

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Undergraduate Catalog | 2025-2026

General Education Requirements

General Education Program

The General Education program is an integral element of a student's educational experience at UNC Charlotte. Central to this is the idea that the elements of a student's education are connected in ways that enable them to develop the knowledge, insights, and abilities that will prepare them for their future careers and to be educated citizens who can contribute to our communities. As such, general education has a critical role to play in a students' education, providing a broad foundation of learning that ensures students can apply knowledge and skills in a variety of contexts and disciplines.

At UNC Charlotte, the General Education program is organized around four competencies. Designed to ensure that students connect the breadth of learning that comes from exploring ways of knowing across a diverse range of disciplines to the in-depth knowledge and skills that they experience in their major. That integrative vision is accomplished by the Core Competencies - Communication, Quantitative / Data, Critical Thinking, and Engagement Across Perspectives that frame the entire general education curriculum. These competencies are visibly interwoven into the different elements of the lower-division general education requirements so that students can develop the ability to apply these competencies in different contexts. These competencies are also fully integrated into the requirements for each major with intentional connections back to foundational courses which will enable students to re-engage with and deepen their mastery of these competencies in the context of the discipline.

Students should seek advice concerning completion of their General Education requirements from an advisor in their department or college.

The General Education Program is administered by University College, but individual courses are taught by faculty from all of the colleges. Thus, requests for exceptions to any aspects of the General Education requirements for individual students must be approved by the Dean of University College, but matters relating to the course itself need to be addressed by the department and college offering the course. Some transfer students may be exempt from the General Education Requirements; see the [Transfer Credit and Advanced Academic Standing](#) section for details.

I. Communication Competency (3-4 credit hours)

The communication competency teaches students to create, use, and interpret messages to generate meanings within and across various contexts. Students are required to take either [WRDS 1103](#) or [WRDS 1104](#), which serves as the foundational course for this competency. [WRDS 1104](#) includes the same face-to-face content as [WRDS 1103](#), but also includes an online writing studio that provides students with additional opportunities to develop skills. After completing one of these courses, students are expected to be prepared to produce effective college-level writing and editing.

Select one of the following:

- [WRDS 1103 - Writing and Inquiry in Academic Contexts I and II](#) (3)
- [WRDS 1104 - Writing and Inquiry in Academic Contexts I and II with Studio](#) (4)

II. Quantitative/Data Competency Courses (6 credit hours)

The Quantitative / Data competency develops a student's ability to analyze, manipulate, and interpret quantitative information and data. Students are required to complete 6 credit hours in mathematics, statistics, deductive logic or computer science from the following list, and of those at least 3 credit hours must be designated as a MATH or a STAT course. These courses serve as the foundation for the quantitative/data competency.

Mathematics, Statistics, Deductive Logic, or Computer Science

Students should consult with their advisor to determine which courses are appropriate.

- [ITSC 1110 - Introduction to Computer Science Principles](#) (3)
- [MATH 1100 - College Algebra](#) (3)
- [MATH 1101 - College Algebra with Workshop](#) (4)
- [MATH 1102 - Introduction to Mathematical Thinking](#) (3)
- [MATH 1103 - Precalculus Mathematics for Science and Engineering](#) (3)
- [MATH 1105 - Finite Mathematics](#) (3)
- [MATH 1120 - Calculus](#) (3)
- [MATH 1121 - Calculus for Engineering Technology](#) (3)
- [MATH 2165 - Introduction to Discrete Structures](#) (3)
- [MATH 1241 - Calculus I](#) (3)
- [MATH 1242 - Calculus II](#) (3)
- [MATH 1340 - Mathematics for Elementary Teachers I](#) (3)
- [MATH 1341 - Mathematics for Elementary Teachers II](#) (3)

- [PHIL 2105 - Deductive Logic](#) (3)
- [STAT 1220 - Elements of Statistics I \(BUSN\)](#) (3)
- [STAT 1221 - Elements of Statistics I](#) (3)
- [STAT 1222 - Introduction to Statistics](#) (3)
- [STAT 1322 - Introduction to Statistics II](#) (3)

Note:

Note: Most undergraduates at UNC Charlotte major in programs that require mathematics or statistics as related work. For these students, the related mathematics requirements determine the courses taken to meet the General Education requirement. Students in majors that do not require related work in mathematics should consult with their advisor to determine which courses they should take.

