

UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM POLICY

(applies to students admitted prior to summer 2026)

All Seattle University students complete the University Core requirements except those enrolled in University Honors or the Matteo Ricci Institute (MRI), which each have their own general education curriculum requirements. This policy includes rules governing University Core courses, requirements to satisfy the University Core, and transfer rules for satisfying the University Core requirements. Additional information regarding procedures, objectives, and course content can be found on the University Core website, in the Academic Catalog, and in University Core publications.

Policies Regarding University Core Courses

Identifying Core Courses:

University Core courses are identified by the use of the UCOR prefix and students must be enrolled in a UCOR section in order to receive Core credit for the course. There are three exceptions to this rule: 1) MATH 1010 or above courses of 5 credits (excluding MATH 1023) may be used to satisfy the UCOR 1200: Quantitative Reasoning requirement, 2) advanced or major-level lab sciences (BIOL 1610/1611, 2200 or 2220, CHEM 1500/1501, PHYS 1050/1051 or 1210/1211) may be used to satisfy the UCOR 1800: Inquiry Seminar in the Natural Sciences requirement, and 3) Disciplinary Capstone courses all carry the appropriate departmental designation.

Cross-listing/Use of University Core courses for major requirements:

Departments may designate approved Core courses as courses that can count towards major requirements (including major electives). Courses that are designated in this way must be offered as cross-listed sections: one section with the UCOR designator that will award Core credit and one section with the department's course code that will award major credit. Capacity in cross-listed departmental sections is limited to a maximum of 25% of the total combined course capacity (i.e. 75% UCOR, 25% major). No UCOR course can simultaneously fulfill Core and major requirements (no double-counting).

Use of University Core courses for minor requirements:

Departments may include UCOR courses in minor requirements. Credits from UCOR courses may simultaneously fulfill Core and minor requirements (double-counting). The department is responsible for determining which UCOR sections were completed and for identifying those sections on the Minor Request form.

Major-specific Core Requirements:

Students' University Core requirements should be independent of their major requirements. Major requirements should not determine what Core course choices students make; courses that departments believe their students should take in order to complete a major should be included in the major

requirements. However, there are three exceptions to this general policy (all exceptions must be approved by the University Core):

- a. **UCOR courses that are college-level requirements** dictated by accreditation standards that apply to all undergraduate students in the college or school and which, if included as separate major requirements, would be significantly repetitive with Core requirements (e.g. Business Ethics for all Albers students, Health Care Ethics for all Nursing students).
- b. **Non-UCOR courses providing advanced study in mathematics and natural sciences** that are essential to the major. Departments may require that their students complete these more advanced courses:
 - i. MATH 1010 or above courses of 5 credits (excluding MATH 1023) to fulfill UCOR 1200 Quantitative Reasoning
 - ii. BIOL 1610/1611, 2200 or 2220, CHEM 1500/1501, PHYS 1050/1051 or 1210/1211 to fulfill UCOR 1800 Inquiry Seminar in the Natural Sciences
- c. **Engineering majors** will have one of their Global Challenges courses (UCOR 3600) satisfied in the major with the completion of CEEGR 3020

Prior Learning Assessment (AP, IB, etc.):

A limited number of UCOR courses can be satisfied through prior learning assessments. The specific exams, minimum scores, and course equivalents are detailed in the relevant policies (#75-16 and #99-1). UCOR courses eligible for prior learning assessment credit include:

- UCOR 1100 Academic Writing
- UCOR 1200 Quantitative Reasoning (or MATH 1010 or above courses of 5 credits (excluding MATH 1023))
- UCOR 1300 Creative Expression and Interpretation
- UCOR 1800 Inquiry Seminar in the Natural Sciences (Only credit equivalent to the following major-level courses can fulfill this requirement: BIOL 1610/1611, 2200 or 2220, CHEM 1500/1501, PHYS 1050/1051 or 1210/1211). Introductory science courses designed for nonmajors do not fulfill UCOR 1800.

Running Start credits are treated as transfer credits (see “Core Requirements for Transfer Students” beginning on page 4).

