

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Curriculum Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee

8-25-2022

Curricular Changes Proposed for 2025-2027 Morris Catalog Morris Core Curriculum

Curriculum Committee

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Morris Core Curriculum- Approved unanimously by Curriculum Committee 8/25/2022

- For the Fall 2025 catalog

Simple and common message: With a wide range of areas of study, the Morris Core Curriculum prepares students for real life challenges. Students will graduate from UMN Morris as **career-ready scholars** with the experience and the skill set to better communicate, use critical thinking, and become **creative problem solvers** and **community contributors**.

I. First Year Experience - An Introduction to the Liberal Arts (2 classes, 3 credits)

- A. **Intellectual Community (IC)** - To foster development of a liberal arts intellectual community through the introduction of intellectual and practical skills and through active student-faculty engagement in course material. *2 credits*
- B. **College Pathways Morris IS 1101 (CP)** - *1 credit*

II. Skills for the Liberal Arts - Useful Skills for any Major or Career (5 classes, 17-21 credits)

- A. **Writing for the Liberal Arts (WLA)** - To learn the general conventions and process of academic writing and lay the foundation for learning conventions specific to individual disciplines *4 credits*
- B. **Writing Enriched (WE)** - To develop and improve writing skills through explicit instruction, feedback, and the revision and resubmission of assignments. *2-4 credits*
- C. **World Languages (WL)** - To develop proficiency in a single language other than English at the level equivalent to the first full year of college language study. *8 credits or equivalent proficiency or exemption*
- D. **Quantitative/Mathematical/Symbolic Reasoning (M/SR)** – To increase students' capacity for and competence with formal systems, quantitative reasoning, and symbolic and logical modes of thinking. *2-5 credits*
- E. **Artistic Process (ArtP)** - To introduce an understanding of the creative process through individual performance, and demonstrate skill in such activities as composition, theater, dance, studio art, and music. *1-4 credits*

III. Morris Mission Themes and Liberal Arts Perspectives - (23-40 credits)

A. Students must fulfill the Morris Mission Themes by completing the requirements in:

1. *Human Diversity and Equity (HDE)* - To develop students' awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations in societies.
2. *Global Perspectives (GP)* - To increase students' understanding of the growing interdependence of nations and peoples and develop their ability to apply a comparative perspective to cross-cultural social, economic and political experiences.
3. *Ethical and Civic Responsibility (ECR)* - To develop students' capacity to identify, discuss, and reflect upon the ethical dimensions of political, social, scientific, professional, and personal values and to understand the ways in which they can be responsible and productive community members.
4. *Sustainability & the Environment (SE)* - To improve students' understanding of today's complex sustainability and environmental challenges. Students will explore issues related to sustainability or the environment through the humanities, sciences, and/or social sciences.

B. Students must fulfill the Liberal Arts Perspectives by completing the requirements in:

1. **Humanities (HUM)**- To expand students' capacity to understand, analyze, discuss, and evaluate discourse concerning the complexity of the human condition. *One course*
2. **Fine Arts (FA)** - To develop students' ability to understand, analyze, and appreciate the arts. *One course.*
3. **Social and Behavioral Sciences (SS)** - To increase students' understanding of humans as individuals, and the social systems and institutions in which they live. *One course.*

4. **Historical Perspectives** (HIST) - To increase students' understanding of the past and the complexity of economic, cultural, religious, political, and scientific affairs. *One course*
5. **Physical and Natural Sciences** (SCI and SCIL) - To increase students' understanding of the structure and dynamics of the physical and natural worlds. *Two courses, at least one SciL*

IV. Capstone Experience – Completed within the Major Requirements through senior seminars or senior theses, or senior projects, or completion of a senior seminar equivalent course.

- To enable the students to integrate the skills and concepts learned throughout their Morris years.
Requirement is satisfied by the completion of a major.

V. “Additional” Learning – self-reported or credit based learning including internships, study abroad, undergraduate research, field experience, and student leadership experience.

- To complement and extend students' classroom learning.
Requirement is satisfied by completion of one such experience.

Notes: *already added to provisions*

- Each course with at least 4 credits in Morris Mission Themes or Liberal Arts Perspectives **may** have two Morris Mission designators, OR one Morris Mission designator and one Liberal Arts Perspectives designator.
- Any doubly tagged course will be counted as satisfying both requirements.
- 3xxx and 4xxx courses may have Morris Mission Themes or Liberal Arts Perspectives designators.

Provisions: [edited from current catalog](#)

Provision i: UMN Morris courses designated as appropriate for meeting Morris Core requirements are those which, if passed successfully, demonstrate a student's competency in a given skill or an area.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 60 credits of Morris Core coursework outside the discipline of the major and must meet the specific requirements listed above. The requirements may be met not only through UMN Morris courses, but also by transfer of credit, examinations for proficiency or credit, assessment of prior learning, individual projects, and other means. For details, students should consult their advisors.

In some instances the specific Morris Core requirements may be met using fewer than 60 credits. If this occurs, then introductory or advanced elective courses from any discipline outside the major—with the exception of courses in elementary or secondary education, wellness and sport science, or accounting courses in management—may be used to fulfill the remaining credits of the 60-credit Morris Core requirement.

Provision ii: Goals will be used to match courses to Morris Core requirements

Provision iii: Only courses of two or more credits will satisfy Morris Mission Themes or Liberal Arts Perspectives requirement.

Provision iv: 3xxx and 4xxx courses may have Morris Mission Themes or Liberal Arts Perspectives designators. A course with at least 4 credits in Morris Mission Themes or Liberal Arts Perspectives **may** have two Morris Mission designators, OR one Morris Mission designator and one Liberal Arts Perspectives designator. Any course with two designators will be counted as satisfying both requirements under the designators.

Provision v: Each major can provide students with a statement about how a student majoring in that area will formally acquire computing and writing skills. Students should contact their faculty advisers for current information.

*Transfer students who have completed 12 credit hours or more of courses at a college or university after receiving their high school diplomas are exempt from the First Year Experience requirements.

** If transfer students qualify for the IC exemption with 12 or more post high school matriculation credit hours that include at least four credits of writing instruction and fulfill the writing requirement at their previous institutions, they are exempt from the WLA requirement.

***International students should contact the Scholastic Committee for an exemption.