

Department of General Education

General Education (GE) is an integral part of each UWest undergraduate program. All students complete 51 units of GE as part of their bachelor's degree requirements. GE course selections reflect UWest's conviction that the higher education of the whole person requires a breadth of knowledge beyond the specialized study and training covered in the majors.

University of the West's General Education courses empower students to design their own lives, their personal philosophies, their unique ways of being in this world. As they move through their GE coursework, our students explore their inner selves and learn how to face challenges, to make decisions, and to adapt in a rapidly changing world. Along the way, each UWest undergraduate develops and refines the vital skills of writing, critical thinking, and speaking. UWest graduates possess the knowledge, awareness, and skills to be self-reliant, ethical, responsible global citizens who value service to others and respect for the environment.

Program Learning Outcomes

Goal 1: Communication

Students effectively communicate in professional, academic, and personal domains.

LO1: Oral Communication - Students will be able to engage in public discourse through careful listening to others' perspectives, respectful questioning, articulating original ideas, and speaking thoughtfully in formal and informal settings. (Be/Know/Do)

LO2: Written Communication - Students will be able to produce grammatically-correct and well-organized academic writing (e.g., analytical, persuasive, expository, argumentative) in a variety of formats, including essays, research papers, reflective writing, and critical reviews of secondary sources. (Know/Do)

Goal 2: Information Literacy & Critical Thinking

Students gather, assess, and interpret relevant information and apply intellectual standards to support logical and skillful thinking and conclusions.

LO3: Information Literacy - Students will be able to identify, evaluate, and use information from multiple sources in a manner reflective of ethical academic standards. (Be/Know/Do)

LO4: Critical Thinking Processes - Students will be able to apply intellectual standards (e.g., clarity, logic, relevance, significance, fairness) to ensure the quality of reasoning and conclusions (e.g., ideas, questions, perspectives, assumptions) generated by themselves as well as others. (Know/Do)

Goal 3: Quantitative Reasoning

Students develop quantitative reasoning skills to support decision-making, critical thinking, and navigation of real-world situations.

LO5: Practical Mathematical Literacy - Students will be able to describe how mathematical facts and concepts apply to real-world situations. (Know/Do)

LO6: Practical Mathematical Skills - Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of quantitative reasoning using tables, graphs, mathematical equations, and their applications in real-world settings. (Know/Do)

Goal 4: Diversity And Identity

Students recognize, respect, and value the differences of others, supported by examination of their own individual/cultural identities.

LO7: Individual and Cultural Diversity and Identity – Students will be able to discuss and critically reflect upon the roles of individual and cultural diversity and identity (e.g., national origin, race, ethnicity, age, gender and gender expression, sexual identity, ability/disability, socioeconomic class, language, religion, social values, customs, traditions) within modern, historical, cultural, and personal contexts. (Be/Know/Do)

Goal 5: Service

Students recognize the importance of service-orientated approaches to people, society, and the environment, and they find ways to serve others.

LO8: Value of Service - Students will be able to justify the value of service to others. (Be/Know)

LO9: Acts of Service - Students will be able to engage in acts of service to benefit their communities. (Be/Do)

General Education Requirements

Area	Required Units
0. Transitional Skills Building	As needed
1. Core Competencies	15
2. Historical Foundations	6
3. Mathematics & Natural Sciences	6
4. Religion & Philosophy	6
5. Social & Behavioral Sciences	6
6. Humanities	6
7. Wellness	2
8. Service Learning	1
9. Capstone in General Education	3
Total	51

Transitional Skill Building: 0 - 9 units, as needed

Based on an evaluation of entrance assessments, some or all of the following transitional skill-building courses may be required. If required, these courses must be completed before the respective Core Competency. ENGL 100A may be counted towards general elective requirements if applicable to major. The remainder of the courses are not degree applicable.

Courses	Prerequisite For	Units
ENGL 90A Academic Writing*	ENGL 100A	3
ENGL 100A College Writing*	ENGL 101	3
MATH 030 Developmental Mathematics	MATH 102	3

*Minimum passing grade = B minus

Category 1 - Core Competencies: 15 units required

Students learn to communicate information and ideas clearly, both orally and in writing; to access, examine, and evaluate information using critical thinking and information literacy skills; and to perform quantitative functions.

Students are required to complete core competencies over their first three semesters of study as indicated below. Exceptions may be approved with a formal academic plan.

Course	Prerequisite(s)	Units
First Semester		
CS 101 Information Literacy & Academic Study Skills	None	1
ENGL 101 English Composition*	ENGL 100A w/B- or higher (if required)	3
MATH 102 Quantitative Reasoning I*	MATH 030 (if required)	3
Second Semester		
CS 102 Whole Person Wellness for College	None	1
ENGL 102 Composition II: Critical Thinking*	ENGL 101 w/C or higher	3
SPCH 101 Oral Communication*	None	3
Third Semester		
CS 103 Introduction to Major & Career Development	None	1

*Minimum passing grade = C

Category 2 - Historical Foundations: 6 units required

Provides students with an understanding of the cultural contexts and implications of historical developments.

