

## *Liberal Arts Curriculum*

### **CORE CURRICULUM CONDENSED**

Please refer to the First Year Experience Web site <http://www.smcm.edu/firstyear/> for the complete Core Curriculum  
(<http://www.smcm.edu/firstyear/PDFs/Liberal%20Arts%20Curriculum%20-%20Course%20Catalogue.pdf>)

As a public honors college dedicated to the liberal arts and sciences, St. Mary's College of Maryland provides opportunities for its students to develop intellectual breadth as well as to hone a particular understanding of at least one specific discipline. To this end, all students must complete the general college requirements, including two programs of study: the Core Curriculum and a major. The Core Curriculum offers the student a broad understanding of several fields of knowledge. The major provides the opportunity to pursue one field in depth. The specific requirements of study are detailed below.

### **General College Requirements**

1. Completion of at least 128 semester-hours (credits), including at least 44 semester-hours of upper-division (300- and 400-level) courses, with a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.00, both on an overall basis and in those courses that meet major requirements.
2. Completion of at least 30 of the last 36 semester-hours of academic work toward the degree at St. Mary's College. With the permission of the associate provost for academic services, this provision may be waived for students engaged in departmentally approved off-campus learning experiences.
3. Completion of the Core Curriculum requirements.
4. Completion of the requirements for a major field of study.

### **Core Curriculum Requirements**

To fulfill the goals of the Core Curriculum...all students must achieve competence in four "fundamental liberal arts skills" by the time they graduate. These skills, including a) critical thinking, b) information literacy, c) written expression, and d) oral expression, will be introduced in the First Year Seminars, practiced and honed in increasingly sophisticated ways throughout the Core Curriculum and the majors, and then assessed within the major prior to graduation. Additionally, students are required to successfully complete designated courses in each of the following categories: I) Introduction to the Liberal Arts – Liberal Arts Seminars; II) International Languages; III) Liberal Arts Approaches to Understanding the World; and IV) Experiencing the Liberal Arts in the World.

#### **I. Introduction to the Liberal Arts – Liberal Arts Seminars**

The Liberal Arts Seminars, an integral part of the Core Curriculum, introduce students to the campus community, liberal arts culture, and the excitement of intellectual inquiry.

*To satisfy the requirement for the liberal arts seminar, students must take either CORE101 or CORE301. Incoming first year students and students who transfer in with fewer than 32 credits will take CORE101 in their first fall semester on campus. Students who transfer in with 32 credits or more will take CORE301 in their first spring semester on campus.*

#### CORE101. The First Year Seminar (4F)

The First Year Seminar serves as the gateway course to the honors college. The Seminars will encourage students to engage deeply with an intellectual topic through exercising the four fundamental liberal arts skills (critical thinking, information literacy, written expression, and oral expression). The Seminars are not meant to be introductions to disciplines, nor are they merely orientations to the campus or clinics on study skills. Rather, they focus on a question, an issue, or a group of texts, on which students will write, speak, research, and think critically. Multiple sections of this course will focus on a wide variety of topics.

#### CORE301. Inquiry in the Liberal Arts (2S)

This course, designed for students transferring to St. Mary's College of Maryland with 32 credits or more, will focus on the four fundamental liberal arts skills (critical thinking, information literacy, written expression, and oral expression) and emphasize their importance for a broad grounding in the liberal arts.

#### CORE401. Peer Mentoring Practicum (4F)

Advanced undergraduate students may apply to be peer mentors to the First Year Seminars (CORE101). In addition to attending the seminar section to which they are assigned, peer mentors will attend regular practicum meetings designed to address issues related to mentoring, ethics in teaching, teaching and learning theories, as well as issues related to facilitating discussion and helping students develop and hone the four fundamental liberal arts skills. *Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing. Students must apply to the Dean of the Core Curriculum and First Year Experience to be considered for the Peer Mentor program.*

## **II. International Languages**

*Students will take one international language course beyond their entering level of proficiency.*

### Determining course level:

Though students may always opt to fulfill the requirement by starting a new language at the 101 level, other levels of placement (course numbers 102, 110, 201, 202, 206) will be determined by one's score on the Foreign Language Proficiency Test (FLPT) administered by the Department of International Languages and Cultures. For specific

information on the administration of the FLPT, check the web page of the Department of International Languages and Cultures: [www.smcm.edu/ilc](http://www.smcm.edu/ilc).

