

University of Colorado Denver Downtown Campus

UCD Core Curriculum Background

Since 1990, UC Denver's undergraduate colleges have utilized a campus-wide Core Curriculum as part of the undergraduate degree requirements. The assumptions that underlie the core curriculum are that students earning a university baccalaureate degree should master basic intellectual competencies, should be broadly educated across areas of knowledge, should be professionally trained in a particular academic discipline, and should have opportunities for making academic choices. The UCD Core Curriculum is specifically designed around a liberal arts philosophy of education and serves as a foundation for a lifetime of success.

The UCD Core Curriculum was updated by the Core Curriculum Oversight Committee, approved by a faculty vote in the undergraduate colleges in Spring 2005, and implemented for undergraduate students entering UCD beginning with the Fall 2006 semester.

UCD Core Curriculum Outline:

I. Intellectual Competencies

English Composition - 2 courses

Courses provide opportunities to write for different purposes and audiences, with an emphasis on critical thinking, reading and writing in print-based and electronic contexts.

Mathematics - 1 course

Courses promote critical thinking, logic, quantitative reasoning, and numerical relationships in behavioral, social and physical phenomena.

II. Knowledge Areas

Arts and Humanities - 2 courses

Arts courses celebrate creativity, nurture self-expression, generate an appreciation of artistic and cultural aesthetics, and stimulate thought from a creative perspective.

Arts, Fine Arts, Music, Performance Music, and Theatre

Humanities courses develop the skills necessary for analysis of human development including contemporary life issues, civic responsibilities and impacts of social actions.

English Literature, Modern Languages, History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies

Behavioral and Social Sciences - 2 courses

Behavioral science courses develop an understanding of behavior, communication, and an analysis of human experience and development.

Anthropology, Communication, and Psychology

Social science courses develop an understanding of the social, political and spatial relationships that constitute human society.

Economics, Geography, Political Science, Sociology, and Ethnic Studies

Biological and Physical Sciences, Mathematics - 2 courses

Biological and physical science courses develop knowledge through the scientific

method, scientific reasoning, and solutions to complex phenomena in nature.

Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Physics and Environmental Science

Mathematics courses are typically not classified as a science, but provide the tools to investigate science and to formulate hypotheses.

Mathematics

III. International Perspectives - 1 course

International perspectives courses develop insight into globalization impacts and the influence of a world-wide, multi-cultural society.

IV. Cultural Diversity - 1 course

Cultural diversity courses provide insight and analysis of race/ethnicity and gender issues within the United States.

UCD Core Curriculum Totals

11 Courses

34-38 credit hours