The UK Core – General Education Requirements

The University of Kentucky’s general education program—the UK Core— is foundational to a university education at the University of Kentucky. A university education is more than simply learning a set of skills in a specific area in preparation for a job or career. A university education is designed to broaden the students’ understanding of themselves, of the world we live in, of their role in our global society, and of the ideals and aspirations that have motivated human thought and action throughout the ages. It must help individuals effectively put into action their acquired knowledge, to provide the bases for critical thinking and problem solving, and to develop life-long learning habits.

The UK Core is composed of the equivalent of 30 credit hours in 10 course areas that address four broad learning outcomes. Depending on choice of major or courses, some students may take more than 30 credit hours to complete the UK Core.

The UK Core Learning Outcomes

The UK Core curriculum is based on a comprehensive set of student learning outcomes that all students are expected to be able to demonstrate upon completion of a baccalaureate degree at the University of Kentucky. All UK Core courses are designed to meet one or more of the following learning outcomes:

I. Students will demonstrate an understanding of and ability to employ the processes of intellectual inquiry. [12 credit hours]

Students will be able to identify multiple dimensions of a good question (i.e., interesting, analytical, problematic, complex, important, genuine, researchable); determine when additional information is needed, find credible information efficiently using a variety of reference sources, and judge the quality of information as informed by rigorously developed evidence; explore multiple and complex answers to questions/issues/problems within and across the four broad knowledge areas: arts and creativity, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, and natural/physical/mathematical sciences; evaluate theses and conclusions in light of credible evidence; explore the ethical implications of differing approaches, methodologies or conclusions; and develop potential solutions to problems based on sound evidence and reasoning. Students will take four 3-credit courses, one in each of the four broad knowledge areas defined above.

II. Students will demonstrate competent written, oral, and visual communication skills both as producers and consumers of information. [6 credit hours]

Students will demonstrate the ability to construct intelligible messages using sound evidence and reasoning that are appropriate for different rhetorical situations (audiences and purposes) and deliver those messages effectively in written, oral, and visual form. Students will also demonstrate the ability to competently critique (analyze, interpret, and evaluate) written, oral, and visual messages conveyed in a variety of communication contexts. Students will take one 3-hour course focusing on the development of effective writing skills, and one 3-hour integrated communications course focusing on oral and visual communication skills, along with continued development of written communication skills.

III. Students will demonstrate an understanding of and ability to employ methods of quantitative reasoning. [6 credit hours]

Students will demonstrate how fundamental elements of mathematical, logical and statistical knowledge are applied to solve real-world problems; and (b) explain the sense in which an important source of uncertainty in many everyday decisions is addressed by statistical science, and appraise the efficacy of statistical arguments that are reported for general consumption. Students will take one 3-hour course on the application of mathematical, logical and statistical methods, and one 3-hour course devoted to a conceptual and practical understanding of statistical inferential reasoning.

IV. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the complexities of citizenship and the process for making informed choices as engaged citizens in a diverse, multilingual world. [6 credit hours]

Students will recognize historical and cultural differences arising from issues such as ethnicity, gender, language, nationality, race, religion, sexuality, and socioeconomic class; students will demonstrate a basic understanding of how these differences influence issues of social justice, both within the U.S. and globally; students will recognize and evaluate the ethical dilemmas, conflicts, and trade-offs involved in personal and collective decision making. Students will take two courses, each with a topical or regional focus. The first course will include critical analysis of diversity issues as they relate to the contemporary United States. The second will be a non-US based course that includes critical analysis of local-to-global dynamics as they relate to the contemporary world. In addition, each course must address at least 2 of these 4 topics: societal and institutional change over time; civic engagement; cross-national/comparative issues; power and resistance.

The Curricular Framework and Relationship to the Learning Outcomes

Students must take one course from each of the areas listed below in order to complete the UK Core. A course taken to satisfy a requirement in one area of the UK Core cannot be used to satisfy a requirement in another area, even if a specific course is present in more than one area (e.g., some courses are designed to meet the learning outcomes in more than one area).
Course Areas by Learning Outcome

Learning Outcome I: Intellectual Inquiry

- The Nature of Inquiry in Arts and Creativity ........................................................................................................ 3
- The Nature of Inquiry in the Humanities .................................................................................................................. 3
- The Nature of Inquiry in the Social Sciences ............................................................................................................. 3
- The Nature of Inquiry in the Natural, Physical and Mathematical Sciences ............................................................... 3

Learning Outcome II: Written, Oral and Visual Communication

- Composition and Communication I .......................................................................................................................... 3
- Composition and Communication II ........................................................................................................................ 3

Learning Outcome III: Quantitative Reasoning

- Quantitative Foundations ........................................................................................................................................... 3
- Statistical Inferential Reasoning ............................................................................................................................... 3

Learning Outcome IV: Citizenship

- Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA ................................................................................................... 3
- Global Dynamics .......................................................................................................................................................... 3

UK Core Credit-Hour Total* ....................................................................................................................................... 30

*The UK Core is designed to provide the equivalent of 30 credit hours. Some courses in the UK Core require more than three credits, resulting in more than 30 credits in some cases.

