An education in the liberal arts and sciences enables students to understand their world, and it equips them to analyze, appreciate, and affect that world. With these aims in mind, the faculty at Worcester State University have designed the university’s Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum (LASC) to ensure breadth both in the range of subjects that students will encounter and in the range of approaches to that material. In addition, the Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum emphasizes the fundamental abilities and attitudes that make it possible to benefit fully from a liberal education. While the specialization provided by a student’s major field of study is essential to a college education, the breadth and integration provided by the Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum supply an invaluable context for understanding the wider world.

Given the crucial importance of languages other than English in today’s global society, the University strongly encourages the study of world languages, through the majors and minors, and also through combining the requirements in Global Perspectives and Thought, Language, and Culture. Students may also choose to study languages through their elective courses.

The Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum is aimed at achieving the following student learning outcomes. Having completed courses in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum, students will:

• Demonstrate effective oral and written communication.
• Employ quantitative and qualitative reasoning.
• Apply skills in critical thinking.
• Apply skills in information literacy.
• Display an appreciation for the interrelations among global and cross-cultural communities.
• Develop a critical understanding of the U.S. experience.
• Understand the roles of science and technology in the modern world.
• Demonstrate and value personal creative expression.
• Understand how scholars in various disciplines approach problems and construct knowledge.
• Display socially responsible behavior and act as socially responsible agents in the world.
• Make connections across courses and disciplines.
• Develop as healthy individuals – physically, emotionally, socially, ethically, and intellectually.

Core Course Requirements

Core courses may not double with content area course requirements.

• Writing (WR1, WR2)
• Constitutions (CON)
• First-Year Seminar (FYS)
• Capstone Experience (CAP)

Content Area Course Requirements

Students will complete courses in eight content areas. Courses in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum may not be used to meet the primary requirements of a first major, but may be used to satisfy the requirements of a second major or a minor.

• Creative Arts (CA)
• Human Behavior and Social Processes (HBS)
• Individual and Community Well-being (ICW)
• Global Perspectives (GP)
• Natural Systems and Processes (NSP),
  • Non-approved LASC lab (NLL) courses do not meet the requirement for a LASC NSP course
• Natural Systems and Processes (LAB),
  • Non-approved LASC lab (NLL) courses do not meet the requirement for a LASC LAB course
• Quantitative Reasoning (QR)
• Thought, Language, and Culture (TLC)
• The United States and Its Role in the World (USW)

Across the Curriculum Course Requirements

Across the curriculum courses may be met with Content Area courses, courses in the major and general elective courses. A single course may fulfill more than one Across the Curriculum area. First-year seminars may be approved for QLAC and DAC. Capstone seminars may be approved for DAC, WAC, and/or QLAC.

• Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)
• Diversity Across the Curriculum (DAC)
• Quantitative Literacy Across the Curriculum (QLAC)

LASC Transfer Policies

• Mathematics courses will be transferred as QR for maximum of six credits in LASC.
• Science courses in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and GeoSciences transfer as NSP for a maximum of seven credits. A lab science course transfers as a NSP lab course.
• Psychology, Economics, Political Science, Anthropology, Cultural Geography, Sociology, and Education courses transfer as HBS for a maximum of three credits.
• Philosophy, Literature, Religion, Communication (theory), and Language courses transfer as TLC for a maximum of three credits.
• Art, Communication (applied), Music, and Theatre courses transfer as CA for a maximum of three credits.
• Health and Nutrition courses transfer as ICW for a maximum of three credits.
• History courses transfer as USW, GP or TLC for a maximum of six credits.
• All other transfer courses will be reviewed individually by the LASC Program Chair, in consultation with appropriate academic departments, the LASC Advisory Board, or the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.
• Courses transfer as Across the Curriculum courses in consultation with the LASC Program Chair, Across the Curriculum courses that have an equivalency will not automatically transfer as such.
Other LASC Policies

• Students may apply one course from the major discipline toward a
  LASC requirement as long as:
  • The course is not also used to meet requirements for the major
  • The course has been approved for the appropriate LASC category