

# General Education/Distribution Requirements: Class of 2021

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## Summary

- I. The Writing Program
  - II. One or Two Courses in a Foreign Language
  - III. Three Courses in Natural Sciences and Quantitative Skills
  - IV. Three Courses in the Humanities and Fine Arts
  - V. Three Courses in Social Sciences
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## I. The Writing Program

W1 Critical Inquiry - The First-Year Seminar (Students must complete this course in their first year.)

First-Year Seminars (FYS 101) introduce new college students to the excitement of critical inquiry and learning, and to the key academic skills required for sustained collegiate success. FYS courses cover a wide range of topics, but all share three essential elements: the passion of a dedicated instructor, a small-seminar format where students contribute and learn from each other, and a sustained focus on careful reading, sound research, thoughtful discussion, and clear writing—the ‘habits of critical inquiry’ at the heart of liberal education.

All FYS courses introduce students to library research and digital literacy; offer instruction on the writing process, critical knowledge, and academic conventions; and include significant research, writing, revision, and presentation work.

W2 Process of Writing— courses that fulfill this requirement are indicated on the course schedule. (Students must complete this course by the end of their fourth semester at Washington College, or by completion of 60 credits. Transfer students must complete this course by the end of their second semester at Washington College, or by completion of 30 credits.)

W2 courses continue the development of rhetorical knowledge and critical thinking introduced in W1, while providing additional time and attention to the practice of all aspects of writing processes.

W3 Writing in the Discipline – courses that fulfill this requirement are indicated on the course schedule

The W3 requirement advances the larger program goals of persuasive analysis, flexible thinking, responsible inquiry, and effective expression into each department and major, focusing attention on the methods and modes of writing and critical thinking specific

### III. Natural Science and Quantitative Skills Requirement

(Students must complete three courses, with at least one satisfying the Natural Science component [letter A] and another satisfying the Quantitative Skills component [letter B]. The third course is the student's option but must follow the pairing rules explained below.)

A. Natural Science Component: To fulfill the overall requirement with two Natural Science courses and one Quantitative Skills course, complete either option below.

Option 1: Complete a natural science general sequence. This option is strongly recommended for students who plan to major

Any one course from the list above will fulfill the Humanities component for students taking Fine Arts courses.

B. Fine Arts Component: To fulfill the overall requirement with two Fine Arts courses and one Humanities course, complete one of the following options listed below:

ART Any two Art or Art History courses

DAN Eight credits of Dance courses (except DAN 310)

THE Any two Theatre courses (except THE 181-185, 285, or 400)

MUS Eight credits of Music courses (except MUS 131, 132, 231 or 232), including applied music (private instruction) and musical ensembles

Any one course from the list above, or a combination of four credits from the same department, will fulfill the Fine Arts component for students taking