

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

OVERVIEW

Catalog of Entry

Students may follow the General Education Requirements outlined in either:

1. The *Undergraduate Academic Catalog* in effect at the time of their initial enrollment, or
2. Any subsequent catalog of their choice.

Grades

Unless otherwise stated in a course description, a student must earn a grade of **D** or better to receive general education credit for a course. In some cases, programs will require a grade of **C** or better for general education courses such as when a general education course is also part of the major. In addition, certain general education courses serve as prerequisites for higher-level courses. Those higher-level courses may require a grade of **C** or better in the prerequisite course general education course. In both cases, a course completed with a **D** will still count toward a student's general education requirements, but the student will need to retake the course and earn a **C** or better to meet the program or prerequisite requirements. Students should check with their advisor and the course catalog to determine the requirements.

Goals

Building on YSU's University-Wide Learning Outcomes, the General Education program has four specific goals:

- Students will demonstrate the ability to write and speak effectively, reason quantitatively, and think critically so they are prepared to perform appropriately in their professions upon graduation.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of the basic facts, principles, theories, and methods of science. Students will demonstrate the interdependence of science and technology and the influence of science and technology on society.
- Students will interpret significant writings and works of art, with a focus on aesthetics, historical responses, and the nature of the human condition.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of the development, diversity, and complexity of human behavior, institutions, and culture.

Learning Outcomes

To assist students in achieving the goals above, the courses included in the General Education program incorporate some combination of the learning outcomes. The outcomes as they relate to the goals for the various types of General Education courses are listed below:

Core Competencies Learning Outcomes:

GOAL: Students will demonstrate the ability to write and speak effectively, reason quantitatively, and think critically so they are prepared to perform appropriately in their professions upon graduation.

- Students will demonstrate the ability to write and speak effectively, develop sound arguments, and derive justified conclusions.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to reason using quantitative data, and students will demonstrate use of mathematical methods and concepts in both abstract and concrete contexts.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to reason critically and identify credible sources.

Knowledge Domain Learning Outcomes:

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

GOAL: Students will interpret significant writings and works of art, with a focus on aesthetics, historical responses, and the nature of the human condition.

- Students will analyze and evaluate the elements and the personal and societal impact of multiple types of literary and artistic expressions.
- Students will demonstrate awareness of ethical or cultural values in shaping the human experience.

NATURAL SCIENCES

GOAL: Students will demonstrate understanding of the basic facts, principles, theories, and methods of science. Students will demonstrate the interdependence of science and technology and the influence of science and technology on society.

- Students will successfully perform an experiment to test a hypothesis including the collection and analysis of data.
- Students will demonstrate the knowledge and application of scientific principles.
- Students will use and interpret formulas, graphs, and tables.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of the interactions of science, technology and society.

SOCIAL and behavioral SCIENCES

GOAL: Students will demonstrate understanding of the development, diversity, and complexity of human behavior, institutions, and culture.

- Students will demonstrate understanding of the contexts and development of human cultures and institutions.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of individual and social behavior.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of methodologies used in the social sciences.

Baccalaureate Degree General Education Requirements

A. Core Competencies (p. 3)

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

To learn the skills of effective writing, students will:

- Take two courses:
 - ENGL 1550 Writing 1 or ENGL 1549 Writing 1 with Support– the standard introductory writing course
 - ENGL 1551 Writing 2– a course in which students investigate a thematic topic (students with ACT scores at or above 28 will only need to take ENGL 1551 Writing 2)
- Gather evidence from the library, Internet, or other appropriate sources
- Write a research paper using a computer

MATHEMATICS

Students must take at least one approved course that teaches mathematical and statistical skills. A student may satisfy this requirement by passing an approved course or by passing a higher-level mathematics course.

