

General Education: Common Core

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Effective Fall 2024, WSU rolled out a new General Education model to replace the Common Core of studies. Students enrolled prior to Fall 2024 will complete the Common Core, while incoming First Year students of Fall 2024 and forward will be enrolled in General Education. Please refer to the [General Education: WISE](#) page for more information.

Common Core Requirements

All students must complete a core of studies, distributed among the different academic areas as follows:

- **Humanities** (10 credits)
 - English Composition (4 credits)
 - Literary and Philosophical Analysis (3 credits)
 - Appreciation of the Arts (3 credits)
- **Social Science** (9 credits)
 - United States History and Government (3 credits)
 - Social Understanding (6 credits)
- **Mathematics/Applied Analytical Reasoning** (6-8 credits)
 - Traditional Mathematics (3-4 credits)
 - Applied Analytical Reasoning (3-4 credits)
- **Science** (7-8 credits)
 - Laboratory Science (4 credits)
 - Allied Science (3-4 credits)
- **Diversity** (6 credits)
 - Global Diversity (3 credits)
 - United States Diversity (3 credits)

Because courses may satisfy more than one distribution area, the total number of credits a student will need to satisfy the Core will vary, according to the specific courses chosen. For example, a single course may satisfy both a Literary and Philosophical Analysis requirement and an Upper-Level requirement; or a course may be designed to satisfy both a Social Understanding and a Diversity requirement.

In keeping with the University's mission to assist its students to develop intellectually and to use their knowledge to improve the conditions of their communities, the Core has been designed to introduce students to a variety of academic disciplines and social issues.

A set of goals has been established for each area of the Core, offering students an opportunity to develop the critical skills needed to deal effectively with a variety of academic disciplines and concepts. The foundations of the Common Core are disciplinary forms, within which students select specific courses. One of the goals of the Common Core is to introduce students to areas of study which are seen as necessary ingredients for a cultivated, humane life.

In meeting the requirements of the Common Core, Westfield students acquire:

1. The capacity to communicate clearly in one or more natural languages.
2. The capacity to understand literary and philosophical responses to fundamental questions of the human condition.
3. An appreciation for creative expression and aesthetic issues through study of the arts.
4. An understanding of United States government, history and the processes of democratic citizenship.
5. The capacity to understand the workings of society and its institutions.

6. An ability to use mathematics to solve problems and to reason logically and analytically.
7. An understanding of scientific theory and methodology as well as an appreciation of physical and natural processes.
8. An understanding of the social and conceptual foundations among people, such as race, class, gender, or ethnicity.
9. An opportunity to extend their understanding of a subject beyond the introductory level and to appreciate the value of multi-disciplinary approaches to areas of inquiry.

The Core is a work in progress. Academic departments are still in the process of reviewing their curricula for courses that meet current core standards, and are also developing new courses for core inclusion.

Composition Component of Core

All full-time students must complete [ENGL 0101](#) during their first year (or Honors equivalent). This course is a pre-requisite for 0200-level core English courses, as well as other writing courses within different subjects.

Common Core of Studies

The Common Core of Studies is divided into 5 sections (Humanities, Social Science, Mathematics/Applied Analytical Reasoning, Science, and Diversity) each of which have their own sub-categories.

Humanities - 10 credits

4 credits from English Composition.

3 credits from Literary & Philosophical Analysis.

3 credits from Appreciation of the Arts.

English Composition [CMP]

- [ENGL 0101 - Composition I: Rhetoric and Inquiry](#) Credits: 4

Literary & Philosophical Analysis [LPA]

