MSU Core General Curricular Requirements

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MSU Core Curriculum

Essential Elements of a Montana State University Education - The MSU Core

Students engage in developing the MSU Core Qualities through the MSU Core Curriculum and their major areas of study. The MSU Core Curriculum integrates education in communication, thinking and problem solving, and local and global citizenship with knowledge and experiences in the natural, social and mathematical sciences, the arts, and the humanities. Through the MSU Core students develop an enhanced understanding of themselves, their effectiveness as communicators and thinkers and problem solvers, and their responsibilities as members of larger local and global communities. These MSU Core Qualities deepen the experience of the MSU undergraduate education, enhance health and well-being, enrich disciplinary pursuits, and establish MSU's graduates as lifelong learners and engaged citizens.

*Students who have completed a Bachelor degree from another accredited institution or have received an Associate of Art or Science degree from a Montana University System school are assumed to have met general education (Core 2.0) requirements and will not be required to complete the MSU core curriculum

MSU Core Qualities & Outcomes

MSU Graduates are Effective Communicators who use written, spoken, and visual communication to create meaning, build relationships, foster understanding, and persuade. They express their ideas in manners appropriate for their intended audience and for their intended context. Graduates collaborate with others by openly and constructively giving and receiving feedback, and they use that feedback to revise and improve their own communication. They demonstrate facility in analyzing, interpreting, and understanding sources of information and in constructing persuasive arguments in ways that empower and challenge their own and other's thinking.

MSU Core Perspectives

University Seminar (US)

Rationale: University Seminar introduces and develops all three MSU Core Qualities through multidisciplinary readings and collegiate level discourse. The seminar is designed to engage students in meaningful and respectful knowledge exchange with others, help students develop a strong sense of self and self-awareness through an exploration of their own values and beliefs and the values and beliefs of their peers, and foster a commitment to learning and excellence.
University Seminar courses emphasize all three MSU Core Qualities of “Effective Communicator,” “Thinker and Problem Solver” and “Local and Global Citizen.”

**Written Communication (W)**
Rationale: The Written Communication course, WRIT101W, develops written and verbal communication skills in ways that will facilitate success at communicating knowledge, ideas and information clearly and effectively in academic, workplace and community settings.

The Written Communication course emphasizes the MSU Core Quality of “Effective Communicator.”

Students whose scores meet or exceed any one of the following are exempt from the College Writing requirement:

- ACT English score of 28
- SAT Critical Reading score of 750
- ACT/SAT essay/ writing sub-score of 11
- High School GPA of 3.9 or higher

*The credits will have to be made up in other coursework in order to meet the minimum graduation requirements.

**Quantitative Reasoning (Q)**
Rationale: Quantitative Reasoning courses develop computational and analytical skills, the ability to reason about and solve real-world problems, as well as create and critically evaluate arguments supported by quantitative evidence.

Quantitative Reasoning courses emphasize the MSU Core Quality of “Thinker and Problem Solver.”

**Diversity (D)**
Rationale: Diversity courses examine race, gender, sexuality, social class, ethnicity, nationality, indigeneity or other social differences and place them in their historical or contemporary contexts.

Diversity courses emphasize the MSU Core Qualities “Local and Global Citizen” and “Effective Communicator”.

**Contemporary Issues in Science (CS)**
Rationale: Contemporary Issues in Science courses develop familiarity with how scientists apply methods to explore questions and real-world problems, identify and reflect on ethical claims regarding scientific research and its applications to contemporary problems or challenges while acknowledging the conflicting values that underlie these claims, and engage constructively in open discussions about contemporary issues and ethical or moral dilemmas in science.

Contemporary Issues in Science courses emphasize the MSU Core Qualities “Thinker and Problem Solver” and “Local and Global Citizen.”

**Inquiry (IA, IH, IN, IS)**
Rationale: Every Inquiry course develops familiarity with the methods used to discover and create the factual and theoretical knowledge of various disciplines. Each course will examine particular issues in the discipline while exploring its methodological and theoretical foundations.

**Inquiry Arts**
Courses in the Arts will explore the production and consumption of meaning and value through forms of expression that communicate, in both logical and emotional terms, the arts.

**Inquiry Humanities**
Courses in the Humanities will explore ethical and moral, aesthetic and creative, historical and descriptive dimensions of human cultural traditions, emphasizing methods of reaching a conclusion, formulating an interpretation, or making a judgment in the discipline.

