# **IU South Bend Campuswide General Education Requirements**

#### WHAT IS GENERAL EDUCATION?

A general education program is designed to address the following questions: What is an educated person? What should educated people know and be able to do when they graduate from college?

The general education program at IUSB establishes a learning environment that serves the academic, civic, cultural, and career needs of an educated citizen within the global community. The campuswide general education curriculum provides students with knowledge of the basic tenets of a variety of academic disciplines and the skills to function effectively in positions of responsibility and leadership. It instills in students an appreciation of the interconnectedness of disciplines, the diversity of human cultures and experiences, self-awareness conducive to personal growth, and a love of learning.

The general education curriculum complements the depth and focus of our major programs and ensures that graduates will have the breadth of experience that enables them to think critically, communicate clearly, act professionally and ethically, and appreciate wisdom and beauty. In this way, it prepares students to be successful in their chosen professions and become valued citizens and leaders within their communities, individually enriched by their studies and stimulated by the spirit of discovery.

The campus-wide general education curriculum is composed of three elements and requires a total of between 33 and 39 credit hours of course work.

- I. Fundamental Literacies Courses (13-19 cr.)
- II. Common Core Courses (12 cr.)
- III. Contemporary Social Values Courses (8 cr.)

## THE FUNDAMENTAL LITERACIES

**Writing** – The ability to write clearly and correctly is arguably the most important academic skill an individual can acquire.

**Critical Thinking** – The ability to analyze an argument and recognize its strengths and weaknesses is a hallmark of an educated person. This ability develops fully through repeated practice in a wide variety of courses throughout a student's academic career.

**Oral Communication** – It is important to develop skill both in formal oral presentations and the ways in which oral communication can be enhanced and expanded by non-verbal means.

**Quantitative Reasoning** – Mathematics has long been a standard component of the university curriculum. Aside from the obvious practical utility of some mathematical topics, the study of mathematics can develop skill in the application of logic and, in some cases, critical thinking skills.

when Complete	Campuswide General Education Requirements*	Course	Sem/Yı /Grade
UNDA	MENTAL LITERACIES: The development of certain fundamental a cademic pursuits and also for success and fulfillment in life beyond the		
	A. Writing (requires C or higher)	ENG-W 131	
	B. Critical Thinking		
	C. Oral Communication	SPCH-S 121	
	D. Visual Literacy		
	E. Quantitative Reasoning		
	F. Information Literacy (1 cr.)	COAS-Q 110	
	G. Computer Literacy		
	ON CORE COURSES**: One course in each of the following areas se must be at the 300-level. Prerequisites may be required for 300-level.		
	A. The Natural World AST, BIOL, CHEM, GEOL, PHYS, etc.		
	B. Human Behavior and Social Institutions ANTH, POLS, PSY, SOC, etc.		
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ind	vidual and institutional behavior.		allerns or
ind	vidual and institutional behavior.  C. Literary and Intellectual Traditions  CMLT, ENG, FINA, HIST, PHIL, etc.		atterns of
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# Campuswide General Education Con't.

Information Literacy – Thanks to the explosive growth of electronic means of communication and data storage, an individual's access to information is now practically unlimited. It is imperative that today's university graduate develop skills in finding and evaluating information, both in print and in electronic form.

Computer Literacy – In the 21st century preparation for life beyond the university surely includes learning how to use computers for a variety of tasks.

### **CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL VALUES**

**Diversity in U.S. Society** – The United States is a society of immigrants; and the diversity in ethnic, religious, and national influences that we enjoy as a result is one of our nation's greatest strengths and sources of pride. Nevertheless, it is surprisingly easy in the U.S. to live in virtual isolation from this rich diversity of cultures, and even to be ignorant of the ways in which race, class, gender, and sexual orientation shape an individual's view of American society. It is essential, at the beginning of the 21st century, that a university education address this most pressing of national issues.

Non-Western Cultures – In an international context, the 21st century can be expected to bring substantial changes in the global distribution of population, wealth, and political influence. The era of European dominance is past; and despite its current status as the world's sole superpower, the United States will see the influence of other countries and continents gain in the coming decades. In order to be prepared for this future, an educated American citizen should be familiar with the culture and politics of these emerging regions.

**Health and Wellness** – The goal of university education is to prepare students for life beyond the university. While this preparation rightly focuses primarily on students' intellectual growth and development, it must not neglect their physical and emotional well-being. The importance of physical and mental wellness to success in life, as well as instruction in activities that promote and maintain this wellness, are important components of general education.

# **CLAS General Education Requirements for B.A.**

Check when Complete	Additional CLAS BA Requirements	Course	Sem/Yr. Grade
	Second Level Writing** (after 56 cr. hr.; requires C or higher)		
	Language Study (Japanese, Chinese, French, German, Spanish) Completion of fourth semester language class, or one course at 300 or 400-level.		
	Natural Science (3 cr.) May include another N-190, N-390 or other natural science course (anatomy, astronomy, biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, geology, microbiology, physics, physiology, plant science).		
	Natural Science Lab (2 cr.) Lab course linked to a lecture course or integrated lecture/lab course.		
	Western Culture before 1800**		

CLAS Required Minor in:						
Academic Unit:						
Check when Complete	Course	Sem/Yr. Grade				

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<sup>\*</sup>See <a href="http://www.iusb.edu/~gened/approved%20courses.shtml">http://www.iusb.edu/~gened/approved%20courses.shtml</a> for current list of courses.

<sup>\*\*</sup>See CLAS Advising Center website: <a href="www.iusb.edu/~sbadvise/">www.iusb.edu/~sbadvise/</a> for descriptions of Common Core courses and CLAS general education course lists.