

# GENERAL EDUCATION

At the start of their Alverno education, a student can look ahead to two areas of learning:

- their general education, in which they acquire the basic knowledge and develops the abilities that all Alverno students must master
- their major and minor(s), in which they add the specialized knowledge and abilities related to their interest, civic responsibilities, and career plans.

A student explores each of these areas fully at Alverno, taking a wide range of required and elective courses. In their first few semesters, they begin building the foundation for their learning by concentrating primarily on the general education curriculum.

## The General Education Curriculum

In general education, a student acquires broad liberal arts learning and masters the eight abilities that form the core of Alverno's ability-based education. To accomplish this goal, a student needs a broad range of knowledge, ability to use technology, and systematic practice and critique. The courses that are part of Alverno's general education provide the means for all three.

Professions such as business, education, and health care, for example, count on basic insights about human motivation gained from a general knowledge of psychology, history, and philosophy. Decision makers in corporations or community groups rely on values formed in the study of the arts and humanities or analytic skills developed in mathematics and science. Such fields as biology and chemistry increasingly depend on other areas of knowledge to establish the context and significance of their discoveries.

Although all undergraduate students take these general education classes, the specific requirements are tied to the student's major and/or minor. These requirements are built into the program and are available on the student's academic evaluation. Please visit the specific major (<https://catalog.alverno.edu/weekday-college/majors/>) or minor (<https://catalog.alverno.edu/weekday-college/minors/>) page you have in mind to find which set of general education requirements is associated with that program. This broad base of general knowledge also becomes the foundation upon which a student adds the specialized knowledge associated with their major and support area.

The distinctive, ingenious aspect of Alverno's curriculum is that all courses have been structured so that as students acquire this essential general knowledge, they also practice and master the eight abilities. Knowledge and the abilities to apply it are learned simultaneously, one reinforcing the other.

While a student's general education continues throughout college, it is concentrated in their first few semesters. Since the general education program is the foundation for all the knowledge a student acquires and the specialized abilities they develop, it is a vitally important time in their education.

## General Education in the First Year

In their first year, a student becomes familiar with Alverno's approach to learning knowledge and developing abilities hand-in-hand through disciplinary first-year courses.

A student takes two introductory arts and humanities courses that explore the ideas and viewpoints that have shaped history, philosophy, English literature, religious studies, and the visual and performing arts or fine arts. In them, they also begin developing their communication, analytical, valuing, and aesthetic engagement abilities.

A student is also required to take 7 or 8 credits of mathematics and/or the natural sciences, including at least one laboratory science course. There are a variety of courses from which they may select. These courses advance a student's understanding of the natural sciences and help them develop their communication, analytical, and problem-solving abilities. Introductory courses in psychology, social work, politics, sociology, or global studies are often taken in the first year to promote advancement of these abilities as well.

Many first-year students also take a course in mathematics and courses that integrate writing, speaking, and other communication abilities. These courses are vital, since they help students develop the skills and abilities that are needed for coursework throughout college and later as a lifelong learner. Occasionally, students qualify to be placed out of the initial mathematics and communication courses. Your admissions counselor, the Registrar's Office, and your advisor work together to identify students who are eligible for this. Also, it is possible for some students to take a Credit for Prior Learning Assessment (<https://catalog.alverno.edu/college-information/services-resources/credit-prior-learning/>) to be placed out of the initial courses. Please contact your admissions counselor or advisor for more information on this process.

In all their courses, students takes assessments to help gauge their progress. Assessments enable a student and their professors to judge whether they meet the criteria established for each level of the eight abilities. But assessments are also an integral part of the learning process. They serve as checkpoints that help the student understand what they know and what they need to know.

## The Role of Advising in the First year

College is usually the first time that a student is responsible for choosing their own course of study. In choosing it, they also encounter more scheduling and course options than ever before.

Alverno's Advising Office introduces a student to the Alverno curriculum and assists them to make choices. A student meets with their advisor at the beginning of their first semester. At first, they rely heavily on their advisor. However, their confidence in making course selections and scheduling grows rapidly in the first year as they become familiar with the system and their own learning goals.

## General Education for STANDARD Majors

Code	Title	Credits
CM & QL REQUIREMENTS		
CM-120	Communication Seminar 1	4
CM-125	Communication Seminar 2	3
CM-225	Communication Seminar 3	3
QL-122	Quantitative Literacy in Modern World	4
QL-156	Mathematical Connections	3
FA & HUM REQUIREMENTS		
FA-110	Intro to the Arts	4
HUM-150	Express/Interpretn Human Experience	4

HFA-210	Humanities & Fine Arts Elective (Take two HFA-210 courses. HFA-250 counts as one HFA-210 and one HFA-310. Different areas of study required.)	4
HFA-310	Humanities & Fine Arts Elective (Take two HFA-310 courses. HFA-250 counts as one HFA-210 and one HFA-310. Different areas of study required.)	4
<b>BEH SCI REQUIREMENTS</b>		
BSC-215 or A-193C	Working in Diverse Groups Art in the Professions	2
Beh Sci	Take two Behavioral Science courses from GLS-200, POL-225, PSY-110, SOC-220, or SW-200	7-8
<b>ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS</b>		
AC-151	Initial Social Interaction Assessment	0
ADV-299	Intermediate Level Event	0
FSS-125	First Semester Seminar	2
GEC-300	The Globally Effective Citizen	3
PPS-229	Career & Internship Planning (Art Majors take A-193C.)	1
<b>MATH/SCI REQUIREMENT</b>		
	Take 8 credits of Math or Science with at least one laboratory science	8
<b>ADDITIONAL GEN ED CREDITS REQUIRED</b>		
	Take 6 elective credits outside of your major or minor	6
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>62-63</b>

