

General Education/Discovery Year/First-Year Seminars

First-Year Seminars (FYS 101) introduce new college students to the academic skills required for sustained collegiate success. FYS courses include the following elements: the passion of a dedicated instructor, a small-seminar format, sustained focus on careful reading, sound research, thoughtful discussion, and the heart of liberal education.

All FYS courses introduce students to library research and information knowledge, and academic conventions; and include significant research

W2 Process of Writing— courses that fulfill this requirement are in progress by the end of their fourth semester at Washington College or by the end of their second semester at Washington College.

W2 courses continue the development of rhetorical knowledge through time and attention to the practice of all aspects of writing process

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 to a discipline or major field of study.

W4 Senior Capstone Experience

W4 is the capstone of the writing experience at Washington College. All seniors complete discipline-specific writing as part of their Senior Capstone Experience, demonstrating at an advanced level the elements of critical thinking, writing processes, rhetorical knowledge, and knowledge of conventions that they have been developing in their previous writing experiences.

II. Foreign Language Requirement

(Students must complete one or two courses in a foreign language depending on their placement level.)

- A. For students starting a new language or students placed in the level of a previously studied language, complete two courses (eight credits) in that language.
- B. For students placed in the 200-level or above in French, German, Chinese, or Spanish, complete one course (four credits).
- C. Students who speak a native language other than English fluently are exempted from this requirement.
- D. Students with a language-based learning disability may apply for an accommodation through the College's Office of Academic Skills. Students granted an accommodation by OAS will fulfill the requirement by substituting two courses, taught in English, in foreign culture. To apply for this accommodation, complete the form on the OAS website: <http://www.washcoll.edu/offices/academic-skills/foreign-language-substitution.php>.

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 satisfy 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 in biology, chemistry, environmental studies, physics or psychology, or who intend to apply to medical or veterinary school. The sequences are also recommended for students seeking teacher certification or who otherwise have an interest in the sciences:

- BIO 111, 112 General Biology
- CHE 120, 140 Chemical Principles of Organic Molecules, Reactions of Organic Molecules
- PHY 101, 102 College Physics (algebra-based)
- PHY 111, 112 General Physics (calculus-based)

Option 2: Complete any two natural science courses. Any two of the non-major science courses on this list may be taken, or one may be paired with a course from the list under Option 1.

- BIO 100 Current Topics in Biology
- BIO 104 Ecology of the Chesapeake Bay
- CHE 110 Chemistry of the Environment
- CRS 240 Estuarine Science
- PHY 100 Concepts in Contemporary Physics
- PHY 105 Astronomy
- ENV 140 Exploring the Solid Earth
- ENV 141 Atmosphere, Ocean, and Environment

Any one

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 Humanities courses.

V. Social Science Requirement