Please consult your advisor for a complete list of options.

I. Intellectual Inquiry in Arts and Creativity

Courses in this area are hands-on courses that allow students to engage actively with the creative process. Students will define and distinguish different approaches to creativity, demonstrate the ability to critically analyze work produced by other students, and evaluate results of their own creative endeavors. In general education, a focus on creativity adds to the vitality and relevance of learning and will translate into graduates who are better prepared to face the challenges of a dynamic society.

To fulfill the Arts and Creativity requirement, complete one of the following:

A-E 120 Pathways to Creativity in the Visual Arts
A-S 102 2D
A-S 103 3D
A-S 130 Drawing
A-S 200 Digital Art
A-S 245 Introduction to Web Design
A-S 270 Ceramics for Non-Majors
A-S 280 Introduction to Photographic Literacy
A-S 285 Lens Arts
A-S 300 Digital Photography
A-S 380 Black & White Darkroom Photography
AAS 168 All That Speak of Jazz: An Intellectual Inquiry Into Jazz and Democracy
BAE 402† Biosystems Engineering Design I
BAE 403† Biosystems Engineering Design II
CME 455* Chemical Engineering Product and Process Design I
DES 100 Design in Your World
DST 200 Digital Literacy
EE 101 Creativity and Design in Electrical and Computer Engineering
EGR 101** Engineering Exploration I
EGR 102** Engineering Exploration II
EGR 215** Introduction to the Practice of Engineering for Transfer Students
ENG 107 Writing Craft: Introduction to Creative Writing
ENG 130 Literary Encounters
ENG 168 All That Speak of Jazz: An Intellectual Inquiry Into Jazz and Democracy
ENG 180 Great Movies (Subtitle required)
GEO 109 Digital Mapping
HON 252 Honors in Arts and Creativity (Subtitle required)
ICT 200 Information Literacy and Critical Thinking
IS 200 Information Literacy and Critical Thinking
LA 111 Living on the Right Side of the Brain
LIN 200 How to Create Your Own Language
MCL 311 The World of Autobiography
MCL 312 The Art of Adaptation
ME 411 ME Capstone Design I
MNG 592 Mine Design Project II
MUS 123 Beginning Classroom Guitar
MUS 130 Performing World Music (Subtitle required)
MUS 200 Music for Living
MUS 222 Creativity and Innovation in Rock Music
PHI 193 Circus and Philosophy
PHI 315 Philosophy and Science Fiction
PHI 393 Philosophy of Film
PLS 240 Introduction to Floral Design
TA 110 Theatre: An Introduction
TA 120 Creativity and the Art of Acting
TA 150 Creativity and the Art of Design and Production
TA 220 Shakespeare Page to Stage
TA 370 Staging History
TAD 140 Introduction to Dance
WRD 307 Writing Comics
WRD 312 Introduction to Documentary

† Students must complete both BAE 402 and BAE 403 to fulfill the Arts and Creativity requirement.

* Chemical Engineering students only.

** EGR 101/EGR 215 and EGR 103 are paired courses. Students must complete both EGR 101 (or EGR 215) and EGR 103 to earn UK Core credit. In addition, EGR 102 is a prerequisite for EGR 103.
II. Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

These courses develop students’ skills in interpretation and analysis of creations of the human intellect such as art and literature (including folklore, popular culture, film and digital media), philosophical and religious contemplation and argumentation, language systems, and historical narratives. In these courses, students gain the ability not only to analyze the works themselves but to evaluate competing interpretations of such works.

