



# Core Curriculum Student Learning Objectives

**First Year Seminar:** A two-semester sequences taken in the first year.

Learning Objectives:

- To reflect on “big questions” about themselves, their community and their world.
- To develop the capacity to read and think critically.
- To develop the capacity to write clear and persuasive expository and argumentative essays, with an emphasis on thesis formation and development.
- To develop the capacity for effective oral communication gain an understanding of basic principles of oral communication as they apply to discussion.
- To understand the liberal arts as a vital and evolving tradition and to see themselves as agents within that tradition.
- To develop capacities for careful and open reflection on questions of values and norms.
- To develop the ability to carry out research for the purpose of inquiry and to support claims.

**Global and Historical Studies:** Two courses taken in the second year, chosen from a limited choice of three-hour courses.

Learning Objectives:

- To engage in investigation of and reflection about cultures different from their own, especially non-western cultures.
- To explore these cultures using a variety of sources and disciplines – including the arts, literature, religion, philosophy, geography, anthropology, and social and political history.
- To recognize both the value of and challenges raised by cultural diversity.
- To continue development of skills of expository writing.

**Texts and Ideas:** A menu of three-hour courses to be taken from the first year onward.

Learning Objectives:

- To engage in reading, writing and discussion about important ideas drawn from the study of important texts in a variety of areas – including among others literary texts, dramatic texts, sacred texts, historical texts, philosophical texts, and scientific texts.
- To develop capacities for argument, interpretation and aesthetic appreciation through engagement with these texts and ideas.

**Perspectives in the Creative Arts:** A menu of three-hour courses to be taken from the first year onward.

Learning Objectives:

- To develop cognitive and affective appreciation for the process and products of artistic creation.
- To participate actively in the creation of an artistic product.
- To reflect on the nature and sources of aesthetic value.
- To develop habits of participation in artistic and cultural events that will lead to lifelong engagement with in the creative arts.

**Analytic Reasoning:** A menu of three-hour courses to be taken in the first or second year.

Learning Objectives:

- To develop capacities for quantitative and analytic reasoning.
- To understand the centrality of these capacities to the natural and social sciences.
- To recognize the applications of such capacities to matters of personal and public life.

**The Social World:** A menu of three-hour courses to be taken from the first year onward.

Learning Objectives:

- To study selected questions about human beings and the social, cultural, economic, and political world in which they are embedded.
- To develop an understanding of the variety of quantitative and qualitative research methods social scientists use to study the social world.
- To develop the ability to discern the social, scientific and ethical dimensions of issues in the social world, and to understand the interaction between a society's values and its definition of social problems.

**The Natural World:** A menu of five hour lecture/lab courses to be taken from the first year onward. Courses not required of science majors.

Learning Objectives:

- To gain awareness of some significant scientific theories and achievements, and to recognize how they are related both to other areas of science and to our understanding of broader societal issues.
- To develop an understanding of the methods of natural science and a capacity to reason scientifically.
- To experience first-hand the scientific process method through discovery-based learning.

**Physical Well Being:** A one credit, two contact-hour, pass/fail course selected from a menu of courses devoted to physical and health education and activities, taken any time in the first to fourth years.

Learning Objectives:

- To develop life-long habits of good health and physical activity.
- To increase awareness of the centrality of health and wellness for pursuit of a good life.

**Writing Across the Curriculum Requirement:** Students must take one 300 or 400 level course of at least 3 hours in any part of the University that provides opportunities for formal and informal writing, with opportunities for revision. The course must be taken in the junior year or after. Courses meeting Writing across the Curriculum requirements will be designated with a 'W' suffix.

Learning Objectives:

- To refine habits conducive to good writing developed at earlier stages in core education and education in the major.
- To use writing both as a tool for learning and as a means for communicating about ideas within a discipline or profession.

**The Speaking Across the Curriculum Requirement:** Students must take one 300 or 400 level course of at least 3 hours in any part of the University that provides opportunities for formal oral communications assignments. Courses meeting Speaking across the Curriculum requirements will be designated with a 'S' suffix.

Learning Objectives:

- To develop oral communications skills in the context of course and discipline specific materials.
- To use oral communications assignments to aid students in mastery of course and discipline specific content.

**The Indianapolis Community Requirement:** Students must take one course in any part of the University that involves active engagement with the Indianapolis community.

Learning Objectives:

- To have an active learning experience that integrates classroom knowledge with activities in the Indianapolis community.
- To use an experience in Indianapolis to further understanding of the nature of community and the relation to self.
- To assist the University in furthering its commitment expressed in its mission statement of "providing intellectual, cultural, and artistic opportunities and leadership to Indianapolis and the surrounding areas."

**The Butler Cultural Requirement:** attendance at 8 cultural events required for graduation