III. Critical Thinking Competency (3 credit hours)

The critical thinking competency develops a student's ability to identify and analyze problems, evidence, and solutions.

[CTCM 2530](#) serves as the foundational course for this competency. This course also builds on the foundation of the communication competency that was introduced in [WRDS 1103](#) or [WRDS 1104](#). Critical thinking and communication skills are recognized as core competencies for students earning a baccalaureate degree, regardless of major. While students continue to develop these skills in advanced courses in their major, the General Education program provides an important foundation. Therefore, all students must take [CTCM 2530](#).

Select the following:

- [CTCM 2530 - Interdisciplinary Critical Thinking and Communication](#) (3)

Notes:

Students must pass [WRDS 1103](#) or [WRDS 1104](#) with a grade of D or above AND have Sophomore standing or higher to register for [CTCM 2530](#).

Transfer students may or may not have met the Critical Thinking and Communication (CTC) requirement in courses taken at previous institutions. Students should check their degree audit in DegreeWorks to see if they have met this requirement.

IV. Global and Local Themes (9 credit hours)

UNC Charlotte's General Education program ensures that students have opportunities to engage in sustained informed inquiry into complex and challenging questions that we face as a society. This integrative vision is accomplished by the three **Global and Local Theme courses**. These theme courses will provide students with the opportunity to explore related sets of questions from the perspective of the social sciences, arts, and humanities. These courses also serve as the foundation for developing a student's competency in engaging across perspectives.

Global Intersections and Engagement Theme

The Global Intersections and Engagement Theme is grounded in the premise that it is essential for students to understand and engage with the increasingly interconnected global society in which we live both as individuals and as members of society. The courses in the Global Theme will give students this opportunity by exploring the many different ways in which - as individuals and as members of our society - we interact with and are influenced by individuals, cultures, and communities from across the globe. Students should take one global course in the social sciences and one global course in the arts/humanities for a total of two global themes courses.

Global Social Science (3 credit hours)

Students are required to complete one Global Social Science course selected from the list below:

- [AFRS 1501 - Global Social Science: Africana Studies](#) (3)
- [ANTH 1501 - Global Social Science: An Introduction to Anthropology](#) (3)
- [CAPI 1501 - Global Social Science: Capitalism in Global Context](#) (3)
- [COMM 1501 - Global Social Science: Global and Intercultural Communication](#) (3)
- [ECON 1501 - Global Social Science: Economics of Global Issues](#) (3)
- [ESCI 1501 - Global Social Science: Environment, Society, and Sustainability](#) (3)
- [GEOG 1501 - Global Social Science: Global Geography](#) (3)
- [HONR 1501 - Global Social Science](#) (3)
- [INTL 1501 - Global Social Science: Globalization and Interdependence](#) (3)
- [LTAM 1501 - Global Social Science: Introduction to Latin American Politics and Society](#) (3)
- [POLS 1501 - Global Social Science: Introduction to Comparative Politics](#) (3)
- [SOCY 1501 - Global Social Science: Sociological Approaches to Global Issues](#) (3)

Global Arts/Humanities (3 credit hours)

Students are required to complete one Global Arts/Humanities course selected from the list below:

- [ARBC 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Modern Arab Culture](#) (3)
- [ARCH 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Global Architecture, Culture, and Environment](#) (3)
- [ARTA 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Art in a Global Context](#) (3)
- [CHNS 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Chinese Culture in the World](#) (3)
- [DANC 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Dance in Global Contexts](#) (3)
- [ENGL 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Global Connections in English Studies](#) (3)
- [FILM 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Introduction to Film and Media Art](#) (3)
- [FRAN 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: French and Francophone Cultures](#) (3)
- [FREN 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: French and Francophone Cultures](#) (3)
- [GERM 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: German and German-Speaking Cultures](#) (3)
- [HIST 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Issues in Global History](#) (3)
- [HONR 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities](#) (3)
- [ITLN 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Italian Culture in the World](#) (3)
- [JAPN 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Japanese Studies](#) (3)
- [LANG 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Introduction to Global Cultures](#) (3)
- [LTAM 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Introduction to Latin American History and Culture](#) (3)
- [MUSC 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Music in Global Communities](#) (3)
- [PHIL 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Global and Comparative Philosophy](#) (3)
- [RELS 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Other Worlds](#) (3)
- [SPAN 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Cultures of the Hispanic World](#) (3)
- [THEA 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Theatre in Global Contexts](#) (3)
- [WGST 1502 - Global Arts/Humanities: Introduction to Gender Studies Around the World](#) (3)

