
General Education Curriculum

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The General Education Curriculum, also called Common Core Curriculum, is an educational experience shared by all CUNY SPS students. The CUNY SPS General Education Curriculum is part of CUNY's new [Pathways General Education Framework](#), requirements that undergraduate students across CUNY must satisfy. The three elements of this framework, the Required Common Core, the Flexible Common Core, and the CUNY SPS College Option Core, foster knowledge of human culture and the natural world (in science, social science, mathematics, humanities and the arts), intellectual and practical skills (in communication, quantitative reasoning, information literacy, critical thinking and inquiry), and individual and social responsibility (civic engagement, ethical reasoning, and intercultural awareness).

Undergraduate transcripts from other institutions are carefully evaluated to give applicants credit for courses taken elsewhere that fulfill Common Core requirements. If you have concerns about how courses completed at another institution have been evaluated for transfer credit, please contact your [advisor](#) to review your Transfer Evaluation Credit Report. For more information about student rights and responsibilities under the Pathways Common Core Curriculum, visit <http://www.cuny.edu/academics/initiatives/pathways/rightsandresponsibilities.html>.

Categories	Overview & Curriculum	Credits
Required Core	<p>The Required Core classes provide a foundation in vital critical thinking skills. They develop your ability to write clearly, problem-solve, analyze, interpret information, research, apply numerical data to a range of situations, and think creatively while using different methodologies. These courses prepare you for the challenges of higher level coursework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Composition (2 courses) • Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning (1 course) • Life and Physical Sciences (1 course) 	12
Flexible Core	<p>The Flexible Core classes continue to develop your critical thinking and communication abilities as you learn about not only the amazing diversity within our own country but also study the interactions between the U.S. and other nations and cultures around the world. You'll look at a range of issues while exploring the role of individuals in society, the significance of creativity to human life, and how scientific methods, discoveries, principles, and tools impact us on numerous levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Cultures and Global Issues (1 course) • U.S. Experience in Its Diversity (1 course) • Creative Expression (1 course) • Individual and Society (1 course) • Scientific World (1 course) • Students must also complete three credits in any of the above categories (1 course) 	18
SPS College Option Core	<p>As a central part of the new curriculum, each senior CUNY college offers special courses relevant to its particular mission. SPS's College Option Core is the heart of our General Education curriculum, with courses designed to focus on digital literacy, writing, critical thinking, and quantitative reasoning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPS College Option Core (1-4 Courses) 	3-12

Note: Students who entered CUNY SPS before fall 2013 will automatically be required to continue with the General Education requirements in place at the time of their matriculation into their current degree program. However, they will

have the option to follow the new Pathways General Education requirements as outlined below. To determine which path is right for you, contact your [advisor](#). To view the General Education requirements prior to Fall 2013 visit http://sps.cuny.edu/filestore/1/5/9/9_c906f2c514a6211/1599_124d18a760d0e7b.pdf.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English Composition

Students are required to complete two courses (six credits) in English Composition. These courses will enable students to:

- Read and listen critically and analytically, including identifying an argument's major assumptions and assertions and evaluating its supporting evidence.
- Write clearly and coherently in varied, academic formats (such as formal essays, research papers, and reports) using standard English and appropriate technology to critique and improve one's own and others' texts.
- Demonstrate research skills using appropriate technology, including gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing primary and secondary sources.
- Support a thesis with well-reasoned arguments, and communicate persuasively across a variety of contexts, purposes, audiences, and media.
- Formulate original ideas and relate them to the ideas of others by employing the conventions of ethical attribution and citation.

ENG 101

College Writing I

3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Practice in expository and analytical writing through reading and research-based assignments in varied academic formats such as reports, formal essays and research papers, making use of appropriate technology for composing, editing and sharing documents. Practice in conventions of academic reading and writing including clear and coherent use of standard English, use of digital libraries, and methods of ethical attribution and citation.

ENG 102

College Writing II

3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

A continuation of College Writing I with increased emphasis on expository and analytical writing through research-based assignments in varied academic formats such as reports, formal essays, and research papers across the disciplines, making use of appropriate technology for composing, editing and sharing documents. Research project requires students to use scholarly databases, provide proper attribution and documentation of primary and secondary sources, and argue an opinion based on well-chosen and compelling evidence.

Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning

Students are required to complete one course (three credits) in Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning. This course will require you to:

- Interpret quantitative representations (e.g. graphs, formulas)
- Use algebraic, numerical, graphical, or statistical methods
- Translate problems from language to math
- Effectively communicate answers to mathematical problems
- Evaluate solutions to mathematical problems
- Apply mathematical methods to problems in other fields of study

MATH 102

Mathematics in Contemporary Society

3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Designed to provide students with an understanding of the mathematical ideas and methods found in the social sciences, the arts, and business, this course covers the fundamentals of statistics, scatter plots, graphics in the media, problem-solving strategies, dimensional analysis, and mathematical modeling. Students can expect to explore real world applications.

MATH 215

Introduction to Statistics

3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course will introduce the basic principles of statistics and probability, with an emphasis on understanding the underlying concepts, real-world applications, and the underlying story that the numbers tell. Students will be expected to use Microsoft

Excel's statistical functions to implement analyze data. Broadly speaking, this course will provide an introduction to probability, descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing, and inferential statistics.

Life and Physical Sciences

Students are required to complete one course (three credits) in Life and Physical Sciences. This course will require you to:

- Identify and apply concepts and methods of science
- Apply the scientific method to explore natural phenomena
- Use scientific tools to carry out collaborative laboratory work
- Gather, analyze, and interpret data in reports
- Use research ethics and unbiased assessment

AST 101 Introductory Astronomy 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

An exploration of our solar system's creation and the planets in our solar system using the latest scientific information, recent probe data, and new discoveries in the science of extra-solar planetary astronomy.

This course is based in part upon materials developed by the American Museum of Natural History and is used with permission by the School of Professional Studies for this course.

BIO 200 Human Biology 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Introduces human anatomy and physiology. Describes the organization of the human body. Provides and defines the terminology used to describe the location and function of anatomical structures. Outlines the basic chemical concepts essential for understanding physiological processes. Topics include: homeostasis, cells, the skeletal system, the muscular system, the circulatory system, the respiratory system, the digestive system, the reproductive system and the endocrine system.

EAS 201 The Nature of New York 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Provides an introduction to ecological reasoning through study of New York City's geologic origins and transformations over time including natural and man-made environments, cultural history, biological diversity, habitats, and invasive species. Lectures, discussion, and field experiences show how various elements have formed the current urban metropolis.

EAS 250 Oceanography 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on the world ocean and its role in the Earth system. Study of the oceans' origins and transformation over time will provide students with an introduction to basic ecological reasoning. Students will develop an understanding of how the ocean affects their world and of challenges facing the ocean. Students will form groups to complete a field trip investigation and present their data.

World Culture and Global Issues

Students are required to complete one course (three credits) in World Culture and Global Issues. This course will require you to do at least three of the following:

- Apply concepts and methods of a discipline or field to world cultures or global issues
- Analyze and describe culture, globalization, or global diversity
- Analyze the history of a non-U.S. society
- Analyze a major movement that has shaped a non-U.S. society
- Analyze the role of identity categories in a non-U.S. society
- Speak, read, and write in a language other than English

AFRS 101 Ethnology of Africa 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Applies the fundamental methods and concepts of cultural anthropology to the study of sub-Saharan African societies and nations, with emphasis on the impact of slavery and colonialism, current problems of economic and political development, and Africa's emerging place in 21st-century global interactions. Exploration of histories, politics, economics, family structures, gender, power, and health in different African cultures through analysis of ethnographies, text chapters, generalist summaries, historical research, news accounts, specialist articles, and literature.