Matriculated Students: Allowable Transfer Courses

Once a student has matriculated at Seattle University only the following courses can be transferred from other accredited domestic institutions. Transfer evaluation is based on direct equivalencies. (See page 4.)

- UCOR 1100 Academic Writing
- MATH 1010 or above courses of 5 credits (excluding MATH 1023) to fulfill UCOR 1200 Quantitative Reasoning
- UCOR 1300 Creative Expression and Interpretation
- BIOL 1610/1611, 2200, or 2220; CHEM 1500/1501; PHYS 1050/1051 or 1210/1211 to satisfy UCOR 1800. Introductory science courses designed for non-majors are not accepted for UCOR 1800.
- UCOR 3100 Religion in a Global Context

Module II Core courses may be transferred back to Seattle University from other Jesuit universities (see below) after matriculation.

Matriculated Students: Study Abroad Courses

Course credits earned via study abroad programs can count towards University Core requirements with pre-approval from University Core. While Module III is the most easily fulfilled by study abroad, it is possible for a student to receive study abroad credit for some Module I courses, excluding UCOR 1400 and UCOR 1600. Students must follow the processes and procedures for pre-approval of study abroad courses for SU credit as prescribed by the Education Abroad Office.

Module II Courses: Limitations on Transfer

Module II courses must be taken at Seattle University. Students who have completed appropriate coursework at another Jesuit institution may petition the University Core Director to request those courses count towards the Module II requirements.

Repeating a Core course for grade replacement

Students who repeat a Core course to replace a grade must take a course with the same course number as the course being replaced. See policy #77-2.

UCOR and Independent Study

UCOR courses cannot be satisfied by independent study credit.

University Core Requirements

The University Core consists of 13 courses (including one major-based course in Module IV) with a minimum of 63 credits. This list summarizes the general requirements. See below for variations of the Core requirements for transfer students. Detailed descriptions of the content, objectives, and guidelines for these courses can be found on the University Core website.

Module I: Engaging Academic Inquiry (30 credits)

- UCOR 1100 Academic Writing Seminar
- UCOR 1200 Quantitative Reasoning (fulfilled by UCOR 1200 or equivalent course listed above)
- UCOR 1300 Creative Expression and Interpretation
- UCOR 1400 Inquiry Seminar in the Humanities
- UCOR 1600 Inquiry Seminar in the Social Sciences)
- UCOR 1800 Inquiry Seminar in the Natural Sciences (fulfilled by UCOR 1800, 1810, or equivalent course listed above)

Module II: Engaging Jesuit Traditions (15 credits)

- UCOR 2100 Theological Explorations
- UCOR 2500 Philosophy of the Human Person
- UCOR 2900 Ethical Reasoning (fulfilled by UCOR 2900, 2910, or 2920)

Module III: Engaging the World (15 credits)

- UCOR 3100 Religion in a Global Context
- Global Challenge courses: Students take 2 of these 3 courses as designated by major (see “Module III Breadth Requirements” below).

- UCOR 3400 Humanities and Global Challenges
- UCOR 3600 Social Sciences and Global Challenges
- UCOR 3800 Natural Sciences and Global Challenges

Module IV: Reflection and Awareness

- Senior Synthesis/Capstone: 3 or more credits in designated major course

Module III Breadth Requirements: Module III Global Challenge course requirements are shaped by students' majors. Students are required to take the two courses most outside of their major area of study. Students may consult their major requirements as listed in the Academic Catalog for the designation of Global Challenges courses required for their major. **Note:** students who are double-majoring only take the Global Challenges courses required for their primary major. Students seeking a double degree must complete the Global Challenges courses required for both majors (except MRI students, whose MRI coursework fulfills all Core requirements). In cases where double degree students are required to take all three Global Challenges courses, exceptions can be made with the approval of the Core Director. Students may submit a Petition for Exception to Policy through their advisor. Transfer students see section below.

Prerequisites for University Core Courses

Module I: Engaging Academic Inquiry

- UCOR 1810 Inquiry Seminar in the Natural Sciences – Prerequisite: UCOR 1200 or equivalent. This prerequisite does not apply to UCOR 1800.

