The University Core

Northwestern has a broadly based core curriculum that is central to the University’s mission and consistent with the Louisiana Board of Regents’ requirements for general education survey courses applicable to all students regardless of their major. The core encompasses the knowledge and abilities that Northwestern believes are essential to college graduates. Its requirements are designed to improve students’ writing and speaking, to deepen students’ understanding of mathematics and its applications, to strengthen students’ understanding of biological, physical, social, and behavioral sciences, and to develop an appreciation and knowledge of the arts and humanities.

The goal of the core curriculum is for undergraduate students, depending on their respective degree program, to obtain appropriate learning outcomes for the following general education competencies:

- To demonstrate writing as a purpose-driven process of communication within specific contexts.
- To apply mathematical and analytical reasoning skills.
- To understand the universe through the study of life and physical sciences.
- To understand the diversity of human knowledge and experience across cultures as examined through the humanities.
- To display knowledge of human behavior and the relationship between individuals and their societies.
- To explore the purposes and processes in the visual and performing arts and the ways in which fine arts conceive and express the human experience.

To accomplish this goal, students at Northwestern State University are required to take courses as defined below for baccalaureate and associate degrees. Together, these courses provide the breadth of their educational programs while the major requirements listed in subsequent sections of this catalog provide the depth of education.

Baccalaureate Degrees
The University core requires that each baccalaureate curriculum include the following:

1. **English (6 hours):** English 1010, English 1020.
2. **Mathematics (6 hours):** (taken in pairs indicated and in sequence): Mathematics 1020 and 1060; 1020 and 1090; 1020 and 2010; 1035 and 1060; 1100 (6 hours); 1810 (6 hours); or 2100 and 2110 (10 hours).
3. **Natural Sciences (9 hours):**
   - **Physical:** 3 or 6 hours selected from Science 1010, 2010; Chemistry 1030, 1040, 1070; and Physics 2030.
   - **Biological:** 3 or 6 hours selected from Science 1020, 2020; Biology 1010, 2250, and 2260.
4. **Humanities (9 hours)*:**
   - **Literature:** 3 hours selected from Science 1020, 2020; Biology 1010, 2250, and 2260.
   - **History:** 3 hours selected from History 1010, 1020, 2010, or 2020.
   - **Communication:** 3 hours selected from Communication 1010, 2500; Philosophy 1010; or Business Administration 2200.
5. **Social/Behavioral Sciences (6 hours):**
   - **Social Science (3 hours):** 3 hours selected from Anthropology 1510, 2020; Economics 2000; Political Science 2010; or Geography 1010, 1020.
• **Behavioral Science**: 3 hours selected from Educational Psychology 2020, Psychology 1010, 2050; or Sociology 1010.
6. **Fine Arts (3 hours)**: Fine Arts 1040.

**Associate (non-designated) Degrees**

The University core requires that Associate (non-designated) degrees include the following:

1. **English (6 hours)**: English 1010, English 1020.
2. **Mathematics (3 hours)**: Mathematics 1020, 1035.
3. **Natural Sciences (6 hours)**: In any combination of physical or biological science selected from Science 1010, 2010; Chemistry 1030, 1040, 1070; Physics 2030, 2510; Science 1020, 2020; Biology 1010, 1020, 2250, and 2260.
4. **Humanities (3 hours)**: Selected from Communication 1010, 2500; English 2110; History 1010, 1020, 2010, 2020; or Philosophy 1010.
5. **Social/Behavioral Sciences (6 hours)**:
   • **Social Science (3 hours)**: 3 hours selected from Anthropology 1510; Economics 2000; Political Science 2010, or Geography 1010.
   • **Behavioral Science**: 3 hours selected from Educational Psychology 2020; Psychology 1010, 2050; or Sociology 1010.
6. **Fine Arts (3 hours)**: Fine Arts 1040.

**Associate of Science Degrees**

The University core requires that Associate of Science degrees include the following:

1. **English (6 hours)**: English 1010, English 1020.
2. **Mathematics (6 hours)**: Complete 6 hours of mathematics selected from the following paired courses Mathematics 1020 and 1060; 1020 and 1090; 1020 and 2010; 1035 and 1060; 1100 (6 hours); 1810 (6 hours); or 2100 and 2110 (10 hours).
3. **Natural Sciences (6 hours)**:
   • **Physical**: 3 hours selected from Science 1010, 2010; Chemistry 1030, 1040, 1070; and Physics 2030, 2510.
   • **Biological**: 3 hours selected from Science 1020, 2020; Biology 1010, 2250, 2260.
4. **Humanities (3 hours)**: Selected from Communication 1010, 2500; English 2110, 2070; History 1010, 1020, 2010, 2020; or Philosophy 1010.
5. **Social/Behavioral Sciences (3 hours)**: selected from Anthropology 1510, 2010; Economics 2000, Political Science 2010, Geography 1010, 1020; Educational Psychology 2020, Psychology 1010, 2050; or Sociology 1010.
6. **Fine Arts (3 hours)**: Fine Arts 1040.