

# Undergraduate Curriculum

## **UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM**

### **Grace Core**

The purpose of the Grace Core in the traditional undergraduate programs is to be a Christian liberal arts common experience driven by the mission of Grace College designed for the purpose of integrating faith and learning, demonstrating foundational knowledge and ways of knowing in multiple disciplines, cultivating characteristics of maturity in relationships with God, others, self, and the world, and developing intellectual and practical skills for life.

Every course in the Core seeks to help students become more whole persons as followers of Jesus called to learn and study by integrating faith and learning and making connections across disciplines. This relates to our mission in our declaration of being a Christ-centered community of higher education applying biblical values in everything we do.

As part of a Christian liberal arts experience, many courses will help students develop the foundational knowledge and ways of learning in multiple disciplines including theology, history, literature, and science. Examples include establishing a personal doctrinal statement, defending a historical thesis, and learning how to read and describe a scientific article. This relates how our mission involves sharpening the competence of our students.

Since Grace College descends from the three intertwined Christian historical streams of evangelicalism, pietism, and Anabaptism, we place special emphasis on students cultivating maturity in their relationships with God, others, themselves, and the world. Examples include describing how their life story relates to the overarching narrative of the Bible, reflecting on an artistic experience, relating their finances to their calling, and describing their Christian worldview. This relates to how our mission involves strengthening character.

The most practical aspect of the Grace Core can be seen in the applications and skills we challenge students to develop. Businesses and non-profits look for people with skills such as global learning, teamwork, and good communication, which students develop as they experience a new culture with the cross-cultural field experience, work on a poster presentation as a team in First-Year Foundations, and learn to speak and write well in Public Speaking and Effective Writing. This relates to how our mission involves preparing students for service.

### **General Education Components**

The general education curriculum for the traditional undergraduate programs consists of 45 hours of study. The curriculum is arranged around two major components: The Grace Core (39 hours) and the general education electives that distinguish the B.A. degree from the B.S. degree (6 hours).

### **First-Year Experience**

The purpose of the first-year experience is to welcome, transition, and connect first-year students to the Grace community as the foundation of a formative and transformative learning experience.

### **First-Year Experience Linked Courses**

Four linked courses in the traditional undergraduate programs are part of the first-year experience and foundational to the Grace Core, a highly relational Christian liberal arts common experience: FYE 1000 First-Year Foundations, BIB 1050 Exploring the Bible, PSY 1200 Essentials of Behavioral Science, and HIS 1050 Current Issues in Historical Context. Throughout orientation and the first-year experience linked

courses, first-year students meet collectively for plenaries, in class with their faculty, and with their student mentors in breakout groups of 15-20 students. These groups are designed to give first-year students the kind of support needed to adapt to college life.

## **Grace Core Courses**

The Grace Core is designed for students to integrate faith and learning across disciplines, demonstrate foundational knowledge and ways of knowing, cultivate characteristics of maturity in relationships with God, others, self, and the world, and apply knowledge to all aspects of life through intellectual and practical skills.

### **First-Year Learning Communities**

FYE 1000 First-Year Foundations  
BIB 1050 Exploring the Bible  
PSY 1200 Essentials of Behavioral Science  
HIS 1050 Current Issues in Historical Context

### **First-Year Learning Competencies**

ENG 1100 Effective Writing  
COM 1100 Public Speaking

### **2000-Level Courses**

HUM 2000 Global Perspectives  
HUM 2010-30 Cross Cultural Field Experience  
BIB 2010 Scripture and Interpretation  
SCI 2030 Faith, Science, & Reason  
HUM 2100 Creative Arts & Culture

### **3000-Level Courses**

ECN 3000 Consumer Economics  
PHI 3010 Christianity and Critical Thinking  
BIB 3300 Essential Doctrinal Themes

Every traditional undergraduate student takes these courses, as they comprise the common Grace experience the institution desires for undergraduate students. In some cases, transfer students may be granted exemptions depending on how transcripts are analyzed during the admissions process. Students in non-traditional or associate degree programs take some similar courses.

## **First-Year Learning Communities**

### **FYE 1010 First-Year Foundations**

The purpose of this course is to transition and integrate first-year students into the Grace community and provide a foundation for their Grace learning experience. Each course component is designed around a foundational concept including faculty and peer interaction, development of community mindset, self-awareness, preparation for life-long learning, and reflection on students' academic and vocational journey. Students will incorporate these components into written and verbal research projects. Three Hours.