CHIN 101	Beginning Chinese I	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
An introduction to Mandarin Chinese designed for students who have no or little prior experience in the language. An integrated approach to basic language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, emphasizing pronunciation and tones, as well as the most basic structure and patterns of Chinese grammar.		
CHIN 102	Beginning Chinese II	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: CHIN 101</i>		
A continuation of elementary introduction to Mandarin Chinese aimed at developing the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis is on pronunciation, tones and the basic structure of Chinese grammar and increasing knowledge of Chinese cultures.		
ENG 211	World Literature	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
Explores a selection of global literary works from antiquity to the present. Analyzes complete texts and extracts or episodes from texts that reference or connect literary traditions across time and cultures.		
HIST 102	Origins of the Modern World, 1500 to the Present	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
Analyzes global relationships in the contemporary world stemming from interactions between civilizations that began half a millennium ago. Introduces students to selected topics which illuminate these patterns and allow us to perceive our own world more clearly.		
HIST 202	Twentieth Century World History	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
Examines social, cultural, political, and economic changes, events, and concepts that defined and shaped the 20th century. Particular emphasis includes height of European imperialism, First World War, rise of totalitarian regimes, Second World War, Cold War, decolonization and the rise of nation-states, genocides and civil wars, revolutions in Asia, Africa and Latin America, Middle East conflict, fall of the Soviet bloc, social and intellectual movements, scientific and technological breakthroughs, and economic globalization. Assesses the impact of these and other subjects upon today's world.		
LAS 101	Latin America and Caribbean Cultures	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
Introduces texts and media from Latin American and Caribbean cultures, including film, music, and performance. Analyzes the distinguishing features of Latin American and Caribbean Cultures through study of cultural artifacts and issues related to history, politics, customs, and art. Required research on selected topics.		
SPAN 101	Beginning Spanish I	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
This course in conjunction with SPAN 102 provides a thorough grounding in Spanish grammar and vocabulary, including intensive practice in speaking and listening through the use of audio-video resources. A microphone and speakers (or a headset) and a web camera to interact online with the instructor and to record individual, pair, and group work are required.		
SPAN 102	Beginning Spanish II	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: SPAN 101</i>		
Reviews and builds upon material learned in Spanish I through assignments and activities designed to increase mastery in listening, speaking, reading and writing. SPAN II presents more complex linguistic structures that build upon those learned in SPAN I and increase awareness of Spanish-American cultures. Individual and group reading, oral and written assignments increase exposure to and linguistic creation in the target language.		
SPAN 110	Spanish for Health Professions	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
Intended for students who have no background in the Spanish language, this course facilitates effective communication between patients and their healthcare providers (nurses, doctors, medical staff), through emphasis on basic, practical language needed to communicate with Spanish-speaking patients and their families in various settings. Building basic language fluency at the same time as medical terminology with cultural competency woven throughout, students will learn to gather and share basic information like greetings, goodbyes, patient intake, discussion of symptoms, location of pain and injuries, body parts, numbers, time, doses, and units of measure. Focus is on learning and becoming comfortable with basic medical Spanish phrases and medical Spanish vocabulary.		

U.S. Experience in its Diversity

Students are required to complete one course (three credits) in U.S. Experience in its Diversity. This course will require you to do at least three of the following:

- Apply concepts and methods of a discipline or field to U.S. experience in its diversity
- Analyze and explain a major theme in U.S. history from multiple perspectives
- Evaluate the impact of indigenous populations, slavery, or immigration on the U.S.
- Explain and evaluate the role of the U.S. in international relations
- Identify, differentiate between, and analyze the influence of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government
- Analyze and discuss U.S. society in terms of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, belief, etc.

AMER 200 American History and Culture 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Explores race, class, and gender in American history and culture. Secondary source material by scholars of American Studies and primary source materials in a variety of genres, including music, poetry, art, and material culture, convey the ways in which American culture has been shaped by and has helped to shape ideas of race, class, and gender.

GEOG 301 International Migration 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course is a quantitative and qualitative examination of historic and contemporary international migration patterns. Emphasis is on spatial demographic impacts of immigration policy in the United States with special attention to major urban centers. A comparative analysis of ethnic and racial minorities in the United States will also be offered.

LANG 101 Language in the Multicultural Setting 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Introduces the foundations of linguistics and language acquisition. Analyzes language in multicultural American urban settings. Critiques bilingual/bidialectal families and bilingual education; language and gender; literacy in a changing, technological society; and different dialects and registers of American English. Appraises recent and classic scholarship in linguistics, literature, and related fields. Requires reflection and analysis of personal linguistic experiences and backgrounds.

POL 201 Politics and Government of New York City 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course analyzes the politics and government of New York City, including City-State relations; and the role of the City in the region, the nation and the world. Special attention is given to the municipal government's institutions and procedures, and the city's evolving political culture.

Creative Expression

Students are required to complete one course (three credits) in Creative Expression. This course will require you to do at least three of the following:

- Apply concepts and methods of a discipline or field to creative expression
- Analyze and describe the significance of arts from diverse cultures of the past
- Articulate how the arts/communications interpret and convey meaning and experience
- Demonstrate knowledge of the skills involved in the creative process
- Conduct research and communicate using appropriate technologies

ART 201 Arts and Civilization: Pre-history through the Middle Ages 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Introduces art and the academic discipline of art history. Using the discipline's technical vocabulary, analyzes the standard visual, material and symbolic components of art. Addresses cultural products created from the Neolithic through to the end of the Western Middle Ages. Analyzes the purpose of art. Examines painting, drawing, sculpture and architecture in historical, political and cultural context. Analyzes art's function within society. Critiques how successive movements and styles are indebted to the past and to influences from other sources. Introduces key movements, important artworks and the biographies of individual artists.