Module II: Engaging Jesuit Traditions

- UCOR 1100 is a required prerequisite for all Module II courses
- UCOR 2900-2920: Ethical Reasoning – Prerequisite: UCOR 2500

Module III: Engaging the World

- Prerequisites for all Module III courses:
 - Completion of all Module I Core requirements
 - 60 earned credits
- UCOR 3100 Religion in a Global Context – Prerequisite: UCOR 2100

Core Requirements for Transfer Students

Core requirements for transfer students are based on the number of credits and type of degrees earned at students' previous institutions. Consult the appropriate section below for the relevant requirements.

Note: Running Start credits are counted as transfer credits. See Transfer Policy #77-1 regarding minimum grade requirements. A minimum of 4 transfer credits are required to satisfy a 5 credit requirement.

Where allowed, these Core requirements transfer through direct equivalencies based on a comparison of course content where the transfer course approximately matches the content and objectives of the SU Core requirement:

- UCOR 1100 Academic Writing
- UCOR 1200 Quantitative Reasoning
- UCOR 1300 Creative Expression and Interpretation (depends on credits earned: see below)
- UCOR 3100 Religion in a Global Context

Where allowed, these Core requirements can be satisfied through categorical substitution based on general subject area:

- UCOR 1400: Inquiry Seminar in the Humanities: any acceptable course in English literature [except composition courses], history, philosophy, theology, non- performance based fine art courses [art history, music appreciation or history, drama history, etc.], humanities, communication/speech/journalism [except journalism writing courses]. Modern Language and ASL classes do not fulfill this requirement.
- UCOR 1600: Inquiry Seminar in the Social Sciences: any acceptable course in anthropology, administrative justice/criminal justice, economics, geography, government/political science, psychology, or sociology
- UCOR 1800-1810: Inquiry Seminar in the Natural Sciences: any acceptable course (must include a lab or field research component) in biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, geology, general science, but not computer science
- UCOR 3400: Humanities and Global Challenges: any acceptable course in English literature [except composition courses], history, philosophy, theology, non- performance based fine art courses [art history, music appreciation or history, drama history, etc.], humanities, communication/speech/journalism [except journalism writing courses]. Modern Language and ASL classes do not fulfill this requirement.
- UCOR 3600: Social Sciences and Global Challenges: any acceptable course in anthropology, administrative justice/criminal justice, economics, geography, government/political science, psychology, or sociology
- UCOR 3800: Natural Sciences and Global Challenges: any acceptable course in biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, geology, general science, computer science, engineering

Students transferring with up to 74 credits prior to first enrollment at SU.

The following courses are satisfied through direct equivalencies:

- UCOR 1100 Academic Writing
- UCOR 1200 Quantitative Reasoning
- UCOR 1300 Creative Expression and Interpretation
- UCOR 3100 Religion in a Global Context

The following courses are satisfied through categorical substitution:

- UCOR 1400: Inquiry Seminar in the Humanities
- UCOR 1600: Inquiry Seminar in the Social Sciences
- UCOR 1800-1810: Inquiry Seminar in the Natural Sciences

Students transferring with 75 or more credits prior to first enrollment at SU, but without a transferrable degree

Module I:

The following courses are satisfied through direct equivalencies:

- UCOR 1100 Academic Writing
- UCOR 1200 Quantitative Reasoning

The following Core courses are satisfied through categorical substitution:

- UCOR 1300 Creative Expression and Interpretation (including any hands-on creative art course or any regular courses in Art, Music, Dance, or Theater [not including credit for participation in artistic activities])
- UCOR 1400: Inquiry Seminar in the Humanities
- UCOR 1600: Inquiry Seminar in the Social Sciences
- UCOR 1800-1810: Inquiry Seminar in the Natural Sciences Module II: Must be completed at Seattle University

Module III:

- UCOR 3100 Religion in a Global Context is waived.
- One Global Challenge course: select from either Global Challenge courses designated by major
 - Clarification: Engineering students fulfil this requirement in the major with CEEGR 3020
- The requirement for a second Global Challenge course is waived.