Students complete the following courses.

Course	Prerequisite(s)	Units
HIST 200 Big History I	None	3
HIST 205 Big History II	None	3

Category 3 - Mathematics & Natural Sciences: 6 units required

Mathematics and natural sciences for daily living and an enhanced understanding of the natural world and what it means for human existence.

Students complete one course from each section. Minimum passing grade of C in MATH 107 or MATH 112 is required. NOTE: Psychology majors must select MATH 112 under Section A.

Course	Prerequisite(s)	Units
Section A Mathematics: Select 1 course		
MATH 107 Mathematics for Liberal Arts*	MATH 102 w/C or higher	3
MATH 112 Quantitative Reasoning II*	MATH 102 w/C or higher	3
Section B Natural Sciences: Select 1 course		
BIO 100 Introduction to Biology	None	4
BIO 110 Ecology & Biodiversity	None	4
BIO 200 Conservation Biology	None	3
PSC 100 Introduction to the Physical Sciences	None	3

Category 4 - Religion & Philosophy: 6 units required

Explores how humans have expressed their ideas of self and meaning and discusses them, where appropriate, from a Buddhist perspective.

Students complete the following courses.

Course	Prerequisite(s)	Units
Section A Religion		
L&C 120 Life & Culture: World Religion	None	3
Section B Philosophy		
L&C 121 Life & Culture: World Philosophy	None	3

Category 5 - Social & Behavioral Sciences: 6 units required

Examines the interrelationships, organization, and determinants of human behavior. Students complete a total of 6 units with selections from two different sections.

Business majors may not select options under Business as they will be completing these courses as part of their major courses. Psychology majors complete PSYCH 100 plus one class from Sections A, C, D, or E.

Course	Prerequisite(s)	Units
Section A: Anthropology		
ANTHR 101 Anthropology	ENGL 101 w/C or higher	3
ANTHR 301 Special Topics in Anthropology: Ethnicity & National Identity	ENGL 101 w/C or higher & ANTHR 101 or SOC 100	3
IDS 220 Immigration & American Society	ENGL 101 w/C or higher	3
IDS 310 Art & Anthropology	ENGL 102 w/C or higher	3
Section B: Psychology (required for Psychology Majors)		
PSYCH 100 Introduction to Western Psychology	None	3
Section C: Sociology		
IDS 220 Immigration & American Society	ENGL 101 w/C or higher	3
SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology	ENGL 101 w/C or higher	3
Section D: Economics		
BUS 201 Principles of Microeconomics	MATH 102 w/C or higher	3
BUS 202 Principles of Macroeconomics	MATH 102 w/C or higher	3
Section E: Political Science		
IDS 220 Immigration & American Society	ENGL 101 w/C or higher	3
IDS 330 Environmental Leadership	ENGL 102 w/C or higher	3
POL 101 Political Science	ENGL 101 w/C or higher	3
POL 301 US Government	ENGL 101 w/C or higher	3

Category 6 - Humanities: 6 units required

Explores how humans have expressed their cultural and social identity through language and the arts, i.e. painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, drama, and music.

Students complete a total of 6 units with selections from two different sections.

Course	Prerequisite(s)	Units
Section A: Fine Arts		
ART 101 Art Appreciation	None	3
ART 201 Art Appreciation Museum Tour	ART 101	3
ART 310 Expressive Arts	None	3
FILM 101 Film Appreciation	ENGL 101 w/C or higher	3
FILM 301 Focused Studies in Film History**	ENGL 101 w/C or higher	3
IDS 210 The Great War: Art, Film, & Literature	ENGL 102 w/C or higher	3
IDS 310 Art & Anthropology	ENGL 102 w/C or higher	3
PA 210 Theater for One from Page to Stage	ENGL 101 w/C or higher, SPCH 101	3
Section B: Languages		
CHN 101 Beginning Mandarin I	None	4
CHN 102 Beginning Mandarin II	CHN 101	4
CHN 301 Intermediate Mandarin	CHN 102	3
JPN 101 Beginning Japanese I	None	4
JPN 102 Beginning Japanese II	JPN 101	4
JPN 301 Intermediate Japanese I	JPN 102	4
JPN 302 Intermediate Japanese II	JPN 301	3
Section C: Literature		
IDS 210 The Great War: Art, Film, & Literature	ENGL 102 w/C or higher	3
LIT 101 Introduction to Literature	None	3
LIT 102 Introduction to Asian Literature	ENGL 101 w/C or higher	3
LIT 301 Writing about Literature	ENGL 101 w/C or higher	3
LIT 302 Creative Writing	ENGL 101 w/C or higher, LIT 101 recommended	3

** Topical course: a maximum of three topics may be applied to graduation

Category 7 - Wellness: 2 units required

Teaches and puts into practice skills conducive to integrating and balancing body, mind, and spirit. Students select two courses.

