

The Connections Curriculum

The Connections Curriculum is designed to use self-reflection as a tool to facilitate connections among students' general education coursework, their major program of study, and the experiential learning opportunities they will participate in during their four years at Wittenberg.

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR (FYS)

During their first semester at Wittenberg, students will take a 4-credit first-year seminar course, which will introduce the Connections Curriculum and emphasize skills and habits critical for maximizing student growth and success throughout their four years at Wittenberg. Completion of the FYS is required for graduation.

The Connections Curriculum centers around 10 key learning outcomes. The outcomes are broken down into three categories, Connections, Core Competencies, and Critical and Creative Thinking. General education courses can support up to two learning outcomes (one core competency and one critical and creative thinking, or two core competencies). Up to three learning outcomes may be satisfied from one department.

CONNECTIONS

Wittenberg's experiential learning provides opportunities for students to apply classroom knowledge in practical situations, testing new skills in the wider world. Through the first-year seminar, students will build connections with faculty members, peer mentors, the Springfield community, and beyond. Students will connect concepts from their coursework, with experiential learning opportunities like civic engagement, internships, and research. These experiential learning opportunities connect students with future collaborators, potential employers, mentors, and community members. Finally, students will create a culminating reflection that connects these experiences together and highlights how they will pass their light on.

LEARNING OUTCOME 1 (LO1)

Students will articulate how their co-curricular experiences and their academic curriculum have shaped their personal, professional, and civic identities.

REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Students will complete two approved experiential learning opportunities from the categories of research experiences, internships, national or international study, or leadership experiences and complete all requirements of such experiences.
 - a. Students will work with their advisor to identify opportunities that will meet this requirement while providing experiences that connect with a student's interests
 - i. A career services approved internship can partially fulfill this requirement.
 - ii. Faculty directed or student led research experiences such as independent projects, capstone research projects, or approved research programs can partially fulfill this requirement.
 - iii. Study abroad or study away programs that meet the experiential learning expectations established by the office of international education or the international and field studies committee can partially fulfill this requirement.
 - iv. Additional experiences may be approved to support this learning outcome through consultation with the Director of General Education for review by the General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC).
- B. Students are required to complete one approved civic engagement experience.
 - a. Courses that satisfy this requirement are labeled as "civic engagement" courses in the course catalog. You can find a listing on Wittenberg's Self-Service.

- C. Students will select or develop their own Cross Campus Connection (CCC), which integrates the content of academic courses with their experiential learning requirements.
 - a. Each CCC will link three courses from three different departments (10 credits minimum) together under a broad theme or focus area.
 - b. Courses do not have to support a Connections learning outcome to be included in a CCC.
 - c. CCC forms will be completed in consultation with a student's faculty advisor and filed with the registrar prior to a student's junior year.
 - d. An interdisciplinary major or interdisciplinary minor can fulfill this requirement.
- D. Students will complete a culminating reflection experience as a graded component of a course within their major typically during their senior year.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Employers, communities, and graduate schools seek out individuals who clearly and effectively communicate, who are able to use analytical and quantitative reasoning skills to solve problems, and are able to work with others. By taking courses that focus on the following learning outcomes, Wittenberg will provide students the core competencies and strengths needed to succeed in and change the world.

LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (LO2)

Students will write effectively, considering audience and purpose.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete 8 credits of course work focused on writing.

*An additional two courses of discipline-specific writing are required within the major.

LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (LO3)

Students will effectively communicate their ideas orally, considering audience and purpose.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete 8 credits of course work focused on oral communication.

LEARNING OUTCOME 4 (LO4)

Students will solve quantitative problems and apply quantitative reasoning skills in a variety of contexts.

REQUIREMENTS:

a) Students will complete 4 credits of a quantitative reasoning course.

b) Students will complete an additional 4 credits of application-focused quantitative reasoning.

LEARNING OUTCOME 5 (LO5)

Students will analyze the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the study of one or more languages and/or culture(s) outside of the United States and Canada.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete 8 credits of coursework to meet this learning outcome with at least 4 credits of coursework with a focus on non-Western culture(s) and/or taught in a second language at the 112 level or above.

LEARNING OUTCOME 6 (LO6)

Students will analyze the ways social hierarchies (e.g., race, gender, ethnicity, class, etc.) structure human interaction in the United States and impact the equitable distribution of social and material resources.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete 4 credits of coursework to meet this learning outcome.

CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING

Successful professionals and critical thinkers attack challenges from a variety of angles. Wittenberg liberal arts courses develop creative problem solving by honing a student's ability to think, analyze, communicate, and engage from different perspectives. These classes may duplicate courses from the core competency category.

LEARNING OUTCOME 7 (LO7)

Students will develop hypotheses or models, evaluate them using scientific reasoning, and draw conclusions about results or observations related to the physical or natural world.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete a 4- or 5-credit course to meet this learning outcome.

LEARNING OUTCOME 8 (LO8)

Students will produce artistic work and explain its cultural context and/or formal components.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete 4 credits of course work to meet this learning outcome.

LEARNING OUTCOME 9 (LO9)

Students will analyze social systems or human behaviors using knowledge, theories, and/or methods appropriate to the social sciences.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete a 4-credit course to meet this learning outcome.

LEARNING OUTCOME 10 (LO10)

Students will analyze problems, issues, or representations using knowledge, theories and/or methods appropriate to the humanities.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete a 4-credit course to meet this learning outcome.