- [EDUC 0104 - Introduction to Education](#) Credits: 3
- [EGST 0210 - U.S. Latino/a Literatures](#) Credits: 3
- [EGST 0232 - Puerto Rican Literatures](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0112 - Black American Stories](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0115 - Indigenous American Stories](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0117 - Asian American Literature and Culture](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0210 - British Literature to 1780](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0212 - Exploring British Literature Since 1780](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0216 - Exploring American Literature to 1865](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0217 - Exploring American Literature since 1865](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0316 - Postcolonial Literature and Theory](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0221 - Exploring Global Stories](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0228 - Introduction to Shakespeare](#) Credits: 3
- [GPS 0106 - Sustainable Planet](#) Credits: 4
- [LFRE 0201 - Reading French Texts](#) Credits: 3
- [LLIT 0201 - Women Writers of the Americas: Global](#) Credits: 3
- [LLIT 0202 - Women Writers of the Americas: US](#) Credits: 3
- [LLIT 0210 - Studies in the Literature of Africa and the African Diaspora](#) Credits: 3
- [LLIT 0220 - Studies in European Cultures](#) Credits: 3
- [LLIT 0232 - Puerto Rican Literatures](#) Credits: 3
- [LLIT 0310 - Seminar in Hispanic Studies](#) Credits: 3
- [LSPA 0217 - Reading Spanish Texts](#) Credits: 3
- [EXPL 0216 - Ways of Knowing: Views Through the Lenses of Mathematics and Science](#) Credits: 3

- [PHIL 0101 - Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy](#) Credits: 3
- [PHIL 0102 - Introduction to Ethics](#) Credits: 3
- [PHIL 0104 - Great Philosophical Issues](#) Credits: 3
- [PHIL 0109 - Introduction to Philosophy of Religion](#) Credits: 3
- [PHIL 0110 - Introduction to Philosophy of Science](#) Credits: 3
- [PHIL 0211 - Asian Philosophy](#) Credits: 3
- [THEA 0260 - Script Analysis & Interpretation](#) Credits: 3

Appreciation of the Arts [AAPP]

- [ART 0104 - Two-Dimensional Design](#) Credits: 3
- [ART 0106 - Art Survey: Prehistoric to Middle Ages](#) Credits: 3
- [ART 0107 - Art Survey: Renaissance to Present](#) Credits: 3
- [ART 0108 - My Brand/My Story, Computer Graphics for Art Applications I](#) Credits: 3
- [ART 0354 - Women Artists in the Western World](#) Credits: 3
- [COMM 0245 - The Silent Film](#) Credits: 4
- [ENGL 0108 - Exploring Film Studies](#) Credits: 4 **or** [COMM 0108](#)
- [ENGL 0240 - Cultural Studies](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0276 - Writing About the Arts](#) Credits: 3
- [MUSC 0101 - Music as Social Experience](#) Credits: 3
- [MUSC 0103 - Music in Culture](#) Credits: 3
- [MUSC 0104 - Global Music](#) Credits: 3
- [MUSC 0110 - Understanding Music](#) Credits: 3
- [MUSC 0160 - Journey into Jazz](#) Credits: 3
- [THEA 0104 - Theatre and Society](#) Credits: 3
- [THEA 0121 - Acting Styles: Techniques, Theory and Practice](#) Credits: 3
- [THEA 0151 - Approaches to Acting](#) Credits: 3
- [THEA 0261 - Theatre History: Early Stages](#) Credits: 3
- [THEA 0262 - Theatre History: Renaissance to Romanticism](#) Credits: 3
- [THEA 0263 - Theatre History: The Modern Stage](#) Credits: 3

Social Science - 9 credits

At least 3 credits must be from the U.S. History & Government area.

U.S. History & Government [HSGV]

- [HIST 0131 - United States History to 1900](#) Credits: 3
- [HIST 0132 - United States History Since 1900](#) Credits: 3
- [POLS 0101 - American National Government](#) Credits: 3
- [POLS 0103 - State and Local Government](#) Credits: 3

Social Understanding [SOCU]

- [ANTH 0101 - Introduction to Anthropology](#) Credits: 3
- [ART 0241 - African Art: Ritual, Performance, and Theatre](#) Credits: 3
- [ART 0332 - The Art History of The Black Body](#) Credits: 3
- [CAIS 0101 - Computers in Society](#) Credits: 3
- [COMM 0101 - Media Literacy in Contemporary Society](#) Credits: 3
- [COMM 0233 - Documentary Film](#) Credits: 4
- [CRJU 0101 - Introduction to Criminal Justice](#) Credits: 3
- [ECON 0101 - Principles of Macroeconomics](#) Credits: 3
- [ECON 0102 - Principles of Microeconomics](#) Credits: 3
- [EDUC 0220 - Schools in US Society](#) Credits: 3

