

Amended and approved by Faculty Senate
April 28, 2025
IE edits were tabled pending ODHE guidance
FYS amended to 1-3 variable credit hour course
<https://policy.wright.edu/policy/4130-wright-state-core>

Policy Number: 4130

Date Created/Revised: ▼

Deleted: 1/15/25

Executive Responsibility: [Provost](#)
[Faculty Senate](#)

General Policy

The Wright State Core is an integrated program of relevant courses that provides students with the breadth of skills, depth of knowledge, and range of experience expected of university graduates. Wright State graduates will be life-long learners who are engaged, conscientious, educated citizens of a diverse world and prepared for professional success.

The Wright State Core fosters the knowledge and skills essential for critical thinkers who:

- Solve multi-disciplinary problems with innovation, empathy, and adaptability.
- Ethically engage with their work, individuals, and the world around them.
- Work effectively both independently and collaboratively.
- Appreciate the arts and sciences.
- Reason both quantitatively and qualitatively.
- Engage in meaningful civic activities locally and globally.
- Appreciate their own and other cultural heritages.
- Engage effectively with the increasingly interconnected global and technological environment in which they live and work.

The Core curriculum consists of a minimum of 36 hours of coursework, divided into a first-year seminar, five basic elements A through E, and additional core requirements. The learning outcomes for the five Core elements and some of the additional core requirements align with the Ohio Transfer 36 (OT36) learning outcomes. Ohio Transfer 36 guarantees the transferability of courses in general education among Ohio's public postsecondary institutions. As part of additional Core requirements, students complete courses in the areas of global inquiry, inclusive excellence, integrated writing, and any additional hours necessary to satisfy the total hours for the Core. All courses included in the Core must be approved for OT36 at the state level. In rare cases, an exception may be made for a course that does not qualify for OT36 but is deemed necessary by the Core Oversight Committee.

A minimum number of credit hours has been established for the first-year seminar and each of the five elements (Table 1). A minimum number of courses must also be taken with a designation assigned in each of the areas of global inquiry, inclusive excellence, and integrated writing (Table 1).

This policy applies to degree-seeking undergraduate students. Transfer students and students seeking a second undergraduate degree should also refer to other university policies that address these specific situations.

Specific learning objectives and outcomes for each element of the Core are maintained by the Office of the Provost and are listed on the Wright State Core website of the Office of Academic Affairs. Any changes made to the learning objectives and outcomes must be done in consultation and agreement with

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the Core Oversight Committee and Faculty Senate. The core curriculum should undergo review every 5 years.

Table 1. Wright State University Core Curriculum

Element	Requirement	Minimum Hours
First Year Seminar	At least one course designated as First Year Seminar	1-3
A. English Composition and Oral Communication	One First Year Writing Course One Second Year Writing Course	6
B. Mathematics, Statistics, and Logic	One Mathematics, Statistics, and Logic Course	3
C. Arts and Humanities	Two Arts and Humanities Courses from two different disciplines, and at least one must be a History (HST) course.	6
D. Social and Behavioral Sciences	Two Social and Behavioral Science Courses from two different disciplines	6
E. Natural Science	Two Natural Science Courses, and at least one course must include a lab.	7
Additional Core Requirements		
Global Inquiry	One course in Element C: Arts and Humanities or Element D: Social and Behavioral Sciences must be a with a Global Inquiry (GI) course designation.	Included in the above elements
Inclusive Excellence	At least two courses designated as Inclusive Excellence (IE).	

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Integrated Writing	Students must take at least three Integrated Writing (IW) courses. This three-course requirement can be met in one of two ways: - Two IW courses in the Core and one IW course in the Major - One IW course in the Core and two IW courses in the Major Some programs may specify the distribution of IW courses, and others may leave this to the individual student and advisors to decide.	
Additional Core Courses	Additional approved Wright State Core courses from any of the Elements A-E.	5-7
TOTAL		36

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[OLD POLICY – Effective until August 25, 2025]

Wright State converted to a semester calendar at the beginning of fall term 2012 and introduced the Wright State Core, the semester program that replaced General Education.

The Wright State Core is an integrated program of courses and experiences that provides students with the breadth of skills, knowledge and understanding expected of university graduates. The program helps students develop the knowledge and skills essential for critical thinking, creative problem solving, meaningful civic engagement, multicultural competence, appreciation for the arts, and life-long learning.

