understanding of the theories, methods, and concepts used to comprehend and respond to the human condition;
- recognize, articulate, and explore how various humanists/artists have responded to the human condition;
- comprehend and evaluate how humanistic/artistic expression contributes to individual and/or socio-cultural understanding, growth, and well-being, and
- Use relevant critical, analytic, creative, speculative and/or reflective methods.

Social Sciences: 9 Hours from at Least Two Different Disciplines
Understanding the complex dynamics that make up the world, particularly the challenges, problems, and factors that lead to social stability and change is essential for contributing to and living in contemporary society.

Successful students shall be able to do the following:

- demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of interactions between human motivations, institutional forces, and/or social behavior;
- use critical thinking and reasoning skills to analyze theories, perspectives, and/or concepts relative to the discipline(s) studied;
- identify multiple methods and modes of inquiry and their appropriate application; and
- communicate ideas and explain concepts and analyses using the language of the discipline(s).

Diversity: (Total 6 Hours)
A general education requires exposure to cultures and institutions around the world, as well as within one’s own society, in order to promote intellectual flexibility, cultural understanding and informed citizenship. The university seeks to foster cultural understanding to assist its students to become responsible citizens in a diverse world. Students must complete 6 credit hours of coursework with 3 credit hours in each of the following areas.

Diversity in the US: 3 Hours
Courses in this category focus on significant cultural, economic, historical, political, and/or sociological aspects of one or more underrepresented groups in the United States. Students must complete 3 credit hours of coursework.

Successful students shall be able to do the following:

- demonstrate knowledge of the role and contributions of one or more underrepresented groups in the development of the United States;
- demonstrate specific knowledge of cultural, historical, social, economic, and/or political factors that shape aspects of one or more diverse groups;
- recognize and articulate differences, expectations, and/or challenges experienced by one or more underrepresented groups;
- Explain ways in which identity is developed and how it is transmitted within and by members of the group or groups.

Global Diversity: 3 Hours
Courses in this category focus on significant cultural, economic, geographical, historical, political, and/or sociological aspects of one or more countries or nations (including indigenous nations) other than or in comparison to the United States. Students must complete 3 credit hours of coursework.

Successful students shall be able to do the following:

- recognize the cultural, historical, social, economic, and/or political circumstances that produce different social and cultural systems;
- demonstrate specific knowledge of the cultural, historical, social, economic, and/or political aspects of one or more countries or nations other than the United States;
- explain the interrelations among global economic, political, environmental and/or social systems; and
- explain ways in which identity is developed and how it is transmitted within and by members of the group or groups.

120-hour Minimum Requirement for Undergraduate Degree
The minimum number of hours for a UNO undergraduate degree is 120 credit hours. However, academic programs may require more than 120 credit hours to attain an undergraduate degree. Please review the requirements for your specific program to determine all requirements for the program, including credit hours.