

General Course Requirements

To fulfill requirements for a Bachelor's Degree, students must complete either the requirements of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Program (explained in the Curriculum section of catalog) or the requirements of the Leadership Academy program, as well as the requirements for their major.

Common Graduation Requirements

In order to be eligible to graduate with a baccalaureate degree from Fitchburg State College, the following general requirements must be met:

- Successful completion of an appropriate discipline-based evaluation chosen by the department and approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Successful completion of at least 120 semester hours of course work; 45 of these must be attained in residence (normally including the senior year)
- A cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher
- A minimum of 2.0 average in major course of study*
- An application for graduation must be filed with the Registrar's Office by January 1 of the year of anticipated graduation

* Some majors require a major GPA higher than 2.0 for graduation.

Liberal Arts and Sciences Program Requirement

Of the 120 semester hours needed to graduate, candidates must complete a minimum of 60 hours satisfying the requirements of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Program, which includes the Readiness in English and Mathematics (if necessary) and the Constitution requirement (for teacher education majors only) as well as the following components:

- Quantitative/Scientific Cluster ("Q" symbol in course schedule)-4 courses, 1 must be a mathematics course beyond the readiness level; one must be a science lab. (NB: 4 courses, regardless of whether they carry three or four hours of credit, must be completed)
- Ideas and Events Cluster ("I" symbol in course schedule)-three courses, one must have a historical perspective

- Human Behavior Cluster ("B" symbol in course schedule)- 2 courses
- Literature, Language, and Arts Cluster ("L" symbol in course schedule)-4 courses, 1 must be in Literature and 1 must be in Arts
- Writing I & II-ENGL 1100 and 1200, or their equivalent if taken at another institution.
- Health and Fitness-(See Health and Fitness Requirement under Exercise and Sport Science Program)
- Junior/Senior Writing-specific requirement(s) defined by the department of the student's major
- Computer Literacy-specific requirement(s) defined by the department of the student's major
- Speaking/Listening-specific requirement(s) defined by the department of the student's major
- Interdisciplinary ("IDIS" or departmental prefix in schedule)-two courses, one of which must be taken in the freshman year. These courses can simultaneously meet the requirements in content clusters
- Multicultural ("C" symbol in course schedule)-2 courses, which can simultaneously meet the requirements in content clusters
- Intermediate and Advanced Requirement-3 courses at the Intermediate or Advanced level in a Liberal Arts or Science discipline outside one's major. These courses can simultaneously meet the requirements in content clusters
- Liberal Arts and Sciences Electives-4 courses chosen from among those designated as part of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Program

Candidates should be aware that the following restrictions apply with respect to fulfilling their Liberal Arts and Sciences requirements:

- Credits earned in one course cannot be divided
- Credits earned toward graduation cannot be counted twice, even though courses that satisfy Liberal Arts and Sciences requirements may sometimes fulfill the requirements of one's major course of study

Certain majors specify which courses must be taken to satisfy Liberal Arts and Sciences requirements. Students should read the section pertaining to their selected major carefully before registering for classes.

Additional course work required for graduation from individual programs and certificates

Teacher certification or initial provisional certification requires knowledge of the Federal Constitution and that of the Commonwealth. Candidates may fulfill it by successfully completing one of the following courses:

HIST 1400 United States History I
HIST 1500 United States History II
POLS 1500 State and Urban Government
POLS 1000 U.S. Government

Leadership Academy Honors Program

Leadership Academy Honors Program students complete LAS requirements through a specialized set of courses. See Leadership Academy.

Freshman Foundation Year

The courses required in a full-time, undergraduate student's first year demonstrate that the Liberal Arts and Sciences program offers content and skills that are significant in the development of critical thinking and serve as the foundation for further learning in major areas. Along with fulfilling the Freshman Foundation courses as outlined below, every incoming freshman will be required to read two books that are related to a designated theme.

Freshman Foundation Year Program

- Writing I and Writing II
- Liberal Arts and Sciences courses in at least three clusters
- An Interdisciplinary course
- Additional courses chosen in consultation with advisor