

**CURRICULUM CORE REQUIREMENTS**

The Core Requirements consist of the following eight components.

A. Competency-Based Skills

1. Reading Comprehension
2. Basic College Mathematics
3. Computer Literacy

B. English Composition I, II 6 credits

C. Speech 3 credits

D. Health 3 credits

(Not required of Nursing or B.S. Biology Majors)

E. SFL Physical 1 credit

Education Activities

F. Distribution Requirements

1. Literature sequence 6 credits
2. Laboratory Science sequence 6-8 credits
3. History sequence 6 credits
4. Distribution Electives 18 credits

G. Foreign Language 12 credits

(Required of all B.A. students, except for certain concentrations within the Art and History majors.)

H. The First Year Seminar I, II 3 credits

(Required of all undeclared freshmen. See Interdisciplinary Studies Department listing for full description.)

The student may be exempted from any of the above course requirements by demonstrating proficiency on a departmentally prescribed examination. Credit is given for any course passed by such an examination.

The following paragraphs provide detailed descriptions of these Core Requirements, including exemption procedures.

**COMPETENCY-BASED SKILLS REQUIREMENTS**

Prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree from Salem State College, all students must demonstrate competency in the following areas: English Composition, Basic College Mathematics, Computer Literacy, Speech Communication, Reading Comprehension, and Health and Wellness.

**A. Competency-Based Skills**

Prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree from Salem State College, a student must demonstrate competency in the following areas: Reading Comprehension, Basic College Mathematics, and Computer Literacy.

Students may demonstrate competencies in these areas by the methods outlined below. The assessment criteria will be passing grades in required courses or passing grades on

required examinations.

The Registrar's Office will be responsible for certifying that a student has met all competency requirements before graduation.

### **Reading Comprehension**

1. By achieving a score of 410 or above on the SAT Verbal examination of the College Entrance Examination Board.
2. By achieving a designated reading skills level on a standardized test of reading comprehension.
3. By achieving a grade point average of 3.0 or better after 30 hours of completed course work at Salem State College.
4. By satisfactorily completing a recommended reading skills improvement program through the Reading Laboratory.

### **Basic College Math**

1. By achieving a score of 450 or above on the SAT Mathematics examination.
2. By achieving a score of 27 of 35 (77%) or higher on the Arithmetic Skill Test and a score of 20 of 35 (57%) or higher on the Elementary Algebra Skill Test.
3. By achieving a score in the 50th percentile or above on the CLEP College Algebra-Trigonometry Exam.
4. By successfully completing MAT 104 or any higher number mathematics course.

### **Computer Literacy**

Computer Literacy comprises knowledge in four areas:

1. Capabilities and limitations of computers.
2. Ways in which computers are used.
3. The impact that these uses have on individuals and on society.
4. The ability to carry out certain basic activities on a computer given a simple set of instructions.

Students may demonstrate competency in Computer Literacy as follows:

1. By taking and passing one of the specific Salem State College courses approved as satisfying the Computer Literacy core requirement and identified as such in its Catalog course description. Currently approved Computer Literacy courses include BTE 117, CSC 100, EDU 407, and IDS 180. A transferred course, which a student wishes to use to satisfy the Computer Literacy core requirement, must be reviewed and approved in writing by the Chairperson of the Computer Science Department.
2. a. By achieving a score of at least 60% on the written part of the Computer Literacy Exemption Examination given

during the Orientation Program or taken during a student's first full year at the College. The written examination is given once each semester.

b. Students earning a passing score on the written part of the Computer Literacy Exemption Examination must also take and pass the laboratory part of the exemption examination before the end of their sophomore year at the College. The laboratory part will be offered twice a semester.

c. Transfer students entering the College as freshmen will follow the exemption procedure prescribed. All other transfer students must complete the exemption examination before the end of their first full year at the College.

3. Any student who does not pass both parts of the exemption examination by the end of the sophomore year, or for transfers by the end of their first full year at the College, will be required to take and pass one of the approved Computer Literacy courses before graduation.

Instructions will be distributed to students before, so that they may prepare for the laboratory part of the Computer Literacy Exemption examination.

#### **B. English Composition I, II (6 credits)**

The Composition requirement may be satisfied in any of the following ways:

1. By achieving a score of 600 or above on the SAT Verbal examination, and having a strong high school record and an "A" average in English; the student will be granted an exemption from ENG 101, Composition I. Exemption carries three credits.

2. By achieving a score of "3" or better in the College Entrance Examination Board's Advanced Placement Examination. The student will be granted an exemption from ENG 101, Composition I. Exemption carries three credits.

3. By achieving a score of 500 or above or the 50th percentile or above in the CLEP General Examination the student will be given the opportunity for exemption from ENG 101, or ENG 102, not both. Students must take the Departmental Essay Examination in either Composition I or Composition II, not both.

