

# THE COMMON CURRICULUM

Program Website: <http://www.union.edu/offices/gen-ed/index.php>

FYP/FYP-H	<b>First-Year Preceptorial or Honors First-Year Preceptorial</b> engages you in the exploration of ideas and diverse perspectives through critical reading, thinking, and writing.
SRS/SCH-150	<b>Sophomore Research Seminar or Scholars Research Seminar</b> ensures you have an early hands-on experience thinking and working as an academic researcher.
	<b>Literature (HUL)</b> expands the moral imagination needed to understand yourself and your fellow human beings through literary analysis, interpretation, and reflection. Any course listed in the course schedule as HUL from English (EGL), Modern Literature in Translation (MLT), or another department.
	<b>Natural Sciences with Lab (SCLB)</b> changes the way you think about the natural world when you understand the scientific method and put it to work. Any Lab course in Astronomy (AST), Biochemistry (BCH), Biological Sciences (BIO), Chemistry (CHM), Geology (GEO), Physics (PHY), certain Psychology courses (PSY 310, 312, 313, 330, 351), or any courses listed in the course schedule as SCLB. <b>Seats in SCLB courses are often limited; be pro-active in seeking out these courses.</b>
	<b>Quantitative and Mathematical Reasoning (QMR)</b> equips you with unique insights and skills necessary to solve complex problems. Any course from MTH (except MTH 100) or any courses listed in the course schedule as QMR.

	<b>Arts and Humanities (HUM)</b> enable you to find yourself and your voice in creative expression and the exploration of works of the imagination. Any course from Art History (AAH), Dance (ADA), Music (AMU), Theater (ATH), Studio Arts (AVA), Classics (CLS), English (EGL), Film Studies (FLM), Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies (GSW), Philosophy (PHL), Religious Studies (REL), or courses offered by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.
	<b>Social Sciences (SOCS)</b> confront you with the complexity and challenges of our world by analyzing the societies we create. Any course from Anthropology (ANT), Economics (ECO), Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (GSW), History (HST), Political Science (PSC), Sociology (SOC), or PSY-100.
	<b>Science, Engineering and Technology (SET)</b> introduces you to Union's unique commitment to teaching Science and Engineering as Liberal Arts and examining their impact on our humanity. Any course in Science (with or without lab, including a second SCLB), Engineering, Computer Science (CSC), certain Psychology courses (PSY 210, 311, 315, 410), or any course listed in the course schedule as SET. <b>Seats in SET courses are often limited; be pro-active in seeking out these courses.</b>

**LANGUAGES AND CULTURES (LCC)** empowers you as a citizen of a global community to contribute across cultural boundaries and shape our shared future.

**Approved Study Abroad (see below under policies and guidelines)**

**OR**

1)	2)	<b>Language courses</b> (a sequence of <u>two</u> courses in the same language at 101 or higher; LAT 102 and LAT 103 or higher, or GRK 102 and GRK 103 or higher.)
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**OR**

1)	2)	<b>Non-language LCC</b> (any <u>two</u> non-language courses listed as LCC).
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**WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM** courses encourage you to explore and create your own understanding of the liberal arts through your writing. (<http://www.union.edu/Resources/Academic/WAC/index.php>)

1)	2)	3)	4)	5)	<b>5 WAC credits in at least 2 Divisions</b>
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**Senior Writing Experience (WS)**

# **THE COMMON CURRICULUM**

## **Policies, Administration, and Advising FAQs**

(June 2017)

Academic policies and administrative procedures for the Common Curriculum are listed below. The General Education Board oversees the general education program and formulates plans and policies relating to it. The Director of General Education serves as Chair of the Gen Ed Board and is responsible for the administration of the program. (*Faculty Manual* 2014, IV, 11-12) The Director of General Education reports directly to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. You may contact the Director of General Education or Gen Ed Board with questions and comments by emailing [education@union.edu](mailto:education@union.edu). (Selected policies and procedures below are also included in the Union College Academic Catalog. Please note that provisions of the Academic Catalog “are not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the student and Union College. The College reserves the right to make changes in its course offerings, degree requirements, regulations and procedures, and fees and expenses as educational and financial considerations require.” (<https://catalog.union.edu>))

### ***What courses from a student’s major and minor count towards completion of the Common Curriculum and vice versa?***

**FYP and SRS** may not be used toward completion of a major or minor. Other courses taken in the Common Curriculum may be used to meet the requirements of a major or minor unless specifically prohibited by a particular program or department.

### ***How does double counting work with the Common Curriculum?***

Students are required to complete ten (10) courses to complete the Common Curriculum. Courses may fulfill both a Common Curriculum requirement (such as SOCS) and the WAC requirement. No other double counting is allowed.

### ***Can a non-transfer student use AP, IB, or transfer credits to complete requirements in the Common Curriculum?***

Yes, ONE course may be used pre-matriculation. The ONE course may be counted in only ONE of the following categories **with the approval of the appropriate department and the Director of General Education**: HUM, SOCS, QMR, SCLB, and SET. Information about using transfer courses post-matriculation can be found in the Academic Catalog. (<https://catalog.union.edu>)

### ***Can a non-transfer student use AP English to complete the Literature requirement (HUL) in the Common Curriculum?***

No, the English department does not accept AP English for HUL credit. Students who receive a 5 on either AP English exam may waive the prerequisite of an EGL 100-level course and may complete a 200-level English HUL course or another HUL course.