Students transferring with an Associate in Science – Transfer Degree (AS-T) from Washington Community Colleges (or equivalent as defined in Transfer Policy #77-1)

Module I:

The following courses are satisfied through by the AS-T:

- UCOR 1100 Academic Writing
- UCOR 1200 Quantitative Reasoning
- UCOR 1800-1810: Inquiry Seminar in the Natural Sciences

The following Core courses are satisfied through categorical substitution:

- UCOR 1300 Creative Expression and Interpretation (including any hands-on creative art course or any regular courses in Art, Music, Dance, or Theater [not including credit for participation in artistic activities])
- UCOR 1400: Inquiry Seminar in the Humanities
- UCOR 1600: Inquiry Seminar in the Social Sciences
 - Students are guaranteed to need no more than one of the following courses at SU: UCOR 1300, 1400 or 1600. Some students will have satisfied all of these courses within their AS-T if they took applicable creative arts, humanities, and social science courses.

Module II: Must be completed at Seattle University

Module III:

- UCOR 3100 Religion in a Global Context is waived.
- One Global Challenge course: select either Global Challenge courses designated by major

- Clarification: Engineering students fulfil this requirement in the major with CEEGR 3020.
- Exception: Albers School of Business and Economics students fulfil this requirement in the major by completing ECON 3130 or GBUS 3200 for the program elective requirement.
- The requirement for a second Global Challenge course is waived.

Students transferring with a Direct Transfer Associate Degree (DTA) from Washington Community Colleges (or equivalent as defined in Transfer Policy #77-1)

Module I: Satisfied by DTA degree curriculum

Module II: Must be completed at Seattle University

Module III:

- UCOR 3100 Religion in a Global Context is waived.
- One Global Challenge course: select either Global Challenge courses designated by major
 - Clarification: Engineering students fulfil this requirement in the major with CEEGR 3020
 - Exception: Albers School of Business and Economics students fulfil this requirement in the major by completing ECON 3130 or GBUS 3200 for the program elective requirement.
- The requirement for a second Global Challenge course is waived.

Students entering SU with a first undergraduate degree from an accredited US institution Most of the Core is waived. The following courses must be completed at Seattle University:

- UCOR 2100 Theological Explorations
- UCOR 2900-2920: Ethical Reasoning

Students entering SU with a first undergraduate degree from a non-US institution

Module I:

The following courses are satisfied through direct equivalencies:

- UCOR 1100 Academic Writing
- UCOR 1200 Quantitative Reasoning
- UCOR 1300 Creative Expression and Interpretation

The Inquiry Seminar requirements (UCOR 1400, 1600, 1800/1810) are waived.

Module II:

- UCOR 2500 Philosophy of the Human Person is waived.
- UCOR 2100 Theological Explorations must be completed at Seattle University
- UCOR 2900-2920: Ethical Reasoning must be completed at Seattle University

Module III:

- UCOR 3100 Religion in a Global Context is waived.
- Both Global Challenge courses may be satisfied through categorical substitution.

Core Requirements for Readmitted Students

Students readmitted to Seattle University are subject to the Core requirements in effect at the time of their readmission (see Readmission Requirements Policy #76-10). Readmitted students' coursework will be evaluated based on the transfer student rules described above as determined by the number of credits earned at the time of readmission and any degrees earned prior to first enrollment at SU. There are two exceptions to these rules:

- a. Students who return having earned fewer than 36 credits from Seattle University and who have not taken additional coursework at another institution after leaving SU will be evaluated using the rules for 36-74 credits, thereby allowing categorical substitution of Module I Inquiry Seminars using previous SU Core courses. Non-SU courses may not be used for categorical substitution unless the student returns with 36 or more credits.
- b. UCOR 3100 will not be waived for students who return to Seattle University with 75 or more credits unless THRS 300-399 was waived during their previous attendance.

SU courses that were not approved Core courses when taken may not be used to fulfill Core requirements upon readmission. Appropriate prior SU courses may be accepted for Module II requirements.

Previously revised: 11/08/12
 12/19/12
 2/4/13
 3/27/2014
 08/20/15
 10/28/16
 3/3/17
 6/22/17
 5/29/18
 5/15/19
 3/30/22
 6/7/23
 4/23/24