- [EGST 0208 - Hip Hop Cultures](#) Credits: 3
- [EGST 0209 - Images in Black and Brown](#) Credits: 3
- [EGST 0235 - Queer Studies and Popular Cultures](#) Credits: 3
- [EGST 0237 - U.S. Latino/a Diasporic Communities](#) Credits:
- [GPS 0101 - World Regional Geography](#) Credits: 3
- [GPS 0105 - Introduction to Community Planning](#) Credits: 3
- [GPS 0203 - Geography of Hunger and Poverty in the United States](#) Credits: 3
- [GERO 0101 - Introduction to Gerontology](#) Credits: 3
- [HIST 0101 - Western Experience I](#) Credits: 3
- [HIST 0102 - Western Experience II](#) Credits: 3
- [HIST 0215 - Introduction to the Middle East, Africa and Asia](#) Credits: 3
- [HIST 0276 - Latin America to 1800](#) Credits: 3
- [HIST 0277 - Latin America Since 1800](#) Credits: 3
- [LANG 0210 - Language Culture and Society](#) Credits: 3
- [LCUL 0220 - Envisioning the Americas](#) Credits: 3
- [POLS 0105 - Law, Courts and Politics](#) Credits: 3
- [POLS 0209 - International Relations](#) Credits: 3
- [PSYC 0101 - Introduction to Psychology](#) Credits: 3
- [SOCI 0101 - Principles of Sociology](#) Credits: 3

Mathematics & Applied Analytical Reasoning - 6 credits

At least 3 credits must be from the Traditional Mathematics area.

Traditional Mathematics [TMTH]

- [MATH 0104 - Pre-Calculus](#) Credits: 4
- [MATH 0105 - Calculus I](#) Credits: 4
- [MATH 0106 - Calculus II](#) Credits: 4
- [MATH 0108 - Elementary Statistics](#) Credits: 3
- [MATH 0110 - Mathematical Explorations](#) Credits: 3
- [MATH 0111 - Mathematical Applications](#) Credits: 3
- [MATH 0115 - Mathematics for Business and Social Sciences](#) Credits: 3
- [MATH 0153 - Foundations: Number Systems](#) Credits: 3
- [MATH 0250 - Foundations: Patterns, Reasoning and Algebra](#) Credits: 3

Applied Analytical Reasoning [ARSN]

- [BIOL 0278 - Biostatistics](#) Credits: 3
- [CAIS 0117 - Introduction to Computer Programming](#) Credits: 3
- [CAIS 0120 - Computer Science/Program Design I](#) Credits: 4
- [CRJU 0313 - Statistics in Criminal Justice](#) Credits: 3
- [ECON 0310 - Introduction to Mathematical Economics](#) Credits: 3
- [ECON 0305 - Introduction to Econometric Methods](#) Credits: 3
- [GPS 0246 - Quantitative Methods for Social and Physical Science](#) Credits: 3
- [MATH 0123 - Mathematical Methods in the Natural Sciences](#) Credits: 3
- [PHIL 0103 - Symbolic Logic I](#) Credits: 3
- [PHIL 0206 - Symbolic Logic II](#) Credits: 3
- [SOCI 0251 - Research Methods II: Quantitative Methods](#) Credits: 3

Science - 7 credits

At least 4 credits must be from a Lab science course.

Laboratory Science [LSCI]