### **BIB 1050 Exploring the Bible**

This course provides a survey of the biblical story in its progressive unfolding of the history of redemption within the framework of creation, fall, redemption, consummation. Attention is given to the literary, historical, cultural, and theological dimensions of Scripture as it offers a metanarrative or “worldview-story.” Emphasis is placed on the unity of Scripture as it reaches its fullness and fulfillment in Christ, while at the same time recognizing key developments and differences between the various chapters of the biblical storyline. Three Hours.

### **PSY 1200 Essentials of Behavioral Science**

This introductory course in Behavioral Sciences provides an opportunity to learn about the major behavioral science topics, concepts and real life applications. This course will survey multiple topics as they relate to relationships. Students will also be encouraged during this course to increase personal awareness of how cognitive and emotional factors influence behavior in a variety of social contexts. The focus of this course is on improving relationships in many different sectors of life. Three Hours.

### **HIS 1050 Current Issues in Historical Context**

This class examines the historical and political development of at least two broad topics that remain part of contemporary discussion and illustrates the way the past can help students understand current debates and conversations. The topics chosen are meant to represent areas of significant concern for understanding current issues and moral questions. The course asks the question, “How did we get here?” and provides a foundation for discussions of diversity, citizenship, Christian ethics, and cultural awareness. Topics will likely change over time. Three hours.

## **First-Year Learning Competencies**

### **ENG 1100 Effective Writing**

A course designed to help students develop and hone the skills necessary for clear and persuasive writing at the college level and beyond. The primary focus of the course is scholarly research and writing, with emphasis on finding and evaluating sources, integrating and documenting sources, improving writing structure and organization, implementing rhetorical strategies, practicing revision and peer workshop, and strengthening writing mechanics. Three Hours.

### **COM 1100 Public Speaking**

The objective of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the principles of public discourse and civic engagement. The focus will be on a practical background in recognizing, analyzing, and constructing arguments in the public sphere. Readings, class time, and assignments will focus on the skills and concepts necessary for successful application of the principles to a civic engagement project. Three Hours.

## **2000-Level Courses**

### **HUM 2000 Global Perspectives**

The purpose of Global Perspectives is to encounter world cultures through literature and dialogue. In this interdisciplinary course, students engage divergent outlooks from around the world, grappling with cultural differences and presuppositions. Defining literary works and guest speakers from different continents set the stage for literary and cultural discussions. This course cultivates cultural competency, provides a framework for understanding God’s heart for the nations, and prepares students for the Cross-Cultural Field Experience. Three Hours.

### **Cross-Cultural Field Experience**

The Applied Learning component of HUM 2000 Global Perspectives is a required cross-cultural field experience that all Grace College students must fulfill prior to graduation. Through this first-hand experience, students will have the opportunity to engage in a culture (i.e. ethnicities or nationalities) other than their own and articulate application of the learned concepts from HUM 2000 Global Perspectives to their experiences.

### **HUM 2010 Go Encounter Trips**

Students who select the Go Encounter Trip option to fulfill their Cross-Cultural Field Experience (CCFE) requirement register for a Go Encounter trip offered by the Grace College Global Initiatives Office. A Go Encounter trip is also worth 2 Applied Learning Credits, which emphasizes “analytic inquiry, active learning, real-world problem solving, and innovation,” (Applied Learning Syllabus). Zero Hours.

### **HUM 2030 Third Culture/International Student**

A course designed for third culture and international students for whom the United States is a cross-cultural experience. Students explore some of the assumptions, values and beliefs that characterize the United States and compare those with other cultures. They also discover the third culture, as defined by Dr. Useem, “created, shared, and learned” by those who are from one culture and are in the process of relating to another. Zero hours.

### **HUM 2040 CCFE Independent Trips**

Students who select the independent trip option to fulfill their Cross-Cultural Field Experience (CCFE) requirement create their own international or domestic field experience in consultation with the Office of Global Initiatives. These experiences must be pre-approved. Any experiences prior to taking HUM 2000 Global Perspectives will only be accepted if the student has transferred to Grace College. Students must complete all work, including a debriefing presentation in the semester immediately following their trip. Completion of this Global Debriefing course will grant the student the required CCFE credit and two Applied Learning credits. Zero Hours.

### **STA 0010-STA 0640 Study Abroad Programs**

Select majors require participation in the Study Abroad program to fulfill their program degree requirements. Consult the [Institute for Global Studies](#) website for current listings. Twelve to Thirty Hours.