B. Knowledge Domains: Arts and Humanities (p. 4), Natural Sciences (p. 4), and Social and Behavioral Sciences (p. 5),

To become more well-rounded members of the community, students are required to take a total of nine courses from the knowledge domains. The coursework gives students exposure to fields of study outside their majors. Three of those nine courses are considered "elective" courses. Electives must be distributed among two or more domains. Students are encouraged to complete an Oral Communication domain course, CMST 1545 or CMST 2620 as an elective course. Completion of an Oral Communication course is required for some programs.

Baccalaureate Degree General Education Requirements Summary

Core Competencies

Writing 2 courses

Mathematics 1 course

Arts and Humanities 2 courses

Natural Sciences 2 courses (1 must include a lab)

Social and Behavioral Sciences 2 courses

Electives 3 courses from any domain (recommended elective: CMST 1545 or CMST 2620)

*Per Ohio Senate Bill 1, additional requirements maybe needed for students graduating in 2028-2029. More information will be added at a later date.

total* *12 courses

Academic Associates Degree General Education Requirements Summary

Students in the Associates of Arts Program must fulfill the same General Education requirements as required for Baccalaureate Programs. To ensure transferability of an Associates Degree within the State of Ohio, students should only take Ohio Transfer 36 (OT36) Approved Courses. Specific program requirements for each associate degree are listed in the appropriate college section.

Core Competencies

Writing 2 Courses

Mathematics 1 course

Arts and Humanities 2 courses

Natural Sciences 2 courses (1 must include a lab)

Social and Behavioral Science 2 courses

Electives 3 courses from any domain (recommended elective: CMST 1545 or CMST 2620)

total* *12 courses

Applied Associate Degrees General Education Requirements Summary

Students in Applied Associates Degree Programs must take a minimum of five general-education courses, including Writing I and Writing II, one course in mathematics, two courses representing two of the following domains: social and behavioral science, arts and humanities, and natural science.

To ensure transferability of an Associates Degree within the State of Ohio, students should take only Ohio Transfer 36 (OT36) Approved Courses in arts and humanities and social science.

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
ENGL 1550	Writing 1	3
ENGL 1551	Writing 2	3

Mathematics (no more than one course)

Select two courses from the following domains:

Natural Sciences

Arts and Humanities

Social and Behavioral Sciences

General Education and Transfer Students

Transfer students with a bachelor's degree

Students with a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the United States or from an approved international institution (as determined by the International Programs Office) seeking an additional baccalaureate degree do not have to complete the YSU general education requirements. Students will need to take general education courses required for their major. Refer to the program curriculum in the catalog for specific requirements.

Transfer students without a bachelor's degree

All transfer students without a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the United States must complete the general education requirements. Students should consult with an academic advisor to discuss the coursework they need to complete the YSU general education requirements. See the Transfer Credit (<https://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/admission/transfer-applicants/>) section of this catalog for additional information.

General Education Microcredential

Students have an opportunity to earn microcredentials when completing general education courses. Four microcredentials are available for the 2025-26 academic year. They include creative thinking, critical thinking, personal and social well-being, and quantitative and scientific reasoning. To earn a microcredential, a student must complete three of the six courses identified in the credential description.

Creative Thinking

Creative Thinking: apply and present knowledge associated with artistic, creative, and intuitive understanding to develop questions; examine problems from different perspectives, and present potential solutions.

LO: Analyze and synthesize information from diverse sources to formulate unique perspectives and create original concepts, demonstrating the capacity to think beyond conventional boundaries and challenge existing paradigms.

Aligns with UWLO 1 YSU graduates are critical, creative, and integrative thinkers who incorporate a range of interdisciplinary knowledge (1.5) and UWLO 4 YSU graduates connect scholarly research, academic inquiry, and/or artistic expression to actions that inspire a civically engaged mindset and contribute to society through service to their community (4.5).