ART 202 **Arts and Civilization: Renaissance through the 21st Century** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

Introduces art and the academic discipline of art history. Using the discipline's technical vocabulary, analyzes the standard visual, material and symbolic components of art. Addresses cultural products created from the Renaissance to the present. Examines Western painting, drawing, sculpture, architecture and photography in historical, political and cultural context. Analyzes art's function within society. Critiques how successive movements and styles are indebted to the past and to other sources. Introduces key movements, important artworks and the biographies of individual artists.

ART 210 **Modern Art in the City** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

Introduces students to 20th and early 21st century visual arts. Examines the biographies of artists and their cultural settings, and explores the products of creative expression as they have been realized through the eyes of painters, photographers, sculptors and architects.

ENG 301 **Science Fiction** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

Examines the history of science fiction literature and film, tracing the development of the "hard" and "soft" sub-genres. Identifies and explains some of the most common tropes, elements, concepts, and styles. Evaluates creative and societal responses to scientific fields such as space exploration, artificial intelligence, time travel, genetic engineering, and the development and future of cyberspace. Considers the impact that public fears of and fascination with science has on literature and film.

ENG 331 **Studies in the Folk Tale and the Classic Fairy Tale** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

Examines the development of folk tale from the oral form to what is known as the literary fairy tale (a tale never intended for children). Explores the global, historical and cultural origins of folk and fairy tales. Analyzes the universality of folk tales by examining the role that they play in the ethnography of diverse cultures. Traces the rise of the literary fairy tale from its origins in the oral folk tales to contemporary rewritings. Introduces diverse folk tales, literary fairy tales, critical essays, and films in order to come to a greater understanding of the complex cultural significance of folk and fairy tales.

FLM 307 **Film Literacies: Communicating Culture through Film** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

Introduces the discipline of film studies. Analyzes a nation's culture and social history through its film. Assesses the impact that historical events, and social, cultural and political movements had on a nation's cinematic expression. Evaluates the work of individual directors and explores the ways that they translated their perceptions and experiences into film.

Individual and Society

Students are required to complete one course (three credits) in U.S. Experience in its Diversity. This course will require you to do at least three of the following:

- Apply concepts and methods of a discipline or field to exploring the relationship between individual and society
- Examine how an individual's place in society affects their experiences, values, or choices
- Articulate and assess ethical views and their underlying premises
- Articulate ethical uses of data and other information to respond to problems and questions
- Identify and analyze local/national/global trends or ideologies and their impact on individual/collective decision-making

ANTH 110 **Urban Life and Culture** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

This course considers the means for investigating large heterogeneous populations from an anthropological perspective. The problems of urbanization in emerging nations, ethnic and cultural differences within the city, and poverty in the urban setting will receive particular attention.

ECO 201 **Microeconomics** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

An investigation of the microeconomy as seen through the eyes of the individual consumer and firm. Economic concepts, including profits, employment and resources via supply and demand, elasticity, utility, costs, and market structures are applied to specific issues including unions, rent control, job discrimination, minimum wage, and education.

PHIL 101 **Introduction to Philosophy** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: None
Studies the basic issues and traditions in philosophy. Thinkers include Socrates, Plato, Descartes, Kant, Rawls. Issues include the soul, truth, god, reality, knowledge, ethics, mind, freedom, religion, and social and political thought. Developing skills of critical analysis and dialectical thinking, students will be able to identify traditional and current issues in philosophy.

PHIL 110 **Critical Thinking** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: None
Focuses on the techniques of rational inference and analytical judgment. These include the study of informal logic (arguing cogently and recognizing common informal fallacies), formal patterns of reasoning (syllogistic and propositional logic), and some distinctive analytical methods used in scientific and professional disciplines. Provides students with the competencies that are requisite to successful career growth and life-long learning.

PHIL 201 **Bioethics** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: None
An exploration of complex contemporary ethical problems from healthcare, the environment, and bioethics. Issues include problems of human experimentation and informed consent, end of life issues, reproductive technology, genetic privacy, abortion, allocation of resources, and humans' relationship with their environment. Classical and contemporary ethical theories, moral theories, and the fundamentals of scientific integrity will be applied to make principled, defensible, moral judgments.

PHIL 301 **Computers, Ethics, Society and Human Values** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: None
Examines the impact of computers and information networks on society. Considers privacy and confidentiality, computer crime, harassment, identity, honesty, mechanization, secrecy, proprietary rights, and technological dependence. Evaluates issues related to information systems and communication networks.

