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 together under a broad theme or focus area.
   b. Courses supporting the CCC must come from outside of the student’s major program of study.
c. Courses do not have to support a Connections learning outcome to be included in a CCC.
d. 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.
e. 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:**
- Students will complete 4 credits of a quantitative reasoning course.
- 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.

CONNECTIONS CURRICULUM COURSES, as of FALL 2021 (not exhaustive, subject to change):

FIRST YEAR SEMINARS:

- BIOL FYS – Power of Addiction
- BIOL FYS – Society and the Human Embryo
- BUSN FYS – Advertising and Society
- CMDM FYS – Technology and Negative Communication
- ECON FYS – Economics and Society
- EDUC FYS – Cultivating acceptance and advocacy through children’s literature
- EDUC FYS – Sociological Perspectives of Education
- ENGL FYS – Saving the Future by Changing Ourselves: Climate Change and Pollution
- ENGL FYS – Through the Language Glass
- ESCI FYS – Nature of Rivers
- GERM FYS – The Holocaust in Text, Image, and Memory
- NUR FYS – Nursing
- PHYS FYS – Biomedical technology and human potential
- PSYC FYS – Problems of Pop Psychology
- SOCI FYS – Introduction to Sociology
### LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (LO2): WRITING
- AFDS 270 Understanding Black Lives Matter Movement
- CMDM 201 Intro to Communication Theory
- EDUC 103 Sociological Perspectives in Education
- EDUC 104 Philosophical Perspectives in Education
- ENGL 101 College Research and Writing
- ENGL 180 Screening the 19th Century
- ENGL 180 Film Noir
- ENGL 180 Making Romance
- HIST 205TA-ST Latin American Revolutions
- PHIL 208 Philosophy and Modern Drama
- RELI 340 Religion, Gender, and Sexuality
- THDN 270 Contemporary American Drama

### LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (LO3): ORAL COMMUNICATION
- BIOL 202 Principles of Evolution
- BUSN 206 Global Social Entrepreneurship
- CHIN 111 Beginning Chinese I
- CMDM 201 Intro to Communication
- CMDM 190 Public Speaking
- GERM 111 Beginning German I
- GERM 264 Deutsche Geschichte und historische Quellen
- GERM 265 Nationale Identität und kulturelle Vielfalt
- NUR 240 Adult Health I: The Health & Wellness Continuum
- SPAN 111 Beginning Spanish I
- SPAN 112 Beginning Spanish II

### LEARNING OUTCOME 4 (LO4): QUANTITATIVE REASONING
- COMP 121 Computing in the Arts & Sciences
- COMP 150 Computer Programming I
- DATA 100 Data Literacy
- DATA 227 Data Analysis
- MATH 112 Language of Mathematics
- MATH 118 Mathematics for Elementary Teachers I
- MATH 120 Elementary Functions
- MATH 131 Essentials of Calculus
- MATH 201 Calculus I
- MATH 202 Calculus II
- MATH 218 Mathematics for Elementary Teachers II
- ACCT 225 Financial Accounting
- BUSN 210 Business and Economic Statistics
- CHEM 111 Introductory Chemistry for Health Sciences
- CHEM 121 Models of Chemical Systems I
- CHEM 162 Models of Chemical Systems II
- ECON 200 Principles of Economics
- GEOL 240 Process Geomorphology
- PHYS 201 Physics I
- PHYS 202 Algebra-Based Physics II
- PHYS 203 Calculus-Based Physics II

### LEARNING OUTCOME 5 (LO5): GLOBAL DIVERSITY
- ART 110 History of Art
- CHIN 111 Beginning Chinese I
- GERM 111 Beginning German I
- GERM 140 Themes in German Literature
- HIST 205TA-ST Latin American Revolutions
- HSS 221 International Sport Management
- RELI 120 Demons, Angels & Ghosts
- SPAN 111 Beginning Spanish I
- BUSN 206 Global Social Entrepreneurship
- CHIN 151 Film & Fiction in Modern China
- HIST 173 History of South Africa
- HIST 176 Lesotho and the Shadow of Apartheid
- MUSI 216 Music of the World
- PSYC 271 Psychology and Culture
- RELI 110 Judaism, Christianity, & Islam
- RELI 112 Intro to Buddhism
- SOCI 110 Cultural Anthropology

