Common Curriculum Designations & Learning Outcomes

Through the Common Curriculum, students will develop the breadth of knowledge and flexibility of mind needed to participate in meaningful conversations relevant to particular disciplines, the Academy, local society, or the global community. Students will do so by achieving the following learning outcomes across the breadth of Liberal Arts represented in the Common Curriculum requirements.

Literature (HUL)

A Literature course will provide instruction and guidance through which students:

a) Read and interpret primary written works of Literature throughout the course; defined as short- and long-form written works of prose and/or verse including short stories, novels, plays, poetry, and mythologies.

b) Learn and practice the literary analysis and criticism of works of Literature (as defined above), including questions of structural choice, formal choice, literary and rhetorical devices, historical and cultural allusions and commentary, the history and evolution of genres, the relationship of an author’s biography to a work, the relationship of language to power, the history and evolution of language.

c) Courses in Music, Film, or Media Studies must demonstrate that works of Literature (as defined above) constitute the clear majority of content in the course and are subjected to literary analysis and criticism identified in b) above.

Arts and Humanities (HUM)

Arts and Humanities courses will provide instruction and guidance through which students:

a) Understand literary or philosophical texts and traditions and works and styles of art.

b) Comprehend meaningful contexts, credible interpretations, and the pursuit of questions arising from the act of interpretation for such works.
Languages and Culture (LCC)

Languages and Cultures courses or advanced foreign-language training will provide instruction and guidance through which students:

a) Learn and demonstrate methodologically- and disciplinary-grounded approaches to the study and analysis of cultural diversity and complexity

b) Acquire a conscious and respectful recognition of cultural diversity and complexity within an understanding of our shared humanity.

c) Be enabled and empowered as citizens of a global community to act across cultural boundaries justly, disinterestedly, and on the basis of human equality.

Natural Sciences with Lab (SCLB)

A Natural Sciences with Lab course will provide instruction and guidance through which students:

a) Understand how science and the scientific method work.

b) Comprehend the difference between a hypothesis and a theory, how data are interpreted, and how hypotheses are formed.

Quantitative and Mathematical Reasoning (QMR)

A Quantitative and Mathematical Reasoning course will provide instruction and guidance through which students:

a) Comprehend problems and express solutions using the language of mathematics, quantitative reasoning, and problem solving that requires rigorous logical demonstrations with multiple steps.

b) Make use of symbolic and abstract representations and adapt non-trivial algorithms.
Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET)

A Science, Engineering, and Technology course will provide instruction and guidance through which students:

a) Develop an understanding of how foundational principles and methodologies in science, engineering, or technology are used to analyze and manipulate the natural and physical world.

b) Evaluate evidence, results, and claims related to the impact of science, engineering, or technology on broader human or societal issues.

The SET requirement can be met through any of the following:

a) A course in the natural sciences (with or without lab).

b) A course in engineering or computer science.

c) A course not in the natural sciences, engineering, or computer science that is designated as SET by approval of the Gen Ed Board. Such courses will have significant science or engineering content and/or be designed to foster an understanding of technology. Courses in this category must be taught by or team-taught with a faculty member from Center 2.

Social Sciences (SOCS)

A Social Science course will provide instruction and guidance through which students:

a) Analyze the human experience (the behavior of and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, societies, or the natural environment) past and present.

b) Develop an understanding of theories, concepts, methods, and ethical practices characteristic of particular disciplines in the social sciences.