UNIVERSITY STUDIES PROGRAM

The University Studies Program of Winona State University provides a broad base of skills and knowledge to equip students for informed, responsible citizenship in a changing world. It thereby distinguishes a college degree from a technical or occupational training program certificate. The program provides opportunities for students to evaluate their cultural and social inheritance critically, to think scientifically in both the natural and social spheres, to think beyond the boundaries of their own culture and to understand the expressive arts. It also enhances reasoning, analytic, and communication skills that students will need to perform well in a wide range of occupations and postgraduate programs. Finally, the program provides the opportunity for students to explore how an understanding of these diverse bodies of skill and knowledge enhance their ability to live well and ethically in the contemporary world.

The following University Studies Requirements are applicable to all undergraduate students enrolled at Winona State University as of Fall 2001. Transfer students should check the latest transfer policy statement and regulations. See the associated listing for specific courses that meet these requirements.

I. Basic Skills [12 S.H.]

Note: Basic skills courses may be used to satisfy both University Studies and department major requirements.

A. College Reading and Writing [4 S.H.]

The purpose of the College Reading and Writing requirement is to help WSU students increase their critical reading, thinking, and writing skills. The course will help students develop a mature writing style and an ability to integrate material from multiple sources with their own writing. The course will further emphasize writing as essential to academic learning and intellectual development. The course is designed to establish a foundation for the reading and writing done in later college courses, supporting a larger writing-across-the-curriculum educational experience; therefore, students should take it as soon as possible, preferably in their first year and certainly no later than their third semester. (Search Code 10)

B. Communication Studies [3 S.H.]

The purpose of the basic Oral Communication requirement is to provide all students with the knowledge and experience required to enable them to become highly competent communicators by the time they graduate. A goal of the Oral Communication course in the University Studies Program is to produce students who are skilled at expressing their ideas effectively, and who are skilled at interacting with others in dyadic and group contexts. The basic Oral Communication course should be viewed as a starting point, supporting a larger communication-across-the-curriculum program educational
experience. Students should complete the class during their first two years. (Search Code 11)

C. Mathematics [3 S.H.]

The purpose of the Mathematics requirement in University Studies is to help students develop an appreciation of the uses and usefulness of mathematical models of our world, as applied in a variety of specific contexts. Students should complete the requirement as soon as possible, preferably in their first year and certainly no later than their third semester. (Search Code 12)

D. Physical Development and Wellness [2 S.H.]

The purpose of the Physical Development and Wellness requirement is to provide students with fundamental knowledge and practical skills in the areas of lifetime physical activity, health awareness and wellness. Such courses offer experiences designed to initiate quality lifetime health, nutrition, fitness, leisure and wellness habits in a challenging technologically focused and service oriented society. These courses will offer the student the opportunity to complement and enhance their educational foundation by learning how to live a healthy lifestyle. (Search Code 13)

II. Arts and Sciences Core [22 S.H.]

A. Humanities [6 S.H.]

The purpose of the Humanities requirement in the University Studies Program is to provide a framework for understanding the nature and scope of human experience. Humanities courses explore the search for meaning and value in human life by examining its expression in cultural forms and texts, literature and the arts. (Search Code 14)

B. Social Science (6 S.H.)

The purpose of the Social Science University Studies requirement is to assist students to understand and explain the economic, political, psychological, and sociological perspectives regarding human behavior. (Search Code 15)

C. Natural Science (with lab - 7 S.H.)

The purpose of the Natural Science requirement in the University Studies Program is to provide students with the tools to understand and be able to apply the methods by which scientific inquiry increases our understanding of the natural world. (Search Code 16)

D. Fine and Performing Arts (3 S.H.)

Courses in the Fine and Performing Arts area of the University Studies Program offer opportunities for creative expression. These courses, which have a significant
experiential/studio component, introduce the student to the creative process. They develop basic skills and aesthetic awareness in tandem with a fundamental understanding of artistic traditions and contemporary expressions. Courses must be selected from an approved list; departments normally included in the Fine and Performing Arts are Art, English, Music, and Theater and Dance. (Search Code 17)

III. Unity and Diversity (12 S.H.)

Note: Unity and Diversity courses may be used to satisfy both University Studies and department major requirements.