## General Education-Mega Majors

Code	Title	Credits
<b>CM &amp; QL REQUIREMENTS</b>		
CM-120	Communication Seminar 1	4
CM-125	Communication Seminar 2	3
CM-225	Communication Seminar 3	3
QL-122	Quantitative Literacy in Modern World	4
QL-156	Mathematical Connections (STEM majors take MT-256, all other majors take QL-156)	3
or MT-256	Probability and Statistics	
<b>FA &amp; HUM REQUIREMENTS</b>		
FA-110	Intro to the Arts	4
GEC-300	The Globally Effective Citizen	3
HUM-150	Express/Interpretn Human Experience	4
HFA-210	Humanities & Fine Arts Elective (HFA-250 counts as one HFA-210 and one HFA-310)	2
HFA-310	Humanities & Fine Arts Elective (HFA-250 counts as one HFA-210 and one HFA-310)	2
FSS-125	First Semester Seminar	2
<b>BEH SCI REQUIREMENTS</b>		
BSC-215 or A-193C or AE-222 or AT-215 or MDIA-193C or MUY-160	Working in Diverse Groups Art in the Professions Principles of Art Education Art Therapy Field Experience 2 MDIA in the Professions Orientation in Music Therapy	2
Beh Sci	Take one Behavioral Science course from GLS-200, POL-225, PSY-110, or SW-200	3-4
<b>SC &amp; MT REQUIREMENTS</b>		

SC-119 & 119L	Foundations of Chemistry and Foundations of Chemistry Lab (plus 1 additional course from Science or Math Gen Ed options, including a lab course)	4
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### ASSESSMENTS

AC-151	Initial Social Interaction Assessment	0
ADV-299	Intermediate Level Event	0

**Total Credits** **43-44**

## General Education for NURSING Majors

Code	Title	Credits
<b>CM &amp; QL REQUIREMENTS</b>		
CM-120	Communication Seminar 1	4
CM-125	Communication Seminar 2	3
QL-122	Quantitative Literacy in Modern World	4
QL-156	Mathematical Connections	3
<b>FA &amp; HUM REQUIREMENTS</b>		
FA-110	Intro to the Arts	4
HUM-150	Express/Interpretn Human Experience	4
HFA-210	Humanities & Fine Arts Elective	2
HFA-310	Humanities & Fine Arts Elective	2
<b>BEH SCI REQUIREMENTS</b>		
GLS-200 or POL-225 or PSY-110 or SW-200	Introduction to Global Studies American Politics Life Span Development Intro to Social Work	3
BSC-215 or N-120	Working in Diverse Groups Introduction to Nursing Profession	2
<b>SCIENCE REQUIREMENT</b>		
SC-119 & 119L	Foundations of Chemistry and Foundations of Chemistry Lab	4
<b>ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS</b>		
FSS-125	First Semester Seminar	2
GEC-300	The Globally Effective Citizen	3
AC-151	Initial Social Interaction Assessment	0
ADV-299	Intermediate Level Event	0

## Declaring Major and Minor

### Declaring a Major and Support Area

Many students come to college knowing the area in which they intend to major. Others are less sure. In either case, a first-year course called Preprofessional Seminar (PPS-129 (<https://catalog.alverno.edu/courses/pps/>)) helps a student declare a major confidently.

For a student who is reasonably sure of their intended major, Preprofessional Seminar helps a student understand the course of study necessary for the major and the career options it creates. For a student who chooses not to declare a major in the first year, Preprofessional Seminar helps with investigating possibilities. Preprofessional Seminar also acquaints a student with Alverno's career development program, which will help sort out and prepare students for post-college plans.

Occasionally, a student may be in the position of needing or wanting to change their major well into the original major. Students may elect to

choose a different major, including the liberal studies major. This major allows students to integrate what they have learned in the original major and support area(s) through IST-475, Advanced Seminar: Integrated Foundations: Building a Future. Working closely with faculty and professionals from career development, students discover new ways of seeing themselves and their futures through the lens of having integrated their learning and gaining new perspectives on the role of both education and goals and abilities.

## The "Undecided" Major

### The "Undecided" Major

If a student is undecided about their major, it is better for the student to explore options fully before deciding. It generally does not slow progress if the student does not declare a major and support area in the first year. However, certain professional programs (e.g., nursing, education) can take longer due to the sequencing of courses. An "exploratory" student who is considering different majors can seek special assistance from the advising staff and Career Education Center to help with the decision-making process.

## Transfer Students

As a transfer student, we know your first question is probably this: "Will my credits transfer?" Alverno works with you to ensure you receive credit for as much of your prior coursework as possible.

We will review unofficial transcripts to get an idea of how the coursework you have already completed at other colleges or universities will transfer into our program. Transfer credit is evaluated using several considerations:

- The educational quality of the learning experiences
- The comparability of the nature, content and level of the learning experiences
- The appropriateness and applicability of the learning experiences to the programs offered at Alverno College

We accept transfer credit from institutions that are regionally accredited or accredited by a body recognized by the Department of Education.

If you have completed a two-year Associate degree, we have various agreements with two-year colleges and universities for students who wish to earn a baccalaureate degree.

Our transfer counselors will work with you to determine how your credits will transfer to Alverno.

**Contact us to be connected to a transfer admissions counselor:**

414-382-6100  
admissions@alverno.edu