Possible Courses (pick 3)

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
AFST 2601	Introduction to Africana Studies 2	3
ART 1591	Idea Development and Creativity in Cultural Context	3
CMST 1545	Communication Foundations	3
or CMST 2620	Science Communication	
ENGL 2618	American Literature and Diversity	3
MUHL 2622	Popular Music in America	3
THTR 1590	History of Motion Pictures	3

Critical Thinking

Critical Thinking: develop and enhance abilities to analyze information, evaluate arguments, identify biases, and make informed decisions across various academic disciplines.

LO: Apply logical reasoning and evidence-based methodologies to construct well-supported arguments and counterarguments, demonstrating the ability to critically assess and challenge ideas in academic and professional contexts.

Aligns with UWLO 1 YSU graduates are critical, creative, and integrative thinkers who incorporate a range of interdisciplinary knowledge (1.3, 1.4)

Possible Courses (pick 3)

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
ANTH 1503	The Rise and Fall of Civilizations	3
ART 1544	Survey of Art History: Body, Gender, and Self	3
CMST 1545	Communication Foundations	3
or CMST 2620	Science Communication	
HIST 1501	Discovering American History	3
MCOM 1595	Media Literacy and Culture	3
PHIL 1565	Critical Thinking	3

Personal and Social Well-Being

Personal and Social Well-Being: strategies for stress management, self-awareness, and resilience through mindfulness and emotion regulation. It addresses the impact of financial resources on mental and physical health, stress levels, and healthcare access, while fostering healthy relationships and effective personal finance management.

LO: Students will develop and apply strategies for personal well-being, social interaction, and financial literacy to enhance their overall quality of life and resilience.

Aligns with UWLO 2 YSU graduates will recognize the impacts of different dimensions of health which include: physical health, emotional well-being, social support, economic stability, environmental quality, educational opportunity, and health-care accessibility (2.2-2.5).

Possible Courses (pick 3)

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
ECON 1505	Personal Financial Literacy	3
ENST 1500	Introduction to Environmental Science	3
FNUT 1551	Normal Nutrition	3
PHLT 1568	Healthy Lifestyles	3
PSYC 2607	Psychology of Intimate Relationships	3
SOC 2601	Social Problems	3

Quantitative & Scientific Reasoning

Quantitative & Scientific Reasoning: introduction to the use of logical, mathematical, statistical, and scientific concepts and data to help ground solutions to real world problems.

LO: Students will apply logical, mathematical, statistical, and scientific concepts to analyze real-world problems and develop evidence-based solutions.

Aligns with UWLO 1 YSU graduates are critical, creative, and integrative thinkers who incorporate a range of interdisciplinary knowledge (1.2) and UWLO 4 YSU graduates connect scholarly research, academic inquiry, and/or artistic expression to actions that inspire a civically engaged mindset and contribute to society through service to their community (4.1)

Possible Courses (pick 3)

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
BIOL 1505	Biology and the Modern World	3
CHEM 1500	Chemistry in Modern Living	3
GEOL 1500	Environmental Geology	4
HIST 1512	World Civilization from 1500	3
MATH 2623	Quantitative Reasoning	3
PHIL 2619	Introduction to Logic	3

Core Competencies

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Bachelor's degree seeking students must complete the following two courses:

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
ENGL 1549	Writing 1 with Support	4
ENGL 1550	Writing 1 ¹	3
or ENGL 1550H	Honors Writing 1	
ENGL 1551	Writing 2 (Students with ACT scores at or above 28 will only need to take ENGL 1551) ¹	3
or ENGL 1551H	Honors Writing 2	

MATHEMATICS

Bachelor's degree seeking students must complete one of the following courses:

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
MATH 1510	College Algebra ¹	4
MATH 1510C	College Algebra with Co-requisite Support	6
MATH 1511	Trigonometry	3
MATH 1511C	Trigonometry with Co-requisite Support	4
MATH 1513	Algebra and Transcendental Function ¹	5
MATH 1552	Applied Business Calculus ¹	4
MATH 1570	Applied Calculus 1 ¹	4
MATH 1571	Calculus 1 ¹	4
MATH 1572	Calculus 2 ¹	4
MATH 1581	Calculus for the Health Sciences 1	4
MATH 1581H	Honors Calculus for the Health Sciences 1	4
MATH 1582	Calculus for the Health Sciences 2	4
MATH 1585H	Honors Accelerated Calculus 1	5
MATH 2623	Quantitative Reasoning	3
MATH 2623C	Quantitative Reasoning with Co-Requisite Support	5
MATH 2661	Mathematics for Elementary Teachers 1	4
MATH 2661C	Mathematics for Elementary Teachers 1 with Co-Requisite Support	6
MATH 2662	Mathematics for Elementary Teachers 2	4
MATH 2665	Foundations of Middle School Mathematics 2	4
MATH 2670	Applied Calculus 2	5
MATH 2686H	Honors Accelerated Calculus 2	5
STAT 2601	Introductory Statistics ¹	3
STAT 2625	Statistical Literacy and Critical Reasoning ¹	4
STAT 2625C	Statistical Literacy and Critical Reasoning with Co-Requisite Support	6
PHIL 2619	Introduction to Logic	3

¹ Courses are part of the Ohio Transfer 36 and are guaranteed to transfer to any of Ohio's public institutions of higher education as a subject area general education credit. Ohio's Department of Higher Education maintains an up-to-date list of OT36 approved courses through the [OT36 reporting system \(https://analytics.das.ohio.gov/\)](https://analytics.das.ohio.gov/)

[t/HigherEdPUB/views/OhioTransfer36Approvals/Dashboard2/?%3Adisplay_count=n&%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link&%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3AshowVizHome=n](https://analytics.das.ohio.gov/t/HigherEdPUB/views/OhioTransfer36Approvals/Dashboard2/?%3Adisplay_count=n&%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link&%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3AshowVizHome=n).

Natural Sciences

Bachelor's degree seeking students must complete two of the following (one must include a lab):

Natural Science Courses without a lab

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
ASTR 1504	Descriptive Astronomy ¹	3
BIOL 1505	Biology and the Modern World ¹	3
BIOL 1551	Anatomy and Physiology 1 ^{1,3}	3
CHEM 1500	Chemistry in Modern Living ¹	3
CHEM 1520	Allied Health Chemistry for Online Programs	3
ENST 1500	Introduction to Environmental Science ¹	3
FSCI 1510	Survey of Forensic Science	3
GEOG 1503	Physical Geography ¹	3
GEOG 2630	Weather ¹	3
GEOL 1504	The Dynamic Earth	3
GEOL 2602	Introduction to Oceanography ¹	3
PHYS 1500	Conceptual Physics ¹	3
PHYS 1501	Fundamentals of Physics 1 ^{1,3}	4
PHYS 1502	Fundamentals of Physics 2 ^{1,3}	3
PHYS 2607	Physical Science for Middle and Secondary Education ³	4
PHYS 2608	Sound	3
PHYS 2610	General Physics 1 ^{1,3}	4
PHYS 2611	General Physics 2 ^{1,3}	4

Natural Science Courses with a lab

Labs must be taken with the associated course in order to count for Natural Science Lab credit.

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
ASTR 1504 & 1504L	Descriptive Astronomy and Astronomy Laboratory ¹	4
BIOL 1505 & 1505L	Biology and the Modern World and Biology and the Modern World Laboratory ²	4
BIOL 1545 & 1545L	Allied Health Anatomy and Physiology and Allied Health Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory ^{2,3}	5
BIOL 1551 & 1551L	Anatomy and Physiology 1 and Anatomy and Physiology 1 Laboratory ^{2,3}	4
BIOL 1552 & 1552L	Anatomy and Physiology 2 and Anatomy and Physiology 2 Laboratory ^{2,3}	4
BIOL 2601 & 2601L	General Biology 1: Molecules and Cells and General Biology 1: Molecules and Cells Laboratory ^{2,3}	4
BIOL 2602 & 2602L	General Biology 2: Organisms and Ecology and General Biology: Organisms and Ecology Laboratory ^{2,3}	4
BIOL 2602H & BIOL 2602L	Honors General Biology 2: Organisms and Ecology and General Biology: Organisms and Ecology Laboratory ³	4
CHEM 1500 & 1500L	Chemistry in Modern Living and Chemistry in Modern Living Laboratory ²	4