Course	Prerequisite(s)	Units
WELL 100 Yoga for Body & Mind	None	1
WELL 103 Expressive Arts & Movement	None	1
WELL 105 Kung Fu for Body & Mind	None	1
WELL 110 Tai Chi for Body & Mind	None	1
WELL 120 Strength Training & Fitness	None	1
WELL 130 Willpower	None	1
WELL 151 African Drumming	None	1

Category 8 - Service Learning: 1 unit required

This requirement reflects the mission and values of UWest by embracing the education of the whole person through a commitment to serve with compassion, work for justice, and prepare ethical, moral, and dedicated leaders.

Course	Prerequisite(s)	Units
SRVLG 100 Service Learning	None	1

Category 9 - Capstone: 3 units required

To ensure that students have met the goals of UWest's GE program, the program concludes with one capstone course. This course provides an experience in comparative study at the 400 level, where the skills and knowledge developed in core and breadth are integrated. Students apply knowledge acquired in individual areas to an interdisciplinary field of study.

Course	Prerequisite(s)	Units
CAP 401 Capstone: Religion, Science, & Society	42 units GE, including all Cat. 1: Core Competencies	3

Completion Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete 51 GE units in the nine subject categories above in addition to their core degree requirements. A minimum of 9 GE units must be in upper-division courses (numbered 300 or higher).

LIBERAL ARTS

Chair

Kanae Omura, PhD



Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts

University of the West's Liberal Arts degree program offers each undergraduate a self-designed cross- and interdisciplinary learning path. Liberal Arts majors follow their intellectual curiosity to pursue specific interests and a wide-ranging understanding of the history and sweep of human endeavor. Liberal Arts concentrations allow each student to create across disciplines a cluster of courses focused on whatever sparks her or his intellect. Liberal Arts majors graduate from University of the West with a strong sense of self and an understanding of how to live well and with purpose in the world.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts is designed for completion in four years of full-time study.

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Course Requirements

Area	Required Units
General Education	51, 9 of which must be upper-division
General Electives	27
Upper Division Electives	42
Total	120

General Education: 51 units required

All undergraduates must complete 51 units of general education, including 9 units at the upper-division level, as described in the General Education section of this catalog. This requirement is an integral part of UWest's mission of producing a well-informed, balanced, versatile, intellectually capable, socially sensitive, and ethically committed person in all fields of study.

General Electives: 27 units required

Students complete 27 units of elective coursework. Students may select any undergraduate courses that have not been applied to General Education or Upper Division Elective requirements.

Upper Division Electives: 42 units required

Students complete 42 units of upper division elective coursework. Students may select any upper division undergraduate courses (numbered 300-499) that have not been applied to General Education or General Elective requirements.

Student-Developed Concentrations (Optional): 18 units required

Liberal Arts majors have the opportunity of creating concentrations to provide an in-depth focus to their program. While a concentration is not required, it is an excellent opportunity for students to establish a foundation for future career paths or graduate studies.

Graduation Requirements

Students must complete 120 units as designated above with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. UWest's residency requirement for the Bachelor of Arts states that at least 30 units, including 24 upper division units, must be completed at UWest.

Students are required to complete their final 6 units in attendance at UWest. Any pre-approved transfer work must be completed with a minimum grade of C (2.0) prior to the last day of the student's last term in attendance at UWest.

Student-Developed Concentrations

Student-developed concentrations allow students to integrate courses from multiple disciplines to create a concentration relevant to their own interests and aspirations. Working directly with the chair of the Liberal Arts department, students select a series of courses that includes a minimum of 18 units. Courses must be predominantly upper division and may include up to 6 units of transfer credit.

While students usually declare one concentration or one minor, Liberal Arts majors are allowed to declare two concentrations or minors, or one concentration and one minor. However, completing multiple concentrations and minors may delay time to degree and completion of units over the minimum 120 units required to graduate.

Courses completed to fulfill a concentration are also applied to elective requirements. However, courses cannot be applied to multiple concentrations nor may courses applied toward a concentration be used to fulfill general education or minor requirements.

Examples of Concentrations

- Global Studies: Integrate business, history, political science, religion, foreign language, culture, and related fields
- Diversity and Multiculturalism: Integrate anthropology, sociology, psychology, religion, language, and related fields
- Buddhist Psychology
- Business: Focus on areas such as management, finance, marketing, entrepreneurship, and international business
- Social Justice and Human Rights
- Contemporary and Historical Relations between East and West
- Interdisciplinary Perspectives and Practices
- Mind and Mindfulness
- Buddha and the Information Age
- Religion and Psychology