4. By successfully completing ENG 101 and ENG 102 (or ENG 103 in lieu of ENG 102).

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5. By successfully completing either ENG 102 or ENG 101

and having the other course waived through applicable English Department policy.

6. By being admitted to the Honors Program and successfully completing ENG 106H.

**C. Speech (3 credits)**

The Speech requirement may be satisfied in either of the following ways:

1. By successfully completing one of the SPC 101 courses or SPC 102H.
2. By passing the Speech Exemption Examination. This exemption carries three credits. See the current Master Schedule of Courses for details of the exemption procedure.

**D. Health (3 credits)**

All curricula except Nursing and the B.S. Biology programs include a Health Requirement. This requirement may be satisfied in the following ways:

1. By successful completion of SFL 194 Health and Wellness (3 credits).
2. For students in the Honors Program, by successfully completing either SFL 260 or SFL 361 (3 credits).
3. By achieving a score of 70% for SFL 194 on the Health Exemption Examination administered by the Sport, Fitness and Leisure Studies Department. This exemption carries 3 credits.

Any student who has not taken the current exemption examination may sign up to take the test. Registration for a Health course is not necessary to take the test. A sign-up sheet is posted on the door of the Sport Fitness and Leisure Studies Department (O'Keefe Center, Room 111-B). Sign-up must be completed by 9:00 am on the morning of the examination. During the academic year the examination is given the first full week of classes each semester in Classroom A, O'Keefe Center, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm.

The examination is a multiple choice test. The names of all students who receive a passing grade on the test are forwarded to the Registrar, and each such student receives a grade of P in SFL 194 (3 credits).

**E. SFL Physical Education Activities (1 credit)**

Every student enrolled at Salem State College must complete the one semester (1 credit) physical education activities requirement. Normally, these activities are taken in the Freshman year, but in any case the requirement must be completed by the end of the Sophomore year. (See Course Sequence in this section regarding limitations on courses which can be taken by Juniors and Seniors). Exemptions are granted for any one of the following reasons:

1. The filing, with the Registrar, of medical certification from the student's physician to the effect that the student is not able to participate in physical activities.
2. The fulfillment of the physical education requirement at another institution prior to transfer to Salem State College.
3. The acceptance by Salem State College upon initial admission to the College of 30 or more semester hours of credit transferred from another institution.

#### **F. Distribution Requirements**

It is expected that all graduates of Salem State will have deepened their understanding of the arts and sciences upon which human culture is based. To that end, 36 to 38 credit hours shall be completed in the following three divisions:

**Division I Humanities** (Art, English, Foreign Language Literatures, Interdisciplinary Studies, Music, Philosophy, Speech Communication, Theatre).

**Division II Natural Sciences and Mathematics** (Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geological Sciences, Interdisciplinary Studies, Mathematics, Physical Geography, Physical Science, Physics).

**Division III Social Sciences** (Economics, Geography, Interdisciplinary Studies, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology).

Many courses for interdisciplinary minors such as African-American Studies, Marine Studies, Urban Studies and Women's Studies may be used to fulfill distribution elective requirements. Credit should be counted in only one place.

The 36 to 38 credits should be distributed in the following manner:

**Division I** Full year sequence in literature 6

Other Humanities courses 3-9

**Division II** Full year sequence in laboratory science 6-8

Other Natural Science and

Mathematics courses 3-9

**Division III** History 101 3

History (2nd half of sequence) 3

Other Social Sciences courses 3-9

#### **Total 36-38**

As well as completing the full year sequences in literature, laboratory science, and history, the student must complete 18 additional semester hours to satisfy the Distribution Requirements. Within each division the courses (sequences and electives) must be drawn from at least two different disciplines.

Courses which satisfy Distribution Requirements are designated "D" in the departmental course descriptions.

The choice of additional courses is subject to the following limitations:

1. The student must earn at least three, but not more than 9 additional semester hours in each of the three divisions.
2. Except for Distribution sequences shared between two departments, all courses used to satisfy Distribution requirements, both sequences and electives, must be in subject areas other than the student's major.
3. No more than two courses in a sequence may be used to satisfy the Distribution Requirements.
4. No skill course (e.g., writing, studio art, etc.), nor any course designed specifically for professional development (e.g., public relations, research methods, etc.) within a subject area may be applied to the Distribution Requirements.
5. No seminars, directed studies, internships, departmental honors courses, etc. may be counted toward the Distribution Requirements.
6. Unless specifically indicated, courses from departments specializing in professional preparation (Education, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Social Work, Sport, Fitness, & Leisure Studies, and departments in the School of Business) may not be applied to the Distribution Requirements.

The literature sequence of Division I shall be completed in courses offered by the English Department or the Foreign Languages Department.

Except for certain courses specified for the freshman year, the Distribution courses may be completed at any time during the student's four years. It should be noted, however, that it is impossible for any student taking supervised student teaching to complete a two-semester sequence in the senior year.