Local Intersections and Engagement Theme

The Local Intersections and Engagement Theme is grounded in the premise that it is essential for students to understand and engage with the fact that we live in a nation that has been shaped by a range of cultural, social, economic, and political identities that influence how different groups experience their lives. The courses within the Local Theme will give students this opportunity by exploring the many different ways in which - as individuals and as members of communities - we interact with and are influenced by other individuals, cultures, and communities in our society. Students should take one local course in the social sciences, arts or humanities.

Local Social Science, Arts or Humanities (3 credit hours)

Students are required to complete one Local Social Science, Arts or Humanities course selected from the list below:

- [AFRS 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: Africana Studies](#) (3)
- [ANTH 1511 - Local Social Science: Money, Health, and Happiness](#) (3)
- [CHNS 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: Chinese and Chinese Culture in the U.S.](#) (3)
- [CJUS 1511 - Local Social Science: Foundations of Criminal Justice](#) (3)
- [COMM 1511 - Local Social Science: Health, Well-Being, and Quality of Life](#) (3)
- [DANC 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: Dance in the United States](#) (3)
- [EDUC 1511 - Local Social Science: Public Education and Schooling in the U.S.](#) (3 to 4)
- [ENGL 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: Local Connections in English Studies](#) (3)
- [FRAN 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: French and Francophone Cultures in the U.S.](#) (3)
- [FREN 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: French & Francophone Cultures in the U.S.](#) (3)
- [GEOG 1511 - Local Social Science: Urban and Regional Planning](#) (3)
- [HAHS 1511 - Local Social Science: Issues of Health and Quality of Life](#) (3)
- [HONR 1511 - Local Social Science](#) (3)
- [HONR 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities](#) (3)
- [ITLN 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: Italian Culture in the U.S.](#) (3)
- [MUSC 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: Music in U.S. Communities](#) (3)
- [PHIL 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: Philosophy and Community](#) (3)
- [RELS 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: Religions in America](#) (3)
- [SOCY 1511 - Local Social Science: Sociological Approaches to Local Issues](#) (3)
- [SOWK 1511 - Local Social Science: The Field of Social Work](#) (3)
- [SPAN 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: US Hispanic, Latina/o/x Topics](#) (3)
- [THEA 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: Theatre in the United States](#) (3)
- [WGST 1512 - Local Arts/Humanities: Introduction to Gender Studies in the U.S.](#) (3)

V. Natural Sciences (7 credit hours)

The critical thinking and quantitative/data competencies are reinforced in the natural sciences. These courses introduce students to the methods of various science disciplines, provide an understanding of the current scientific knowledge of the world, how that knowledge is secured, and how scientific knowledge changes over time. Students must take two courses

from the list below, one of which must be taken with its corresponding laboratory (L) course, for a total of 7 credits in the natural sciences. Students should consult with their advisor to determine which courses are appropriate.

Select two courses, one of which must be taken with its corresponding laboratory (L) course:

- [ANTH 2141 - Our Place in Nature: Introduction to Biological Anthropology](#) (4)
- [ANTH 2141L - Our Place in Nature: Introduction to Biological Anthropology Lab](#) (0)
- [BINF 1101 - Introduction to Bioinformatics and Genomics](#) (4) *(includes both lecture and lab)*
- [BIOL 1110 - Principles of Biology I](#) (3)
- [BIOL 1110L - Principles of Biology I Laboratory](#) (1)
- [BIOL 1115 - Principles of Biology II](#) (3)
- [BIOL 2120 - General Biology I](#) (3)
- [BIOL 2120L - General Biology I Laboratory](#) (1)
- [CHEM 1111 - Chemistry in Today's Society](#) (3)
- [CHEM 1111L - Laboratory in Chemistry](#) (1)
- [CHEM 1200 - Fundamentals of Chemistry](#) (3)
- [CHEM 1203 - Introduction to General, Organic, and Biochemistry I](#) (3)
- [CHEM 1203L - Introduction to General, Organic, and Biochemistry I Laboratory](#) (1)
- [CHEM 1204 - Introduction to General, Organic, and Biochemistry II](#) (3)
- [CHEM 1204L - Introduction to General, Organic, and Biochemistry II Laboratory](#) (1)
- [CHEM 1251 - General Chemistry I](#) (3)
- [CHEM 1251L - General Chemistry I Laboratory](#) (1)
- [CHEM 1252 - General Chemistry II](#) (3)
- [CHEM 1252L - General Chemistry II Laboratory](#) (1)
- [ESCI 1101 - Earth Sciences-Geography](#) (3)
- [ESCI 1101L - Earth Sciences-Geography Laboratory](#) (1)
- [EXER 2168 - Human Anatomy and Physiology for the Health Professions](#) (3)
- [EXER 2168L - Human Anatomy and Physiology for the Health Professions Laboratory](#) (1)
- [EXER 2169 - Human Anatomy and Physiology for the Health Professions II](#) (3)
- [EXER 2169L - Human Anatomy and Physiology for the Health Professions II Laboratory](#) (1)
- [GEOG 1103 - Spatial Thinking](#) (4) *(includes both lecture and lab)*

- [GEOL 1200 - Physical Geology](#) (3)
- [GEOL 1200L - Physical Geology Laboratory](#) (1)
- [GEOL 1210 - Earth History](#) (3)
- [GEOL 1210L - Earth History Lab](#) (1)
- [ITIS 1350 - eScience](#) (4)
- [ITIS 1350L - eScience Laboratory](#) (0)
- [METR 1102 - Introduction to Meteorology](#) (3)
- [METR 1102L - Introduction to Meteorology Lab](#) (1)
- [PHYS 1100 - Conceptual Physics](#) (3)
- [PHYS 1100L - Conceptual Physics Laboratory](#) (1)
- [PHYS 1101 - Introductory Physics I](#) (3)
- [PHYS 1101L - Introductory Physics I Laboratory](#) (1)
- [PHYS 1102 - Introductory Physics II](#) (3)
- [PHYS 1102L - Introductory Physics II Laboratory](#) (1)
- [PHYS 1130 - Introduction to Astronomy](#) (3)
- [PHYS 1130L - Introduction to Astronomy Laboratory](#) (1)
- [PHYS 1201 - Sports and Physics](#) (3)
- [PHYS 1201L - Sports and Physics Laboratory](#) (1)
- [PHYS 1202 - Introduction to Physics in Medicine](#) (3)
- [PHYS 1203 - Physics of Music](#) (3)
- [PHYS 1203L - Physics of Music Laboratory](#) (1)
- [PHYS 2101 - Physics for Science and Engineering I](#) (3)
- [PHYS 2101L - Physics for Science and Engineering I Laboratory](#) (1)
- [PHYS 2102 - Physics for Science and Engineering II](#) (3)
- [PHYS 2102L - Physics for Science and Engineering II Laboratory](#) (1)
- [PSYC 1101 - General Psychology](#) (3)
- [PSYC 1101L - General Psychology Laboratory](#) (1)

VI. Foundations of American Democracy (3 credit hours)

The critical thinking and engagement across perspectives competencies are reinforced in the Foundations of American Democracy requirement. This requirement engages students in an exploration of the principles and practices that underpin the United States' democratic system. Through critical analysis of historical documents and contemporary issues, students will develop a nuanced understanding of citizenship and civic responsibility. This course fosters informed engagement in democratic processes, preparing students to contribute thoughtfully to their communities and society at large.

Students are exempted from this requirement if they transfer 60+ credit hours or met this requirement at another UNC System campus or North Carolina Community College.

- [AMDM 1575 - Engaging with American Democracy](#) (3)
 - [CAP1 1575 - Capitalism and Democracy](#) (3)
 - [HIIST 1575 - American Democracy's Past and Promise](#) (3)
 - [POLS 1575 - Foundations of American Democracy](#) (3)
-