To fulfill the Humanities requirement, complete one of the following:

A-H 101 Introduction to Visual Studies
A-H 105 World Art Before 1400
A-H 106 Renaissance to Modern Art
A-H 334 Reframing Renaissance Art
AAS 253 History of Pre-Colonial Africa
AAS 254 History of Colonial and Post-Colonial Africa
AAS 264 Introduction to Black Writers
AIS 228 Islamic Civilization
AIS 320 Modern Arabic Literature and Film in Translation
AIS 345 Islamic Mysticism
ARC 314* History and Theory III: 20th Century and Contemporary Architecture
CHI 330 Introduction to Chinese Culture, Pre-Modern to 1840
CHI 331 Introduction to Chinese Culture, 1840 to Present
CLA 135 Greek and Roman Mythology
CLA 190 Introduction to the New Testament
CLA 191 Christianity, Culture, and Society: A Historical Introduction
CLA 229 The Ancient Near East and Greece to the Death of Alexander the Great
CLA 230 The Hellenistic World and Rome to the Death of Constantine
CPH 309 Health, History, and Human Diversity
ENG142 Global Shakespeare
ENG191 Literature and the Arts of Citizenship
ENG209 The Structure and Use of English
ENG230 Introduction to Literature (Subtitle required)
ENG260 Introduction to Black Writers
ENG280 Introduction to Film
ENG290 Introduction to Women’s Literature
EPE350 Town and Gown in Fact and Fiction: Campus and Community as Local History
FR 103 French Cinema
FR 205 The French Graphic Novel
FR 225 French Film Noir
GER 103 Fairy Tales in European Context
GER 305 German Film Today
GWS 201 Gender and Popular Culture
GWS 309 Health, History, and Human Diversity
HIS 104 A History of Europe Through the Mid-Seventeenth Century
HIS 105 A History of Europe from the Mid-Seventeenth Century to the Present
HIS 108 History of the United States Through 1876
HIS 109 History of the United States Since 1877
HIS 112 The Making of Modern Kentucky
HIS 119 War and Society, 1350-1914
HIS 121 War and Society, 1914-1945
HIS 130 Drugs and Alcohol in Western Civilization, 1492 to the Present
HIS 191 A History of World Religions (Subtitle required)
HIS 202 History of the British People to the Restoration
HIS 203 History of the British People Since the Restoration
HIS 207 History of Modern Latin America, 1810 to Present
HIS 229 The Ancient Near East and Greece to the Death of Alexander the Great
HIS 230 The Hellenistic World and Rome to the Death of Constantine
HIS 253 History of Pre-Colonial Africa
HIS 254 History of Colonial and Post-Colonial Africa
HIS 296 East Asia Since 1600
HJS 110 Introduction to the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
HON 151 Honors in Humanities (Subtitle required)
ID 161 History and Theory 1
ID 162 History and Theory 2
ITA 263 Studies in Italian Culture (Subtitle required)
LIN209 The Structure and Use of English
MCL 135 Vampires: Evolution of a Sexy Monster
MCL 270 Introduction to Folklore and Mythology
MCL 343 Global Horror
MCL 360 Catastrophes and Calamities in the Greco-Roman World and Afterwards
MUS 100 Introduction to Music
PHI 100 Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality
PHI 260 History of Philosophy I: From Greek Beginnings to the Middle Ages
PHI 270 History of Philosophy II: From the Renaissance to the Present Era
PHI 310 Philosophy of Human Nature
PHI 317 Existentialist Thought and Literature
PHI 380 Death, Dying and the Quality of Life
RUS 275 Russian Film
RUS 371 The Russian Cultural Imagination: 900-1900
RUS 372 Experiments in Life and Art: Russian Culture 1900-Present
SPA 262 Hispanic Literatures in Translation (Subtitle required)
SPA 330 Spanish and Globalization
SPA 371 Latin American Cinema (Subtitle required)
SPA 372 Spanish Cinema (Subtitle required)
TA 385 World Theatre I
TA 386 World Theatre II
TA 388 History of the American Musical
WRD 210 Social Media: Theory, Culture, Politics, Practice
WRD 320 Rhetorical Theory and History

* Architecture students only.
**IV. Intellectual Inquiry in the Natural, Physical and Mathematical Sciences**

These courses engage students in the fundamental processes of science through the exploration of an area in science. Students will be expected to use their knowledge of scientific concepts to formulate predictions, collect and analyze data, and construct explanations for the questions posed.