**GLOBAL COURSES:**
- CHIN 111 Beginning Chinese I
- GERM 111 Beginning German I
- GERM 140 Themes in German Literature
- HIST 205TA-ST Latin American Revolutions
- HSS 221 International Sport Management
- RELI 120 Demons, Angels & Ghosts
- SPAN 111 Beginning Spanish I

**LANGUAGE COURSES:**
- SPAN 112 Beginning Spanish II
- SPAN 261 El mundo físico
- SPAN 262 Entre dos mundos: el arte de la traducción
- GERM 264 Deutsche Geschichte und historische Quellen
- GERM 265 Nationale Identität und kulturelle Vielfalt

**APPLICATION COURSES:**
- ACCT 225 Financial Accounting
- BUSN 210 Business and Economic Statistics
- CHEM 111 Introductory Chemistry for Health Sciences
- CHEM 121 Models of Chemical Systems I
- CHEM 162 Models of Chemical Systems II
- ECON 200 Principles of Economics
- GEOL 240 Process Geomorphology
- PHYS 201 Physics I
- PHYS 202 Algebra-Based Physics II
- PHYS 203 Calculus-Based Physics II

**NON-WESTERN COURSES:**
- BUSN 206 Global Social Entrepreneurship
- CHIN 151 Film & Fiction in Modern China
- HIST 173 History of South Africa
- HIST 176 Lesotho and the Shadow of Apartheid
- MUSI 216 Music of the World
- PSYC 271 Psychology and Culture
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- SOCI 110 Cultural Anthropology
**LEARNING OUTCOME 6 (LO6): U.S. DIVERSITY & EQUITY**

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<td>Understanding Black Lives Matter Movement</td>
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<td>HIST 122</td>
<td>United States History II</td>
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<td>HIST 233</td>
<td>Negro Leagues</td>
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<td>RELI 340</td>
<td>Religion, Gender, &amp; Sexuality</td>
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<td>Sociological Topics</td>
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<td>THDN 270</td>
<td>Contemporary American Drama</td>
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**LEARNING OUTCOME 7 (LO7): SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY**

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<td>BIOL 125</td>
<td>Basic Human Physiology</td>
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<td>BIOL 170</td>
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<td>ESCI 100</td>
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<td>HSS 250</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td>MRSC 141</td>
<td>Introduction to Marine Biology</td>
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<td>PHYS 100</td>
<td>Concepts in Physics</td>
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<td>Physics I</td>
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<td>PSYC 101</td>
<td>Intro to Psychological Science</td>
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**LEARNING OUTCOME 8 (LO8): CREATIVE PROCESS**

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<td>ART 101</td>
<td>Studio Foundations: 2D Design</td>
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<td>ART 103</td>
<td>Studio Foundations: 3D Design</td>
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<td>ART 121</td>
<td>Basic Drawing</td>
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<td>ART 145</td>
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<td>ART 242</td>
<td>Intro to Digital Photography</td>
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<td>ART 285</td>
<td>Handbuilt Ceramics I</td>
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<td>ART 292</td>
<td>Ceramics I</td>
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<td>ENGL 240</td>
<td>Intro to Creative Writing</td>
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<td>MUSI 102</td>
<td>Basic Music Theory &amp; Skills</td>
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<td>MUSI 175</td>
<td>Jazz Ensemble</td>
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<td>MUSI 177</td>
<td>Chamber Orchestra</td>
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<td>MUSI 179</td>
<td>Symphonic Band</td>
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<td>MUSI 214</td>
<td>Electronic Music Production</td>
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<td>THDN 120</td>
<td>Art of the Theatre</td>
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<td>THDN 122</td>
<td>Acting</td>
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<td>THDN 230</td>
<td>Stagecraft</td>
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<td>THDN 231</td>
<td>Stage Design</td>
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**LEARNING OUTCOME 9 (LO9): SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC METHODS**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUSN 200</td>
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<td>CMDM 202</td>
<td>Interpersonal Communication</td>
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<td>ECON 200</td>
<td>Principles of Economics</td>
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<td>HSS 230</td>
<td>Contemp. Issues in Sport Sociology &amp; Psych.</td>
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<td>MATH 118</td>
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<td>POLI 101</td>
<td>American National Government</td>
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<td>POLI 103</td>
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<td>POLI 209TA-ST</td>
<td>Comparative Health Care Policy</td>
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<td>The American Presidency</td>
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<td>PSYC 271</td>
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**LEARNING OUTCOME 10 (LO10): HISTORICAL & CRITICAL ANALYSIS (Humanities & Arts)**

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