

Worcester State College

General Education Requirements

The College offers general education courses in humanities, behavioral and social sciences, natural sciences, mathematics and computer science, fine arts and health. Together these provide an integrated study which stimulates active learning. Students will be given the opportunity to interpret facts, solve problems, evaluate issues and think creatively and critically.

The general education curriculum at Worcester State College is directed toward helping students to achieve the following:

- To speak and articulate, write clearly and precisely, and listen and read with comprehension;
- To demonstrate basic competencies of mathematical and computer sciences needed to function effectively in our rapidly changing world;
- To acquire an historical perspective;
- To read and interpret a variety of works in literature, music, art and philosophy drawn from the student's own and other cultures;
- To understand the basic principles of modern science and the implications of science in today's society;
- To gain a better appreciation of the student's own attitudes, beliefs and values, as well as those of others.

The General Education Program prepares students to be inquisitive about the world and to be informed about how to make sense of it. The courses lead students to make intellectual, aesthetic and moral judgments in whatever life and career paths they follow.

Foundation Requirements (Competencies) Credits

English Composition: 6 Credits

EN 101 English Composition I*, EN 102 English Composition II

*unless waived by the Department of Languages and Literature.

NOTE: Students whose assessment scores indicate the need will be required to take Precomposition during the freshman year. This course carries 3 developmental credits.

Mathematics:

3 Credits

All students will complete one three-credit course, ordinarily during the freshman year. The Department of Mathematics may recommend the mathematics laboratory, a developmental self-paced course for students whose test scores indicate the need.

NOTE: Students whose assessment scores indicate the need will be required to take Developmental Mathematics, a self-paced, computer -based lab course. This course carries 3 developmental credits.

Testing is typically done on computers during freshman assessment program/transfer advising, when applicable.

Developmental credit courses do not count toward satisfaction of any degree requirements for graduation. They do, however, count toward establishing a student's full-time status during the semester for financial aid and other purposes.

Constitutions:

3 Credits

All students will complete, prior to graduation, one course in which the constitutions of both the United States and Massachusetts are studied (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 73, Section 2A). Courses which satisfy this requirement include:

HI 111 and HI 112, US History I and II; HI/PO 218 and 219,
US Constitutional History I and II; PO 102, Constitutions: US and
Massachusetts; and PO 210, American Government.

Foundation courses may not be taken on a pass/fail basis. Courses taken to fulfill foundation requirements cannot also be used to fulfill distribution requirements.

Distribution Requirements

The College requires a specified number of credits in the humanities, the behavioral and social sciences, the natural sciences, mathematics, and fine arts, and health studies. Students may select from a broad spectrum of courses in each of these areas. The distribution requirements may be met in any year of the undergraduate program, but students are advised to complete them insofar as possible during the first two years of study. The following restrictions apply:

- a) No course within a student's first major discipline may be used to satisfy any distribution requirement.
- b) A student may apply no more than 6 credits in a given discipline within a group toward the satisfaction of a distribution requirement; e.g., Humanities: 6 credits in English and 6 credits in History would satisfy the requirement; 9 credits in English and 3 credits in History would not.

Group I: Humanities

12 credits

Students will complete four courses (minimum of 12 credits) selected from the disciplines of:

- English
- Foreign Languages
- History
- Academic Policies and Procedures
- Academic Policies and Procedures
- Philosophy
- Communications (excluding courses that apply to Group IV).

Group II: Behavioral and Social Sciences

12 Credits

Students will complete four courses (minimum of 12 credits selected from the disciplines of:
Cultural Geography (“GE” prefixes)

- Economics
- Education
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Urban Studies

Group III: Natural Sciences and Mathematics

13 Credits

Students will complete four courses (minimum of 13 credits), at least one of which must be a science laboratory course selected from:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Geology/Physical Geography (“GS” prefixes)
- Mathematics
- Natural Science
- Physics

Group IV: Fine Arts

9 Credits

Students will complete three courses (minimum of 9 credits) selected from:

- Art
- Communications*
- Music
- Theatre
- Visual and Performing Arts

*The following Communications courses are considered fine arts offerings and can be used to satisfy Group IV: CM 150, CM 231, CM 241, CM 244, CM 249, CM 263, CM 367, CM 373.

Group V: Health Studies

3 Credits

Students will complete either one 3-credit health course or three 1-credit activity courses. This basic requirement may be waived upon validation of completion of military basic training; ROTC students receive a 1-credit exemption for each year of ROTC completed.

Freshman Experience Requirement

Freshmen who enter as full-time day students in the fall semester are enrolled in WSC 101, Academic Strategies for College Success.

WSC 101 Academic Strategies for College Success

Required of all full-time day students in the fall semester of the freshman year, this course focuses on providing freshmen with the tools necessary to ensure a successful and satisfying initial college experience. Category 1. 1 credit.