Core Curriculum Quick Reference

Summary

Foundational Courses

- Augustine and Culture Seminar (ACS 1000/1001) - 2 courses
- Theology and Religious Studies (THL 1000) - 1 course
- Philosophy (PHI 1000) - 1 course
- Ethics (ETH 2050) - 1 course

Foreign Languages - Proficiency through intermediate II level

Mathematics or Statistics - 1 course

Natural Sciences - 2 courses with laboratories

Literature and Writing Seminar - 1 course

History - 1 course

Social Sciences - 2 courses

Fine Arts - 1 course

Theology and Religious Studies - Upper Division - 1 course

Diversity Distribution Requirement: At least two of the courses counting towards graduation requirements must have a “Diversity” attribute. (See detailed explanation below) Diversity courses may be either Core, major, or free-elective courses.

Detailed Course Requirements

Foundational Courses

- Augustine and Culture Seminar (ACS) Sequence (2 courses)
  ACS focuses on the question: Who am I? ACS 1000 (Ancients) contains readings from Hebrew and Christian scriptures, Greek and Roman antiquity, Augustine, and the High Middle Ages, and is dedicated to understanding the foundations of our shared intellectual tradition. ACS 1001 (Moderns) continues to address the question of identity with texts from the Renaissance to the modern era.

- Theology and Religious Studies (1 foundational course and 1 upper division course – see below)
  THL 1000 (Faith, Reason, and Culture) studies Christianity with a particular focus on Roman Catholicism. Animated by Augustine’s concern to relate Christian faith, reason, and human culture, this course is organized around the fundamental question: What do I believe? Students embark on a journey that engages them in the quest of faith seeking understanding in the context of contemporary global religious, theological, and cultural pluralism.

- Philosophy (1 course)
  PHL 1000 (Knowledge, Reality, Self) explores philosophical responses to the questions of how we can know, what is real, and what is the nature of the human person.

- Ethics (1 course)
  ETH 2050 (The Good Life: Ethics and Contemporary Moral Problems) provides critical reflection on distinctive and viable visions of the moral life, with particular focus on Christian, especially Roman Catholic, Augustinian accounts, and explores the significance of different visions through an examination of various contemporary moral questions.

Foreign Language (Proficiency through the equivalent of the intermediate II level)

To meet the requirement, students must demonstrate language proficiency either 1) through the intermediate II level in French, Italian, Latin, or Spanish; or 2) through the introductory II level in Arabic, Chinese, Ancient Greek, Irish, Japanese, or Russian. Students who place above these levels must still take one semester at Villanova to demonstrate proficiency. Students already proficient in other foreign languages may seek exemption. For more information, see the Foreign Language Requirement Quick Reference page or the full policy in the Enchiridion.

Mathematics or Statistics (1 course)

Any course offered by the Department of Mathematics & Statistics or listed under “Mathematics” on the Master Schedule, including CSC 1300 Discrete Structures and PHI 2020 Symbolic Logic, fulfills the requirement.
Natural Science (2 courses with laboratories)
Any two courses in the natural sciences, with the associated labs, fulfills the requirement. The courses need not be sequential or from the same discipline. Students not majoring in the natural sciences or mathematics typically take two Mendel Science Experience (MSE) courses, but may take other courses, including courses designed for science majors. Science majors meet the natural science requirement through the regular program of study in their major.

Literature and Writing Seminar (1 course)
All students take a thematic literature and writing seminar course typically by the end of their sophomore year. Courses that fulfill the requirement are numbered 1975 and designated by the “Core Lit & Writing Sem” attribute. Courses are currently available through English, Classical Studies, and Humanities.

History (1 course)
The Core History requirement is met by taking a specifically designed course designated by the “Core History” attribute. All Core History courses have a course number below 2000. Although students may take upper division History courses without having taken a Core History course, upper division History courses may not be substituted for approved Core History courses.

Social Sciences (2 courses)
Students satisfy the requirement by taking any two courses designated by the “Core Social Science” attribute. A wide range of courses in Criminology, Economics, Education, Geography and the Environment, Global Interdisciplinary Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, or Sociology carry the “Core Social Science” attribute.

Fine Arts (1 course)
The Core Fine Arts requirement is met through courses that foster and develop an understanding and appreciation of artistic creativity. While some courses may focus on the creative processes that go into making a work of art, others may focus on analysis and interpretation of the products of that artistic creativity. Only courses designated with the “Fine Arts Requirement” attribute fulfill the requirement.

Theology and Religious Studies (1 course)
The required upper division Core Theology and Religious Studies course develops the theme of faith seeking understanding, engaging culture from a specific disciplinary perspective: biblical studies, systematic or fundamental theology, Christian ethics, historical theology and Augustinian Studies, spirituality, pastoral studies, or world religions. Courses that meet this requirement are designated with the “Core Theology” attribute.

Core Curriculum Diversity Requirement (2 courses)
Consistent with the University’s Mission Statement and its implementation in the College of Arts and Sciences, students will take at least two courses designated as “Diversity.” Learning to see through the eyes of other peoples and cultures is essential to becoming a citizen of the world. Beyond introducing students to the contextual study of diverse groups, diversity education must foster understanding of how individuals are affected within systems of power, oppression, deprivation, and marginalization and privilege. Students are required to select two courses from the following three possible areas, each covering a different area of diversity:

Diversity 1: Courses that focus on populations (often named as non-dominant groups, minority, or impoverished groups) in the U. S. or Western Europe, and the systems or mechanisms that give rise to the experiences of power, privilege, and marginalization.

Diversity 2: Courses that provide a focus on women’s experiences and/or highlight the relationship between gender, culture, and power.

Diversity 3: Courses focus on the culture, economics, politics, or ecology of societies and nations other than those of Western Europe and the United States and that emphasize power, privilege, and marginalization or a critical analysis of how these cultures define and express themselves.