**Inquiry Natural Sciences**
Courses in Natural Sciences will emphasize a coherent body of scientific principles and the methods scientists use to create knowledge of the natural world.

**Inquiry Social Sciences**
Courses in the Social Sciences will emphasize methods and principles used by social scientists to systematically study human behavior.

Inquiry courses develop the MSU Core Qualities “Thinking and Problem Solver” and either “Effective Communicator” or “Local and Global Citizen.”

**Research & Creative Experience (R)**
Rationale: Research & Creative Experience courses are either 1) a lower-division research course that provides opportunities for learning research skills and developing the MSU Core Qualities or 2) a culminating experience where seniors complete a project in their major program of study that integrates and synthesizes what they have learned in their degree programs and in the MSU Core.

Research and Creative Experience courses develop and allow students to demonstrate at least two of the MSU Core Qualities “Effective Communicator,” “Thinker and Problem Solver” and/or “Local and Global Citizen.”

**Permitted Substitutions**
Completion of at least two of the following courses with a grade of C- or better satisfies the Contemporary Issues in Science (CS) and the Inquiry Natural Science (IN) requirements. Individual substitutions for one requirement or the other are not permissible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOB 105CS</td>
<td>Introduction to Biotechnology</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOB 110CS</td>
<td>Plant Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOB 160</td>
<td>Principles of Living Systems</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOB 170N</td>
<td>Principles of Biological Diversity</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOB 260</td>
<td>Cellular and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOH 201</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOH 211</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOM 210RN</td>
<td>Environmental Health Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOM 250</td>
<td>Microbiology for Health Sciences: Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 220</td>
<td>General Botany</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHMY 121IN</td>
<td>Introduction to General Chemistry</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHMY 122IN</td>
<td>Introduction to General Chemistry Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHMY 123</td>
<td>Introduction to Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHMY 124</td>
<td>Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHMY 141</td>
<td>College Chemistry I and Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHMY 142</td>
<td>College Chemistry I Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHMY 143</td>
<td>College Chemistry II Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHMY 144</td>
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<td>CHMY 151</td>
<td>Honors College Chemistry I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHMY 152</td>
<td>Honors College Chemistry I Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CHMY 153 & CHMY 154
Honors College Chemistry II and Honors College Chemistry II Lab

CHMY 211 & CHMY 212
Elements of Organic Chemistry and Elements of Organic Chemistry Lab

ENSC 245IN
Soils

ERTH 101IN
Earth System Sciences

ERTH 201IN
Honors Earth System Science

GEO 103CS
Intro to Environmt Geology

GEO 211
Earth History and Evolution

NRSM 240
Natural Resource Ecology

PHSX 205
College Physics I

PHSX 207
College Physics II

PHSX 220
Physics I with Calculus

PHSX 222
Physics II with Calculus

PHSX 224
Physics III

PHSX 240
Honors Gen & Mod Phys I

PHSX 242
Honors Gen & Mod Phys II

MSU Core Credit Policies
1. MSU Core requirements cannot be satisfied by the CLEP procedure.
2. Advanced Placement credits (AP), if equivalent to MSU Core courses, can be used to fulfill Core requirements.
3. Credit earned in repeatable Core courses may be applied only once to MSU Core requirements.
4. Students in good standing in the Honors College may fulfill part of their MSU Core curriculum requirements by taking honors courses that carry a Core designation.

MSU Core Grading Standards
1. College-level competence in all areas of the MSU Core is necessary to graduate and a grade of C- or better is required in all MSU Core courses.
2. No MSU Core course may be taken on a pass/fail basis.

Appeals
Unusual circumstances that warrant an appeal of the established policies and procedures must be initiated by the student, signed by his/her/their adviser and submitted to the Core Equivalency Review Committee (CERC) via the Registrar’s Office.

Accommodation for Students with Math Learning Disabilities
Accommodation to the Quantitative Reasoning (Q) MSU Core requirement may be made for students with Math learning problems caused by disabilities. Accommodations, when permitted, apply only to the MSU Core requirement; they do not change requirements in majors, minors, or certificates.

MSU recognizes that some students with specific learning disabilities may experience difficulty completing the Core Quantitative Reasoning requirement. Students with learning disabilities who believe that they need an accommodation to meet the Quantitative Reasoning requirement should contact the Office of Disability Services (https://www.montana.edu/disabilityservices/) to begin the process to certify the disability. Learning Disability documentation must meet established MSU requirements as developed by Office of Disability Services.