To fulfill the Natural, Physical and Mathematical Sciences requirement, complete one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABT 120</td>
<td>Genetics and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANT 105</td>
<td>Islam in America</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANT 230</td>
<td>Introduction to Biological Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARC 333</td>
<td>Environmental Controls II</td>
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<tr>
<td>AST 191</td>
<td>The Solar System</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 102</td>
<td>Human Ecology</td>
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<td>BIO 103</td>
<td>Basic Ideas of Biology</td>
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<td>CHE 101</td>
<td>Molecular Science for Citizens</td>
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<td>CHE 103</td>
<td>Chemistry for Health Professionals</td>
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<td>CHE 105†</td>
<td>General College Chemistry I</td>
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<td>CHE 109*</td>
<td>General Chemistry IA</td>
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<td>CHE 110*</td>
<td>General Chemistry IB</td>
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<td>CHE 111†</td>
<td>General Chemistry I Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPH 310</td>
<td>Disease Detectives: Epidemiology in Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>EE 167</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Nanotechnology and Applications in Renewable Energy</td>
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<td>EES 110</td>
<td>Endangered Planet: An Introduction to Environmental Geology</td>
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<td>EES 120</td>
<td>Sustainable Planet: The Geology of Natural Resources</td>
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<td>EES 150</td>
<td>Earthquakes and Volcanoes</td>
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<td>EES 170</td>
<td>Blue Planet: Introduction to Oceanography</td>
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<td>EES 180</td>
<td>Geology of the National Parks</td>
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<td>ENT 110</td>
<td>Insect Biology</td>
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<td>ENT 209</td>
<td>Bees and People</td>
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<td>FOR 100</td>
<td>Forests and Forestry</td>
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<td>GEO 130</td>
<td>Earth’s Physical Environment</td>
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<td>GEO 133</td>
<td>Science and Policy of Natural Hazards</td>
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<td>GEO 135</td>
<td>Global Climate Change</td>
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<td>HON 152</td>
<td>Honors in Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences (Subtitle required)</td>
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<td>ICT 150</td>
<td>Experience ICT</td>
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<td>MCL 135</td>
<td>Vampires: Evolution of a Sexy Monster</td>
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<td>MCL 270</td>
<td>Introduction to Folklore and Mythology</td>
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<td>PCE 201</td>
<td>Introduction to Peace Studies</td>
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<td>PS 230</td>
<td>Introduction to International Relations</td>
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<td>PSY 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
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<td>PSY 160</td>
<td>Human Sexuality</td>
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<td>RUS 370</td>
<td>Russian Folklore (in English)</td>
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<td>SOC 101*</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
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<td>ECO 101</td>
<td>Contemporary Economic Issues</td>
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<td>EGR 120</td>
<td>Technology: Blessing or Curse</td>
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<td>EPE 174</td>
<td>Theories of College Student Development and Mentoring</td>
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<td>EPE 374</td>
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<td>GEO 172</td>
<td>Human Geography</td>
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<td>GWS 200</td>
<td>Sex and Power</td>
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<tr>
<td>HON 251</td>
<td>Honors in Social Sciences (Subtitle required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HP 101</td>
<td>Historic Preservation</td>
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</tbody>
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*Students may not receive credit for both SOC 101 and CLD 102.*

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*CHE 105 and 111 are paired courses. To earn UK Core credit, both courses must be completed. CHE 111 may be taken concurrently with CHE 105 or after CHE 105 has been completed. Students must sign up for them separately.

*CHE 109 and CHE 110 are equivalent to CHE 105. To earn UK Core credit, students must complete CHE 109, CHE 110 and CHE 111. Students must sign up for them separately.

**PHY 231 and 241 are paired courses. To earn UK Core credit, both PHY 231 and PHY 241 must be completed. They may be taken in either order and students must sign up for them separately.
V. Composition and Communication I

In this course, students are introduced to the process of writing, speaking, and visually representing their own ideas and the ideas of others; they also practice basic interpersonal communication skills and the ability to communicate with multiple audiences.

To fulfill the Composition and Communication I requirement, complete one of the following:

- CIS 110 Composition and Communication I
- CIS 112 Accelerated Composition and Communication II (CIS)
- WRD 110 Composition and Communication I

Placement in CIS/WRD 112 – Students who have a score of 32 or above on the English component of the ACT, a score of 720 or above on SAT I Verbal, or a standard score of 4 or 5 on the AP English Language Exam receive placement in CIS/WRD 112. No credit for CIS/WRD 110/111 is awarded.

VI. Composition and Communication II

In this course, students research public controversies and work in teams to analyze and argue for a solution to these controversies in oral, written, and visual/digital forms for multiple audiences.

To fulfill the Composition and Communication II requirement, complete one of the following:

- CIS 111 Composition and Communication II
- CIS 112 Accelerated Composition and Communication II (CIS)
- CIS 184 Communicating Arguments
- ICT 114 Composition and Communication in the Digital Age I
- WRD 112 Accelerated Composition and Communication II (WRD)

Placement in CIS/WRD 112 – Students who have a score of 32 or above on the English component of the ACT, a score of 720 or above on SAT I Verbal, or a standard score of 4 or 5 on the AP English Language Exam receive placement in CIS/WRD 112. No credit for CIS/WRD 110/111 is awarded.