CHEM 1510 & 1510L	Chemistry for the Allied Health Sciences and Chemistry for the Allied Health Sciences Laboratory	4
CHEM 1515 & 1515L	General Chemistry 1 and General Chemistry 1 Laboratory ^{2,3}	4
CHEM 1516 & 1516L	General Chemistry 2 and General Chemistry 2 Laboratory ^{2,3}	4
ENST 1500 & 1500L	Introduction to Environmental Science and Introduction to Environmental Science Lab ²	4
GEOG 1503 & 1503L	Physical Geography and Physical Geography Laboratory ¹	4
GEOG 2630 & 2630L	Weather and Weather Lab ¹	4
GEOL 1500	Environmental Geology	4
GEOL 1503	Rock Studio: Understanding Geology Through Lapidary Experiences	4
GEOL 1505 & 1505L	Physical Geology and Physical Geology Laboratory	4
GEOL 2611	Geology for Engineers ^{2,3}	3
PHYS 1500 & 1500L	Conceptual Physics and Conceptual Physics Laboratory ¹	4
PHYS 1501 & 1501L	Fundamentals of Physics 1 and Fundamentals of Physics Laboratory 1 ³	5
PHYS 1502 & 1502L	Fundamentals of Physics 2 and Fundamentals of Physics Laboratory 2 ^{1,3}	4
PHYS 2610 & 2610L	General Physics 1 and General Physics Laboratory 1 ^{1,3}	5
PHYS 2611 & 2611L	General Physics 2 and General Physics laboratory 2 ^{1,3}	5

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² Lecture component of the course is OTM approved, however, the lab component is not OTM approved.

³ Courses are designed for science, engineering, and health science majors. Students should consult their advisor before selecting them.

Arts and Humanities

Bachelor's degree seeking students must complete two of the following:

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
AFST 2601	Introduction to Africana Studies 2 ¹	3
ART 1541	Survey of Art History 1 ¹	3
ART 1542	Global Art since 1400 ¹	3
ART 1543	Survey of Art History: Gods and Monsters--Religion, Myth, and the Supernatural	3
ART 1544	Survey of Art History: Body, Gender, and Self	3
ART 1545	Survey of Art History: Power, Propaganda, and the Public Realm	3
ART 2648	Experience Art: Social and Behavioral Perspectives	3
DNCE 2698	Survey of Dance ¹	3
ENGL 1590	Introduction to Literature	3
ENGL 2610	World Literature ¹	3
ENGL 2615	Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature	3