SOC 101 **Introduction to Sociology** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: None
An introduction to the theoretical perspectives, concepts, methods, and core research areas in sociology. Active learning projects develop understanding of the discipline of sociology and demonstrate mastery of key concepts in the field.

Scientific World

Students are required to complete one course (three credits) in Scientific World. This course will require you to do at least three of the following:

- Apply concepts and methods of a field or discipline to exploring the scientific world
- Demonstrate how problems can be analyzed and solved using tools of science, math, technology, or formal analysis
- Articulate and evaluate the empirical evidence that supports a scientific or formal theory
- Articulate and evaluate the impact of technologies and scientific discoveries on today's world
- Understand the scientific principles that underline science-related matters of policy or public concern

BIO 310 **Pathophysiology and Pharmacology** **3 Credits**
Prerequisites: BIO 200
This course combines the study of human disease processes and treatments. The etiology and pathogenesis of diseases are discussed along with the application of diagnostic procedures and patient care. The pathology and underlying principles of the human systems are presented, along with characteristics of typical drugs, side effects, cautions, and interactions.

HIST 201 **The Ascent of Man: An Introduction to the History of Science** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: None
Based on the BBC television series by Jacob Bronowski, this course traces the development of civilization through advances in science and technology. Through weekly writing assignments and exploration of the rich internet resources on the history of science, students will deepen their knowledge of the history of science and its significance for world history.

PHE 200 **Introduction to Public Health** **3 Credits**
Prerequisites: None
This course introduces students to the basic tenets of public health. The course provides a history of public health, an introduction to the five core disciplines of public health (Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Social and

Behavioral Health, and Health Policy and Management), and an overview of the field's primary functions such as assessment, policy development, and assurance. Students are introduced to the impact of information technology on the field.

PHYS 301 **Space, Time and Motion-Physical Science** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

This course traces changing understandings of motion, time, space, matter, and energy through the ideas of the ancient Greek philosophers, Galileo Galilei, Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein. Topics studied include the concepts of motion, relativity and gravity; and the discoveries and ideas of Einstein and other major thinkers in the field of physical science.

This course is based in part upon materials developed by the American Museum of Natural History that are used with permission by the School of Professional Studies for this course.

PSY 101 **General Psychology** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

This course examines behavior and mental processes. Topics include research methods, biological bases of brain and mind, sensation-perception, sleep and states of consciousness, learning and memory, development, cognition-intelligence, motivation-emotion, personality, abnormal psychology, and social psychology. The focus is on findings and principles related to everyday life.

SPS College Option Core

As a central part of the new curriculum, each senior CUNY college offers special courses relevant to its particular mission. SPS's College Option Core is the heart of our General Education curriculum, with courses designed to focus on digital literacy, writing, critical thinking, and quantitative reasoning.

COM 110 **Digital Information in the Contemporary World** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

Exploring new communication technologies and their impact on contemporary understandings of identity and community to discover what it means to inquire, to communicate, to collaborate, and to research online.

COM 210 **Writing at Work** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: ENG 101 or equivalent

An overview of professional workplace writing, including audience assessment, preparation for writing and research, design, editing, and collaborative writing. Models of effective writing and practice in preparing business correspondence, reports, instructions, proposals, presentations, and web content develop competence in creating documents routinely required of professionals in organizations. Relevant for a wide variety of professions.

PHIL 110 **Critical Thinking** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

Focuses on the techniques of rational inference and analytical judgment. These include the study of informal logic (arguing cogently and recognizing common informal fallacies), formal patterns of reasoning (syllogistic and propositional logic), and some distinctive analytical methods used in scientific and professional disciplines. Provides students with the competencies that are requisite to successful career growth and life-long learning.

PLA 300 **Portfolio Development for Prior Learning Assessment** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: ENG 101 or equivalent and permission of the Registrar

Guides students in the process of identifying and documenting learning from experience in a prior learning assessment portfolio, with the aim of petitioning for college level credit. Examination of the literature of adult learning and its application to prior learning and future learning goals. This course is graded pass/fail and is open only to students enrolled in undergraduate degree programs at the CUNY School of Professional Studies.

QUAN 201 **Quantitative Reasoning and Society** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

An interdisciplinary introduction to the ways in which data can be used to enhance thinking and decision-making capacities, including using simple statistical techniques, creating visual representations of quantitative data, deriving accurate conclusions from quantitative data, and using data effectively in analyses and arguments. Assignments build capacity to evaluate and write clearly about quantitative evidence using methods for analyzing and communicating about data that do not require complex mathematics.