VII. Quantitative Foundations

These courses are concerned with the application of mathematical concepts and skills to solve real-world problems. In order to perform effectively as professionals and citizens, students must become competent in reading and using quantitative data, in understanding quantitative evidence and in applying basic quantitative skills to the solution of real-life problems.

NOTE: Students must have demonstrated basic proficiency in math skills as determined by a minimum Math ACT of 19 or the appropriate math placement test to take these courses.

To fulfill the Quantitative Foundations requirement, complete one of the following:

CS 261 Social Networks: Methods and Tools
EES 151 Quantitative Planet
EES 155 Earthquakes and Quantitative Reasoning
EES 185 Quantifying the Bluegrass Water Supply
FOR 200 Basics of Geospatial Technology
GEO 310 Data Explorations and Applications in Everyday Life
MA 109 College Algebra
MA 111 Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics
MA 113 Calculus I
MA 123 Elementary Calculus and Its Applications
MA 137 Calculus I With Life Science Applications
PHI 120 The Art of Thinking: An Introduction to Logic
IX. Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA

These courses promote a student’s understanding of historical, societal, and cultural differences, such as those arising from race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, language, nationality, religion, political and ethical perspectives, and socioeconomic class; engage students in grappling with conflicts, compromises, and/or ethical dilemmas stemming from the complex and diverse cultural contexts of US communities; and foster effective and responsible participation in a diverse community or society in the United States.

To fulfill the Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA requirement, complete one of the following:

- A-H 360 Visual Culture of Politics
- AAS 168 All That Speak of Jazz: An Intellectual Inquiry Into Jazz and Democracy
- AAS 200 Introduction to African-American Studies
- AAS 235 Inequalities in Society
- AAS 261 African American History 1865-Present
- AIS 430 Islam in America
- ANT 221 Native People of North America
- ANT 330 North American Cultures
- APP 200 Introduction to Appalachian Studies
- CLD 360 Environmental Sociology
- COM312 Learning Intercultural Communication Through Media and Film
- COM315 Understanding Workplace Communication in a Diverse U.S. Society
- CPH 309 Health, History, and Human Diversity
- ENG168 All That Speak of Jazz: An Intellectual Inquiry Into Jazz and Democracy
- ENG191 Literature and the Arts of Citizenship
- EPE 301 Education in American Culture
- GEN 100* Issues in Agriculture, Food and Environment
- GEO 220 U.S. Cities
- GEO 221 Immigrant America: A Geographic Perspective
- GEO 320 Geography of the United States and Canada
- GWS 301 Crossroads (Subtitle required)
- GWS 309 Health, History, and Human Diversity
- HIS 108 History of the United States Through 1876
- HIS 109 History of the United States Since 1877
- HIS 112 The Making of Modern Kentucky
- HIS 261 African American History 1865-Present
- LIN 331 Language in U.S. Society
- MCL 335 Democracy – Ancient and American
- PHI 130 Introduction to Philosophy: Morality and Society
- PHI 205 Food Ethics
- PHI 335 The Individual and Society
- PHI 340 Introduction to Feminism and Philosophy
- PHI 361 Biology and Society (Subtitle required)
- PS 101 American Government
- PSY 215 Experimental Psychology
- PSY 216 Applications of Statistics in Psychology
- SOC 235 Inequalities in Society
- SOC 303 Quantitative Sociological Analysis
- STA 210 Making Sense of Uncertainty: An Introduction to Statistical Reasoning
- STA 296 Statistical Methods and Motivations
- STA 381 Engineering Statistics – A Conceptual Approach

* PSY 215 and 216 are paired courses and are restricted to Psychology majors and minors. To earn UK Core credit, both PSY 215 and PSY 216 must be completed. They may be taken in either order and students must sign up for them separately.

* GEN 100 is for College of Agriculture, Food and Environment students only.
**Foreign Language Requirement**

Foreign language is no longer explicitly required as part of the new UK General Education, the UK Core. However, foreign language proficiency is still an expectation for students who enter UK, and is still considered to be an important part of the students’ educational background.

Any first-time freshman or transfer student must demonstrate that they have completed two high school credits in a single foreign language, or two semesters at the postsecondary level. A student who has not completed the high school foreign language requirement will be required to take a two-semester sequence in one foreign language at the University of Kentucky prior to graduation.