

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR BACHELOR OF LIBERAL STUDIES DEGREES

General Education Goals and Purposes

The general education requirements of the BLS degree program enable students to cultivate the skills, knowledge, values, and habits that will allow our graduates to lead personally enriching and socially responsible lives as effective and informed citizens of a rapidly changing world. The General Education curriculum helps students to:

Develop core skills needed to understand, evaluate, articulate, and advance their ideas and the ideas of others

Students learn to think critically, analyze data, evaluate evidence and the arguments and theories grounded in that evidence, conduct research thoroughly and with integrity, write and speak effectively, and be in command of the technologies that define not only 21st-century communication but also the emerging tools of different disciplines.

Explore issues, solve problems, and learn through multiple methodological approaches

The wide range of general education courses challenge students to make connections across their course of study and to explore the variety of ways they can understand and apply what they learn. General education courses focus on complex problems and issues in the arts, humanities, quantitative reasoning, and natural and social sciences.

Engage knowledgeably and responsibly with a changing, complicated, and multi-dimensional world

Students must understand and appreciate global connections, differences, cultures, languages, environments, and change. These courses require students to be both individual and collaborative learners, solve problems systematically and creatively, and find opportunities to explore beyond the classroom experiences such as undergraduate research, internships, study abroad, and engagement in community and civic life.

The BLS degree general education requirements

The Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) degree general education requirements are as follows; see the general education list (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/general-education-course-list/>) for the courses that will meet the various requirements.

Foundations

Written Communication

Three courses designated Writing Intensive.

Oral Communication

One course designated Speaking Intensive.

Methods of Investigation

Arts and Literature

One course focusing on visual art, performing art, and/or literature.

Humanities

One course in the humanities (including history).

Natural Science

One course in the natural sciences that includes a laboratory.

Quantitative Reasoning

One course focusing on quantitative information and abstract reasoning.

Social Science

One course in the social sciences.

Additional Methods of Investigation Courses

Three additional courses taken from two different Methods of Investigation categories.

Connections

Digital Intensive

One course designated as a Digital Intensive course that is not being used to meet one of the methods of investigation requirements or to fulfill the Diverse and Global Perspectives requirement.

Diverse and Global Perspectives

One course focusing on global and/or diverse communities that is not being used to meet one of the methods of investigation requirements or to fulfill the Digital Intensive requirement.