Ways to meet the requirement outside of taking a course at St. Mary's College of Maryland:

- 1) by providing proof of course work in any foreign language at the College level (including languages not currently taught at St. Mary's College of Maryland); or
- 2) by petitioning the Dean of the Core Curriculum and First Year Experience for an exemption, such as by demonstrating native or near-native knowledge of a language other than English (i.e., international students or anyone else with significant linguistic and cultural background from outside the United States); or
- 3) by submitting evidence of a score of a 4 or 5 in an AP foreign language exam or a minimum score of 5 in an IB/HL exam in a foreign language.

Students who have already satisfied the International Languages requirement, as detailed above, are still strongly encouraged to continue to develop their proficiency through additional college level work and are encouraged to take the Foreign Language Proficiency Test (FLPT) to determine level of placement.

### **III. Liberal Arts Approaches to Understanding the World**

*A student will take one course from each of the following six areas: 1) Arts, 2) Cultural Perspectives, 3) Humanistic Foundations, 4) Mathematics, 5) Natural Sciences with Laboratory, and 6) Social Sciences. The six courses must be from six different disciplines. In other words, only one course with any given prefix—such as ANTH, MUSC, POSC or TFMS—may be counted among a student's six Liberal Arts Approaches to Understanding the World courses.*

**1. Arts:** The Arts include courses whose primary focus is the study and/or practice of artistic creation in literature, the visual arts, music, dance, theater and film. Courses in the arts examine how art forms express ideas and experiences. Some of these courses focus on the history of art forms, the contexts of their production and reception, and the theories used to interpret them. Other Arts courses focus on students making, writing, or performing artistic creations. By studying the arts, students learn to attend carefully to the structure and details of creative works, to understand these works in their social and historical contexts, and to express their creative and critical intentions clearly and effectively.

The courses that satisfy the Arts requirement are

ART105 Introduction to Visual Thinking  
ART204 Introduction to Drawing  
ART206 Introduction to Painting  
ART208 Introduction to Sculpture  
ART210 Introduction to Printmaking

ART212 Introduction to Photography  
ART214 Introduction to Digital Imaging  
ART218 Introduction to Combined Media  
ART233 Topics in Studio Art  
ART237 Topics in Studio Art: Color  
ARTH250 Topics in Art History  
ARTH260 Topics in Art Theory  
ARTH220 Rock, Paper, Sword: The Media of the Ancient and Medieval World  
ENGL106 Introduction to Literature  
ENGL 230 Literary Topics  
ENGL270 Creative Writing  
ENGL281 Literature in History I  
ENGL282 Literature in History II  
ENGL283 Literature in History III  
HIST264 Introduction to Museum Studies  
MUSC112 Music as Communication  
MUSC203 Music Theory I (3) (with co-requisite MUSC201, a 1 credit course)  
MUSC205 Music in History  
MUSC217 The Jazz Makers  
MUST200 Introduction to Museum Studies  
TFMS130 Introduction to Performance  
TFMS170 Stagecraft  
TFMS171 Elements of Theatrical Design  
TFMS200 Theater in History  
TFMS220 Introduction to Film and Media Studies  
TFMS225 Topics in Film and Media  
TFMS228 Media Production  
TFMS230 Acting I  
TFMS231 Acting II  
TFMS234 Acting for the Camera  
TFMS250 Movement I  
TFMS255 Modern Dance I (3)  
TFMS258 Dance in History  
TFMS260 Topics in Dance/Movement  
TFMS275 Costumes and Clothes in History

Four 1-credit MUSA courses at the lower division level may also satisfy the Arts requirement in the following ways: 1) Students taking *lessons* (at the 200 level) may accumulate credits only on one instrument (or voice) across 4 semesters. 2) Students may participate in an *ensemble* (at the 100 level) across 4 semesters. 3) Credits may also accumulate through a combination of *lessons* plus any mixture of *ensembles* for a total of 4 credits.