- [BIOL 0102 - Environmental Biology for a Changing World](#) Credits: 4
- [BIOL 0104 - Human Biology](#) Credits: 4
- [BIOL 0106 - Practical Biology for the World Today](#) Credits: 4
- [BIOL 0237 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I](#) Credits: 4
- [CHEM 0101 - Introduction to Chemistry](#) Credits: 4
- [CHEM 0103 - Chemistry of the Life Sciences](#) Credits: 4
- [CHEM 0109 - General Chemistry I](#) Credits: 4
- [CHEM 0111 - General Chemistry II](#) Credits: 4
- [GPS 0102 - Physical Geography & Lab](#) Credits: 4
- [GEOL 0101 - Physical Geology with Laboratory](#) Credits: 4
- [GEOL 0107 - Historical Geology with Lab](#) Credits: 4
- [GNSC 0101 - Physical Science](#) Credits: 4
- [PHSC 0101 - Everyday Physics: Understanding the Natural World](#) Credits: 4
- [PHSC 0115 - General Physics I](#) Credits: 4
- [PHSC 0117 - General Physics II](#) Credits: 4
- [PHSC 0125 - Physics I](#) Credits: 4
- [PHSC 0127 - Physics II](#) Credits: 4

Allied Science [ASCI]

- [ASTR 0101 - Astronomy](#) Credits: 3
- [ASTR 0105 - The Solar System](#) Credits: 3
- [ASTR 0121 - Life in The Universe](#) Credits: 3
- [ENVS 0101 - Exploring Environmental Issues](#) Credits: 3
- [GPS 0106 - Sustainable Planet](#) Credits: 4
- [GPS 0107 - Global Climate Change](#) Credits: 3
- [GPS 0110 - Science for Future Presidents](#) Credits: 3
- [GPS 0230 - Meteorology](#) Credits: 3
- [GEOL 0102 - Physical Geology](#) Credits: 3 (no laboratory)
- [GEOL 0106 - Historical Geology](#) Credits: 3
- [GEOL 0108 - General Oceanography](#) Credits: 3
- [GEOL 0109 - Oceanography in the Field](#) Credits: 3
- [GEOL 0124 - Geologic Hazards](#) Credits: 3
- [GEOL 0205 - Environmental Geology: Walking on Earth](#) Credits: 4
- [GEOL 0211 - Geology in the Field: Selected Locations](#) Credits: 3
- [MOVP 0100 - Concepts of Physical Activity and Health](#) Credits: 3
- [PHSC 0103 - Energy, Environment and Society](#) Credits: 3

Diversity - 6 credits

3 credits from Global Diversity.

3 credits from United States Diversity.

Global Diversity [GDIV]

- [ANTH 0101 - Introduction to Anthropology](#) Credits: 3
- [ANTH 0200 - Methods of Ethnography from 1900-Present](#) Credits: 3

- [ART 0333 - Early Twentieth Century Art](#) Credits: 3
- [ART 0357 - Islamic Art](#) Credits: 3
- [COMM 0213 - Global Film Studies](#) Credits: 4
- [COMM 0222 - Intercultural Communication](#) Credits: 3
- [EGST 0102 - Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies](#) Credits: 3
- [EGST 0206 - Introduction to Islamic Studies](#) Credits: 3
- [EGST 0211 - Indian Cinema: Gender and Identity](#) Credits: 3
- [EGST 0213 - Contemporary Issues in Islamic Studies](#) Credits: 3
- [EGST 0217 - Culture and Personality](#) Credits: 3
- [EGST 0260 - Medical Anthropology](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0316 - Postcolonial Literature and Theory](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0221 - Exploring Global Stories](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0287 - World Drama](#) Credits: 3
- [ENGL 0427 - Contemporary Cross-Cultural Literature](#) Credits: 3
- [GPS 0210 - Space, Place, and Culture](#) Credits: 3
- [HIST 0113 - Early World History](#) Credits: 3
- [HIST 0276 - Latin America to 1800](#) Credits: 3
- [HIST 0277 - Latin America Since 1800](#) Credits: 3
- [LACS 0101 - Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies](#) Credits: 3
- [LARA 0102 - Arabic II](#) Credits: 3
- [LARA 0103 - Arabic III](#) Credits: 3
- [LARA 0104 - Arabic IV](#) Credits: 3
- [LCHI 0102 - Chinese II](#) Credits: 3
- [LCHI 0103 - Chinese III](#) Credits: 3
- [LCHI 0104 - Chinese IV](#) Credits: 3
- [LCUL 0201 - Women in the Spanish-Speaking World](#) Credits: 3
- [LCUL 0220 - Envisioning the Americas](#) Credits: 3
- [LFRE 0102 - French II](#) Credits: 3
- [LFRE 0103 - French III](#) Credits: 3
- [LFRE 0104 - French IV](#) Credits: 3
- [LFRE 0201 - Reading French Texts](#) Credits: 3
- [LFRE 0205 - Speaking and Writing French: Intermediate Level](#) Credits: 3
- [LFRE 0305 - Speaking and Writing French: Advanced Level](#) Credits: 3
- [LLIT 0201 - Women Writers of the Americas: Global](#) Credits: 3
- [LLIT 0210 - Studies in the Literature of Africa and the African Diaspora](#) Credits: 3
- [LLIT 0220 - Studies in European Cultures](#) Credits: 3
- [LLIT 0310 - Seminar in Hispanic Studies](#) Credits: 3
- [LSPA 0102 - Spanish II](#) Credits: 3
- [LSPA 0103 - Spanish III](#) Credits: 3
- [LSPA 0104 - Spanish IV](#) Credits: 3
- [LSPA 0215 - Intermediate Spanish I](#) Credits: 3
- [LSPA 0217 - Reading Spanish Texts](#) Credits: 3
- [MGMT 0438 - International Business](#) Credits: 3
- [MUSC 0104 - Global Music](#) Credits: 3
- [PHIL 0217 - Philosophy and Film](#) Credits: 3
- [POLS 0110 - Introduction to Asian Studies](#) Credits: 3
- [POLS 0209 - International Relations](#) Credits: 3
- [SOCI 0326 - The Global Experience](#) Credits: 3