### **G. Foreign Language Requirement (12 credits)**

All students in Bachelor of Arts programs (except for B.A. Art Majors with concentrations in Art Education, Graphic Design, Interactive Multimedia, Painting, Photography, Printmaking or 3-D Studio and B.A. History Majors with a concentration in Applied History) must attain a specific level of proficiency in a foreign language. This proficiency may be demonstrated in one of three ways:

1. By achieving a score of 520 or higher on the College Entrance Examination Board Language Achievement Test:

- a score of at least 520 will exempt the student from the 101 level, exemption carries three (3) credits;
- a score of at least 560 will exempt the student from the 101 and 102 level, exemption carries six (6) credits;
- a score of at least 600 will exempt the student from the 101, 102, 201, and 202 level, exemption carries twelve (12) credits.

2. By successfully completing one of the intermediate level II foreign language (not foreign culture) courses at Salem State College numbered 202 or its equivalent at another accredited institution of higher education. Credit will be given only for courses completed at the college level.

3. By completing the two elementary level courses in a foreign language and the foreign culture sequence (taught in English) in the same area. This third alternative is restricted to students who have difficulty learning a foreign language at the elementary level but who pass the courses and who receive the permission of the Foreign Languages Department Chairperson to pursue this alternative.

### **Foreign Language Requirement International Students**

Any student whose native language is not English may satisfy the Bachelor of Arts Foreign Language requirement by (a) demonstrating proficiency in English either through satisfactory performance on a proficiency examination administered by the English Department or by the completion of six semester hours in courses offered by the English Department, with grades of C or better, AND (b) by one of the following:

1. Demonstrating proficiency in the native language either by graduation from a secondary school where instruction was commonly in the native language

**OR**

2. By the attainment of a score acceptable to the Foreign Languages Department on one of the College Entrance Examination Board Language Achievement Tests

**OR**

3. In some other manner acceptable to the Foreign Languages Department. Upon completion of (a) and (b) the student will receive 12 credits toward graduation.

### **Waiver of the Foreign Language Requirement**

A waiver of the foreign language requirement for the Bachelor of Arts degree is possible only by demonstrating a foreign language learning disability.

For students beginning as Freshmen in a Bachelor of Arts degree program, waiver petitions must be submitted by the end of the first semester of the sophomore year. For students

transferring from a non-Bachelor of Arts curriculum into a Bachelor of Arts degree program, waiver petitions must be submitted by the end of the first full semester in the new program.

For students transferring to Salem State College from another college, waiver petitions must be submitted by the end of the first full semester at Salem (or by the end of the first the applicant must have registered for at least one semester of a foreign language at Salem State College and must present evidence of a serious attempt to learn that language. After consultation with the student's foreign language instructor and the student's academic advisor, the student may petition for a waiver.

2. The request for a waiver must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Foreign Languages Department, accompanied by a copy of the student's complete college transcript (and high school transcript if appropriate).

3. The student will be required to have an interview with a member of the Salem State College Academic Advising Center, and an interview with the chairperson of the Foreign Languages Department.

4. The student must take an appropriate examination administered or approved by the Foreign Languages Department.

5. The Chairperson of the Foreign Languages Department will request written recommendations from the Academic Advising Center, the student's language instructors at Salem State College, the student's academic advisor, and the Chairperson of the student's major department.

6. All students petitioning for a waiver shall be required to be diagnosed in the entire language arts area (reading, writing, and speaking English), and shall be required to undergo remediation if this is recommended.

7. The petition, transcripts, examination results, and written recommendations will be evaluated by a Review Committee consisting of the Chairperson of the Foreign Languages Department (or delegate), as a nonvoting member, and three faculty members appointed by the MSCA/MTA/NEA (Salem Chapter). The recommendations of this Review Committee will be forwarded to the Vice President, Academic Affairs, for final action. If the waiver is granted, the student must complete one year of the Foreign Culture course sequence, taught in English.

8. A student who petitions for a waiver while enrolled in a foreign language course will be subject to the standard College policies regarding course withdrawal (e.g., a

grade of "W" can be granted only up to the withdrawal deadline of a semester). If the student is granted a waiver, previous grades for foreign language courses will not be included in the student's cumulative average.

However, the granting of a waiver will not result in the elimination or modification of any grades on the student's transcript, nor will it reduce the total number of credit hours required for graduation.

### **Course Sequence**

English Composition and the History distribution sequence are normally taken during the Freshman year. In any case, components A through E of the Core Requirements should be completed by the end of the Sophomore year.

### **Free Electives**

Free electives should be carefully selected to complement overall program goals. Please note that no more than 55 credits in a student's major field may be counted toward graduation. Exceptions to this regulation may be made for certain programs, but not for individual students.

Students may want to use free electives to broaden knowledge of subject areas that relate to their major programs, professional goals, or cultural interests. A student may want to consider using free electives to establish a second minor or, together with other credits, to establish a second major.

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