*Lessons* that can be used to fulfill this requirement:

Guitar: MUSA 280

Piano MUSA 281

Brass: MUSA 284  
Strings: MUSA 285  
Voice: MUSA 286  
Percussion: MUSA 287  
Woodwinds: MUSA 288

*Ensembles* that can be used to fulfill this requirement:

Choir: MUSA 180  
Chamber Singers: MUSA 182  
Jazz Ensemble: MUSA 186  
Chamber Ensemble: MUSA 187  
Orchestra: MUSA 189

**2. Cultural Perspectives:** Courses in this category are designed to help students better recognize the ways their own culture shapes their thinking and the ways in which culture more generally shapes an individual's world view. Courses include those in which the primary object of study is cultures and languages using the methodologies of diverse disciplines as well as interdisciplinary methodologies. Courses might examine theories of race and ethnicity, explore the experiences of people and societies in various cultures, or investigate diverse issues related to both globalization and the variability of experiences within particular cultures.

The courses that satisfy the Cultural Perspectives requirement are

AADS214 Africa and the African Diaspora  
ANTH230 Cultural Anthropology  
ANTH250 Language and Culture  
ASIA200 Introduction to Asian Studies  
ENGL 235 Topics in Literature and Culture  
HIST280 Africa and the African Diaspora  
ILAS 200 Democracy in Latin America  
ILC 102, 201, 202 Or 206 courses, if they are not used to fulfill the language requirement  
MUSC216 Introduction to the World's Music  
POSC252 Comparative Politics  
POSC269 International Politics  
TFMS210 Japanese Performance Traditions  
TFMS226 World Cinema  
TFMS251 Introduction to Traditional African Dance

**3. Humanistic Foundations:** Courses in this category take as their primary objects of study the constitutive events, ideas, beliefs, and practices that have shaped, and continue to shape, the human condition. Methodologically, they focus on the analytical investigation of human experience in general; of the experience of particular individuals; and of the links between the particular and the general—thus recognizing both the individual and also the way in which every individual's experience is shaped by larger systems and paradigms. Courses may address the fundamental question of what it means

to be human in the world, thereby providing students with the analytic tools to critically reflect on their place on earth. In the process, students will also become familiar with the key topics, questions, issues, and methodologies central to the disciplines of philosophy, history, religious studies, and women, gender, and sexuality studies.

The courses that satisfy the Humanistic Foundations requirement are

ARTH100 Introduction to Art History  
HIST104 Historical Foundations of the Modern World to 1450  
HIST105 Western Civilization  
HIST108 History of the Modern World  
HIST200 United States History, 1776-1980  
HIST206 East Asian Civilization  
HIST219 Colonial American Survey  
HIST253 Latin American Civilization  
HIST268 Russian Civilization  
HIST272 Ancient Mediterranean  
HIST274 Europe, 1815-1914  
HIST276 Twentieth Century World  
PHIL101 Introduction to Philosophy  
PHIL120 Introduction to Ethics  
RELG110 Introduction to World Religions  
RELG210 Biblical Foundations  
WGSX200 Introduction to Women Studies  
WGSX210 Introduction to Gender Studies

**4. Mathematics:** Mathematics is a discipline that studies quantitative aspects of the world. The courses within this section introduce the student to basic mathematical skills and concepts, sometimes through the elements of computer programming. Students are expected to learn methods and techniques of problem solving and to develop facility in the mathematical mode of thinking. They are expected to become acquainted with the major areas of current interest in mathematics, with the primary achievements of the past, and with the fundamental problems of number, space, and infinity.