United States Diversity [UDIV]

- [ART 0358 - African American Art](#) Credits: 3
- [COMM 0212 - Film and Gender](#) Credits: 4

- [CRJU 0312 - Women in the Criminal Justice System](#) Credits: 3
 - [ECON 0304 - Urban Economics](#) Credits: 3
 - [EGST 0101 - Introduction to Comparative Ethnic Studies](#) Credits: 3
 - [EGST 0203 - Introduction to African American Studies](#) Credits: 3
 - [EGST 0204 - Introduction to Latino/a Studies](#) Credits: 3
 - [EGST 0205 - Introduction to Gay And Lesbian Studies](#) Credits: 3
 - [EGST 0208 - Hip Hop Cultures](#) Credits: 3
 - [EGST 0209 - Images in Black and Brown](#) Credits: 3
 - [EGST 0212 - Introduction to Asian American Studies](#) Credits: 3
 - [EGST 0216 - Deviance and Culture](#) Credits: 3
 - [EGST 0220 - Religion, Gender, and Society](#) Credits: 3
 - [EGST 0221 - Women in Modern Organizations](#) Credits: 3
 - [EGST 0232 - Puerto Rican Literatures](#) Credits: 3
 - [EGST 0237 - U.S. Latino/a Diasporic Communities](#) Credits:
 - [ENGL 0112 - Black American Stories](#) Credits: 3
 - [ENGL 0115 - Indigenous American Stories](#) Credits: 3
 - [ENGL 0117 - Asian American Literature and Culture](#) Credits: 3
 - [ENGL 0240 - Cultural Studies](#) Credits: 3
 - [GPS 0203 - Geography of Hunger and Poverty in the United States](#) Credits: 3
 - [GPS 0204 - Housing in America](#) Credits: 3
 - [HIST 0263 - U.S. Women's History](#) Credits: 3
 - [HIST 0264 - African American History](#) Credits: 3
 - [LANG 0210 - Language Culture and Society](#) Credits: 3
 - [LCUL 0210 - U.S. Latino/a Cultural Studies](#) Credits: 3
 - [LLIT 0202 - Women Writers of the Americas: US](#) Credits: 3
 - [LLIT 0232 - Puerto Rican Literatures](#) Credits: 3
 - [MOVP 0325 - Women and Sport](#) Credits: 3
 - [MUSC 0160 - Journey into Jazz](#) Credits: 3
 - [SOCI 0202 - Race and Ethnic Relations](#) Credits: 3
 - [SOCI 0319 - Sociology of Sexualities](#) Credits: 3
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