### ***Can courses taken on a term abroad be used to complete the FYP/FYP-H or SRS/SCH-150 requirements?***

No, these Common Curriculum courses have unique pedagogical requirements and learning outcomes designed for Union College’s academic program.

### ***Can courses taken on a term abroad be used to complete the requirements for Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)?***

No, WAC courses have unique pedagogical requirements and learning outcomes designed for Union College’s academic program. The only exception is as follows: courses taught by Union

College or Union-affiliated faculty as part of a term abroad, approved for the completion of WAC requirements by the General Education Board, Writing Board, and Academic Affairs sub-council on courses and programs, and approved **in advance** of the course's offering.

***Can courses taken on a term abroad be used to complete other requirements in the Common Curriculum?***

Yes, courses may count toward the following categories **with the approval of the Director of General Education, the Gen Ed Board, and the appropriate department**: HUL, HUM, SOCS, QMR, SCLB, SET. Term abroad courses must meet the standards, content requirements, and learning outcomes for the Common Curriculum and/or the relevant department. You will be expected to submit a complete syllabus and supporting materials such as assignments for consideration. No reviews or approvals will be made without such materials. Submission of those materials does not guarantee approval.

***Can a practicum be used to complete Common Curriculum requirements?***

No, a practicum does not receive a letter grade. Therefore, it cannot be used to complete CC requirements.

***Can an Independent Study be used to complete Common Curriculum requirements?***

No, an Independent Study cannot be used to complete a CC requirement.

***May students withdraw from an SRS?***

Students may withdraw from an SRS according to the policies for withdrawals in the current Academic Catalog, which requires the approval of the Director of General Education. The General Education Board has approved these guidelines for handling requests to withdraw from an SRS.

- Requests to withdraw from an SRS must be made **at least two business days before** the Registrar's deadline(s) for withdrawals.
- Because of the unique enrollment management requirements for the SRS, students may withdraw from an SRS due to extraordinary circumstances. Extraordinary circumstances typically involve medical or personal reasons for leaving campus or the college for an extended period of time that are reported to the Dean of Students or Dean of Studies offices.
- Requests to withdraw in other circumstances will be considered on a strictly limited and discretionary basis only.
- For all requests, please submit a written explanation of the reasons for requesting the withdrawal and steps taken to address the issues involved to [education@union.edu](mailto:education@union.edu).

***May students defer or postpone the SRS?***

No, SRSs must be completed in the sophomore year; they may not be deferred to the junior year or later.

***May students change their SRS section/placement?***

Students **may not** change SRS sections. Students may only request a change due to an irreconcilable scheduling conflict with a **required course in a declared major**. The course in conflict must **a)** be taught only in the time slot of the SRS, **b)** be available during the academic year only in the same term as the SRS, and **c)** be the only course that can meet a specific major requirement. No other requests will be considered. Requests must be made directly by the student (not advisers, SRS instructors, or others) to [education@union.edu](mailto:education@union.edu). Requests must include complete details about course conflicts and the name of the student's adviser. The Director of General Education reviews and approves changes. SRS instructors, advisers, and the Registrar cannot make changes. In the case of changes, students will be offered choices (when possible) based on original preferences and enrollment considerations.

***What courses count as a Literature course (HUL)?***

Courses in English, Modern Languages in Translation (MLT), and other departments that have been approved as fulfilling the Literature requirement and assigned the HUL code. AP, IB, or transfer credits may not be used to satisfy the HUL requirement; see above regarding AP English and courses taken on a term abroad.

***What PSY (Psychology) courses count as SCLB or SET?***

PSY 210 (SET), 310 (SCLB), 311 (SET), 312 (SCLB), 313 (SCLB), 315 (SET), 330 (SCLB), 351 (SCLB), 410 (SET) count as indicated.

***Explain the different ways of satisfying the Languages and Cultures (LCC) requirement.***

A student can do any **ONE** of these things:

- Take a sequence of two language courses at the 101 level or higher. **PLEASE NOTE:** for Latin or Greek, you must complete LAT 102 and LAT 103 or GRK 102 and GRK 103; LAT 101 and GRK 101 do not count for LCC language sequence credit.
- Take any two non-language courses at Union that carry the LCC code.
- Go on a term abroad that deals with a cultural tradition outside of the US. This satisfies both courses of the LCC requirement.
- Go on a mini-term that deals with a cultural tradition outside of the US. This satisfies one course of the LCC requirement. IF the mini-term is associated with pre-departure and/or post-return coursework equivalent to a second course it satisfies the two-course LCC requirement.

***Can you use one language course and one other LCC course to fulfill the requirement?***

No, you cannot combine language and non-language LCC courses in this way.

***Do mini-terms in the USA count toward the LCC requirement?***

Only the Civil Rights, Community Service and the Mexican-American Border mini-terms count toward the LCC requirement.

***Do international students have to complete the LCC requirement?***

Yes. The transitional policy for class of 2012 and 2013 students has now ended.