A. Critical Analysis (3 S.H.)

Critical Analysis courses in the University Studies Program are devoted to teaching critical thinking or analytic problem-solving skills. These skills include the ability to identify sound arguments and distinguish them from fallacious ones. The objective of these courses is to develop student's abilities to effectively use the process of critical analysis. Disciplinary examples should be selected to support the development of critical analysis skills. (Search Code 18)

B. Science and Social Policy (3 S.H.)

The purpose of the Science and Social Policy requirement in the University Studies Program is to promote students understanding of the interrelated concerns of society and the sciences. These courses should integrate issues related to one of the sciences with the social and government policy decisions that stem from these issues. Issues might include the environment, genetic testing and mapping, applications of technology, etc. They should be treated from the perspective of the scientific foundations of the problem and address ethical, social, historical, and/or political implications of the issue. (Search Code 19)

C. Global OR Multicultural Perspectives (3 S.H.)

Global Perspectives

The purpose of the Global Perspectives requirement in University Studies is to improve students understanding of the growing inter-relatedness of nations, people, and the environment, and to enhance students’ ability to apply a comparative perspective to cross-cultural social, economic, political, spiritual, and environmental experiences. (Search Code 20)

Multicultural Perspectives
The purpose of the Multicultural Perspectives requirement in University Studies is to develop students understanding of diversity (gender, ethnicity, race, etc.) within and between societies. Courses in this area will help students employ a multicultural perspective for examining historical events; contemporary social, economic, and political issues; and artistic, literary, and philosophical expressions. (Search Code 20)

D. Contemporary Citizenship OR Democratic Institutions (3 S.H.)

Contemporary Citizenship

The purpose of the Contemporary Citizenship requirement in University Studies is to provide students with the ability to participate as effective citizens in a democratic, multicultural, and global society. Courses in this area will focus on developing the skills and knowledge base to enhance student's ability to make effective decisions, pursue personal well being, work collaboratively with others, and/or participate effectively in professional or civic responsibilities. (Search Code 21)

Democratic Institutions

The purpose of the Democratic Institutions requirement in University Studies is to provide students with a basic understanding of concepts of social justice, the common good, and the legitimate scope of government in democratic and pluralistic society. The requirement should also enhance student's ability to participate in the free exchange of ideas and function as a public-minded citizen. (Search Code 21)

IV. Flag Requirements (12 S.H. of Flagged Coursework)

Flagged courses will normally be in the student's major or minor program. All flagged courses must require the relevant basic skills course(s) as prerequisites (e.g., the "College Reading and Writing" Basic Skill course is a prerequisite for Writing Flag courses), although departments and programs may require additional prerequisites for flagged courses.

A. Writing Flag (6 S.H.)

The purpose of the Writing Flag requirement is to reinforce the outcomes specified for the basic skills area of writing. These courses are intended to provide contexts, opportunities, and feedback for students writing with discipline-specific texts, tools, and strategies. These courses should emphasize writing as essential to academic learning and intellectual development. (Search Code 23)

B. Oral Communication Flag (3 S.H.)
The purpose of the Oral Communication Flag requirement is to complete the process of providing graduates of Winona State University with the knowledge and experience required to enable them to become highly competent communicators by the time they graduate. (Search Code 22)

C. Mathematics/Statistics or Critical Analysis Flag (3 S.H.)

Mathematics/Statistics

The purpose of the Mathematics/Statistics Flag course requirement is to reinforce the outcomes specified for the basic skill area of Mathematics/Statistics. These courses are intended to provide students with significant practice in applying prerequisite mathematical or statistical knowledge. (Search Code 24)

Critical Analysis Flag

The purpose of the Critical Analysis Flag course requirement is to provide an alternative to the Mathematics/Statistics Flag requirement for students majoring in fields that do not make significant use of mathematics or statistics. Critical Analysis flagged courses are intended to provide students with significant practice in rigorous argument comparable to what a student is expected to receive in a Mathematics/Statistics flagged course.