ENGL 2617	Women in Literature ¹	3
ENGL 2618	American Literature and Diversity ¹	3
ENGL 2620	African Literature	3
ENGL 2630	LGBTQIA Literature	3
ENGL 2631	Mythology in Literature ¹	3
ENGL 2665	Introduction to Film Study ¹	3
FNLG 2610	International Cinema ²	3
HIST 1500	Discovering World History ¹	3
HIST 1501	Discovering American History ¹	3
HIST 1511	World Civilization to 1500 ¹	3
HIST 1512	World Civilization from 1500 ¹	3
HIST 2600	Introduction to Jewish Studies	3
HIST 2605	Turning Points in United States History ¹	3
HIST 2606	Turning Points in United States History ²	3
JOUR 2603	Media Ethics and Social Responsibilities ¹	3
JOUR 2605	Journalism as Literature	3
MUHL 2616	Survey of Jazz ¹	3
MUHL 2617	Film Music ¹	3
MUHL 2618	Rock n' Roll to Rock	3
MUHL 2619	Music of Non-Western Societies	3
MUHL 2620	Music and the African-American Experience	3
MUHL 2621	Music Literature and Appreciation	3
MUHL 2622	Popular Music in America	3
MUHL 2624	Survey of Hip Hop	3
MUHL 3772	Music History and Literature 2	3
MUHL 3773	Music History and Literature 3	3
MUHL 3774	Music History and Literature 4	3
PHIL 1560	Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHIL 1561	Technology and Human Values	3
PHIL 1565	Critical Thinking	3
PHIL 2610	Global Ethics	3
PHIL 2625	Introduction to Professional Ethics	3
PHIL 2626	Engineering Ethics	3
PHIL 2627	Law and Criminal Justice Ethics	3
PHIL 2628	Business Ethics	3
PHIL 2635	Ethics of War and Peace	3
PHIL 3711	General Ethics	3
REL 2601	Introduction to World Religions	3
REL 2605	Myth, Symbol, and Ritual ¹	3
REL 2610	Global Ethics	3
REL 2617	Introduction to Asian Religions	3
REL 2621	Religion and Moral Issues ¹	3
THTR 1512	Survey of Broadway: The American Musical ¹	3
THTR 1560	Introduction to Theatre ¹	3
THTR 1590	History of Motion Pictures ¹	3
THTR 2690	The Art of Motion Pictures ¹	3

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² Only one of the following courses will count as an Arts and Humanities Domain or General Education Elective course: PHIL 2625, PHIL 2626, PHIL 2627, PHIL 2628.

Social Sciences

Bachelor's degree seeking students must complete two of the following:

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
AFST 2600	Introduction to Africana Studies ¹	3
ANTH 1500	Introduction to Anthropology ¹	3
ANTH 1503	The Rise and Fall of Civilizations	3
CMST 2600	Communication Theory	3
CMST 2610	Intercultural Communication	3
CRJS 1500	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
ECON 1501	Economics in Action ^{1,2}	3
ECON 1503	Rich and Poor: Diversity and Disparity in the United States Workplace ¹	3
ECON 1505	Personal Financial Literacy	3
ECON 2610	Principles 1: Microeconomics ^{1,2}	3
ECON 2630	Principles 2: Macroeconomics ¹	3
ENGL 2651	Introduction to Language	3
FNLG 2660	Women in the Ancient World	3
FNUT 1551	Normal Nutrition	3
GEOG 2611		3
GEOG 2626	World Geography ¹	3
GEOG 2640	Human Geography ¹	3
GERO 3703	Aging and Society	3
MCOM 1595	Media Literacy and Culture ¹	3
MGT 2604	Legal and Social Responsibilities of Business	3
PHLT 1513	Introduction to Environmental Health and Safety	3
PHLT 1531	Fundamentals of Public Health	3
PHLT 1568	Healthy Lifestyles	3
PHLT 2692	Human Sexuality	3
POL 1550	Introduction to Political Science ¹	3
POL 1560	American Government ¹	3
POL 2640	Contemporary World Governments ¹	3
POL 2660	International Relations	3
PSYC 1560	General Psychology ¹	3
PSYC 2600	Social Psychology	3
PSYC 2607	Psychology of Intimate Relationships	3
PSYC 2655	Child Development	3
PSYC 3758	Lifespan Development	3
PSYC 2692	Human Sexuality	3
SOC 1500	Introduction to Sociology ¹	3
SOC 2601	Social Problems ¹	3
SOC 2650	Human Trafficking	3
WMST 2601	Introduction to Women's Studies ¹	3

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² Only one of the following courses may count as a Social Science Domain or General Education Elective course: ECON 1501, ECON 2610.

Communication

If not required by a specific program, it is recommended that bachelor's degree seeking students choose one of the following as a general education elective course:

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
CMST 1545	Communication Foundations ¹	3
CMST 2620	Science Communication	3

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