Wright State graduates will be able to demonstrate mastery of the following University Learning Outcomes (ULO):

1. communicate effectively
2. demonstrate mathematical literacy
3. evaluate arguments and evidence critically
4. apply the methods of inquiry of the natural sciences, social sciences, and the arts and humanities

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5. demonstrate global and multicultural competence
6. demonstrate understanding of contemporary social and ethical issues
7. participate in democratic society as informed and civically engaged citizens

The Wright State Core is divided into six Elements. The Elements are the foundational skills, the broad areas of knowledge and practice, and the global, historical, and cultural perspectives that together provide Wright State University students with the ability to negotiate their roles successfully and constructively in a changing world. Even more than in the past, graduates must be proficient in all methods of communication, must be able to use and interpret mathematical and statistical information, and must understand the methods of inquiry of the historian, the scientist, and the humanist.

Below is listed the six Elements and Learning Outcomes for each Element:

Element 1: Communication

The foundational skills students need in academic discourse, research, and documentation in an electronic environment

- Adapt rhetorical processes and strategies for audience, purpose, and type of task
- Organize and produce texts that meet the demands of specific genres, purposes, audiences, and stances
- Employ appropriate mechanics, usage, grammar, and spelling conventions
- Find, analyze, evaluate, summarize, and synthesize appropriate source material from both print and electronic environments
- Use reliable and varied evidence to support claims, incorporate ideas from sources appropriately, and acknowledge and document the work of others appropriately
- Present focused, logical arguments that support a thesis
- Use electronic environments to draft, revise, edit, and share or publish texts

Element 2: Mathematics

The foundational skills required to use and interpret mathematics and statistics

- Identify the various elements of a mathematical or statistical model
- Determine the values of specific components of a mathematical/statistical model or relationships among various components

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- Apply a mathematical/statistical model to a real-world problem
- Interpret and draw conclusions from graphical, tabular, and other numerical or statistical representations of data
- Summarize and justify analyses of mathematical/statistical models for problems, expressing solutions using an appropriate combination of words, symbols, tables or graphs

Element 3: Global Traditions

Historical analysis and global perspectives necessary to understand our diverse world

- Critically describe some of the political, social or economic systems, historical, cultural or spiritual traditions, and/or technological innovations around the world
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- Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of people or traditions in our world in ways that promote effective engagement, both locally and globally
- Use political, social, economic, historical, cultural, spiritual or technological knowledge to evaluate contemporary issues

Element 4: Arts and Humanities

Tools for analysis and appreciation of the arts, philosophy, and religious thought

- Critically analyze significant creative, literary, philosophical or religious works
- Understand and discuss the complex blend of imaginative vision, socio-cultural context, ethical values, and aesthetic judgment in creative, philosophical or religious works
- Recognize, evaluate and respond to creative, philosophical or religious works

Develop appropriate and ethical applications of knowledge in the humanities or the arts

Element 5: Social Science

Perspectives on human behavior and culture informed by the disciplines of the social sciences

- Critically apply knowledge of social science theory and methods of inquiry to personal decisions, current issues, or global concerns
- Explain and critique the methods of inquiry of social science disciplines
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical issues involved in the acquisition or application of social science knowledge
- Demonstrate, from a social science perspective, an understanding of the responsibilities of an informed and engaged citizen to the success of democratic society

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Element 6: Natural Science

Introductions to the scientific understanding of the physical and biological phenomena

- Understand the nature of scientific inquiry
- Critically apply knowledge of scientific theory and methods of inquiry to evaluate information from a variety of sources
- Distinguish between science and technology and recognize their roles in society
- Demonstrate an awareness of theoretical, practical, creative and cultural dimensions of scientific inquiry
- Discuss fundamental theories underlying modern science

Students must complete a minimum of 38 hours in the Core distributed across the six Elements as displayed below:

Element	Required Distributions	Hours
Communication	One first-year composition course	6
	One second-year writing course	
Mathematics	One course	3
Global Traditions	One interdisciplinary Global Studies course	6
	One history course	
Arts/Humanities	One course	3
Social Science	Two courses from different disciplines	6

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Natural Science	Two lecture/lab science courses	8
Additional Core Courses	Two additional approved Wright State Core courses from any of the Elements (some programs may designate these courses)	6
Multicultural Competence	As part of the Core, in addition to the interdisciplinary Global Studies Course (Element 3), students must take a second designated multicultural competence class in any Element or as an additional course.	n/a
Writing Across the Curriculum	As part of the Core, students must take two Integrated Writing (IW) Core courses	n/a
TOTAL	12 courses	38

4130.2 Transfer Students

Transfer Students, see University Policy 3240 Transfer Student Requirement for Completion of WSU Core