The courses that satisfy the Mathematics requirement are

COSC120 Introduction to Computer Science  
MATH131 Survey of Mathematics  
MATH151 Calculus I  
MATH200 Discrete Mathematics

**5. Natural Sciences with Laboratory:** The Natural Sciences are academic disciplines that study the natural world, including biological, chemical and physical structures and phenomena. Courses in the natural sciences present major scientific concepts and theories and teach students to apply investigative methodologies to explore scientific questions. Students will learn to analyze scientific literature and to write and speak using

the languages of these disciplines. *All courses in this area include the required laboratory component.*

The courses that satisfy the Natural Sciences with Laboratory requirement are

ASTR154 Solar System Astronomy  
ASTR155 Stellar Astronomy and Cosmology  
BIOL101 Contemporary Bioscience with Laboratory  
BIOL105 Principles of Biology I  
CHEM101 Contemporary Chemistry with Laboratory  
CHEM105 General Chemistry I  
GEOL130 Introduction to Geology  
PHYS104 Basic Physics with Laboratory  
PHYS121 College Physics I  
PHYS131 General Physics I

**6. Social Sciences:** The Social Sciences are a group of academic disciplines that study human aspects of the world. The courses within the social sciences take human behavior—individual, in groups, or in societies—as their object of study. They emphasize the use of scientific methodologies in the study of humanity, including quantitative tools and narrative approaches. The goal of the social sciences is to make students aware of the forces that have shaped and are shaping the modern world in order to enable them to think critically about the global society in which they live and to write and speak effectively about that society. Students who study the social sciences will have a wide-ranging appreciation of the functioning of a broad spectrum of social systems and will appreciate how the methods of social science can help interpret human behavior.

The courses that satisfy the Social Sciences requirement are

ANTH101 Introduction to Anthropology  
ECON101 Introduction to Economics  
POSC100 Introduction to Politics  
PSYC101 Introduction to Psychology  
SOC101 Introduction to Sociology

*Courses may be added to or removed from the six categories in the Liberal Arts Approaches to Understanding the World pending approval by the Dean of the Core Curriculum and First Year Experience and the Core Curriculum Committee.*

#### **IV. Experiencing the Liberal Arts in the World**

In this element of the Core Curriculum, students will bridge the gap between their academy and the world beyond, transcending the theory-praxis divide and giving extra meaning to their academic courses by applying their developing knowledge base to life experiences outside the boundaries of the college campus.

*The four options for satisfying the Experiencing the Liberal Arts in the World requirement are*

- 1. Study Abroad:** Students may satisfy the Experiencing the Liberal Arts in the World requirement by participating in at least 4 credit hours of study abroad coursework. Study tour courses and semester or longer study abroad programs count towards this requirement.
- 2. Off-campus Internship:** Students may satisfy the Experiencing the Liberal Arts in the World requirement by participating in an off-campus experiential learning activity of at least 4 credit hours.
- 3. Independent Study or Directed Research:** Students may satisfy the Experiencing the Liberal Arts in the World requirement under faculty direction based on off-campus experiences in the world of work or community service not typically associated with an internship placement. Students opting to satisfy the Experiencing the Liberal Arts in the World requirement through this option will submit a proposal for at least 4 credit hours of independent study or directed research at the 300 or 400 level to the Dean of the Core Curriculum and First Year Experience.
- 4. Experiential or Service Learning Course:** Students may satisfy the Experiencing the Liberal Arts in the World requirement by taking a course that has a significant experiential or service learning component. Students may take one of the following courses to satisfy this requirement:

EDUC204 Reflective Practice in Human Studies  
EDUC206 The Child in America  
EDUC296 Language Acquisition and Phonemic Awareness  
EDSP/PSYC336 Exceptionality: An Introduction to Special Education  
EDUC/PSYC368 Educational Psychology  
PSYC410 Service Learning in Psychology  
TFMS392 The Teaching of Theater in the Schools

*Courses may be added to or removed from this category pending approval by the Dean of the Core Curriculum and First Year Experience and the Core Curriculum Committee.*

CORE350. Reflection on Experiencing the World (0E)

In addition to participating in one of the above off-campus activities, students will keep a journal and compose a reflective piece based on their experience. Note that the reflective piece may also be used to satisfy requirements for the service learning courses, internship, independent study, or study abroad coursework at the discretion of the professors for those classes. This course is a co-requisite for any course with an experiential learning component, study abroad experience, independent study, or internship experience that a student wishes to use to satisfy this requirement of the Core Curriculum. Students will receive a grade of “Pass with Distinction,” “Pass,” or “Fail.”

Students who receive a grade of “Fail” will be invited to revise and resubmit their reflective piece.