### **BIB 2010 Scripture and Interpretation**

Foundational principles of effective Bible study will be applied for personal study and small group Bible study leadership. Observational skills of the English text will be developed through hands-on activities and assignments. Hermeneutical principles will be applied to various biblical genres with the goal of equipping the learner to interpret the text based on its historical/cultural and literary context. Application of the meaning of the text for spiritual formation will be emphasized as well. Three Hours.

### **SCI 2030 Faith, Science, and Reason**

This course is designed to assist the student in (1) demonstrating the scope and magnitude of science and mathematics from the 1600’s until today; (2) why we study these subjects; (3) knowing the limitations of these subjects; (4) where the Christian fits and operates within the scientific paradigm; and (5) how Christians can incorporate their faith and reason within the scientific enterprise and how to use it as a productive platform when communicating to those of different worldviews. Three Hours.

### **HUM 2100 Creative Arts and Culture**

Through the landscape of cultural history, this course explores the human phenomenon of creativity from prehistoric culture to our contemporary urban society. Posing the question “Why creative arts?” this course examines how creativity and culture define and reflect each other. Viewed through a global, chronological, or thematic approach and in context of time and place, interrelationships of various modes of expression are presented for works of art, music, and literature. During the course, students are required to select two experiential activities for engaging in creative arts and culture. Examples include, but are not limited to, art museums, gallery exhibits, visual and performing arts festivals, international/cultural festivals, symphony orchestras, music concerts, theatrical productions, and literary events. Grace Core requirement. Three Hours.

### **3000-Level Courses**

#### **ECN 3000 Consumer Economics**

Consumer Economics is a course designed to prepare students to understand the economic system from a Biblical perspective and how it affects individuals as consumers, producers, and citizens. The Greek word "Oikinomia" can be translated as economics or household management. This course will challenge students to take control of and properly manage the part of God's creation (household) that he has put in their charge. Students will integrate knowledge and practice the skills required to manage resources in a technologically expanding global economy. Real world topics covered will include economics, personal money management, as well as managing the precious commodities of time, relationships, and spiritual advancement. Three Hours.

#### **PHI 3010 Christianity and Critical Thinking**

This course will critically examine the beliefs and presuppositions of philosophers and philosophies over the centuries and their impact on modern Christianity and the Christian Worldview. A critical examination will begin by utilizing the lens of Scripture as the basis of truth in evaluating these beliefs. The application of that examination will be centered on the reasons for God as well as the nature of suffering and evil as learners are encouraged to formulate a biblically sound Christian Worldview. Three Hours.

#### **BIB 3300 Essential Doctrinal Themes**

This course is designed to engage the student in the essential doctrines of the Christian Faith and to help them begin to set a solid foundation for a well-rounded and well-informed theological position in their personal faith. The purpose of this class is to examine eight areas of theology in such a manner as to allow the learners to search the Scriptures and engage multiple theological authors so they can begin to articulate and defend what they believe about the Christian faith. Attention will be given to helping the student critically analyze the historical doctrinal commitments of Grace College and Seminary by engaging students in the evaluation of the presuppositions and conclusions of different doctrinal groups. Three Hours.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS COURSEWORK**

Some students benefit from additional assistance to maximize their success in college-level courses. Based on their individual circumstances and standardized test scores, students may be enrolled in preparatory or pre-requisite course work, such as *Academic Fundamentals for College* or *Principles of Writing*. These courses do not fulfill the requirements of the Core. Generally, these courses also do not fulfill degree program requirements in majors or minors; however, students may be able to apply these courses to their major or minor if approved by the department as an open elective.

### **GEN 1000 Academic Fundamentals for College**

Through discussion, lectures, outside assignments, and in-class learning experiences students are introduced to the course philosophy, taught the basic skill sets crucial to success in life and school, and assisted in making connection with peers and faculty. The foundation of the course is based on building effective self-management and self-responsibility. These important principles are emphasized in each skill set. One Hour.

### **ENG 1020 Principles of Writing**

A foundational college course in grammar and composition designed to help prepare those students who, on the basis of ACT and SAT verbal scores and high school English grades, are not prepared to succeed in ENG 1100 Effective Writing. Grammar review, paragraph writing, and essay writing are studied and practiced. Three Hours.

## **INTERNSHIP AND PRACTICUM**

To meet graduation requirements, students in traditional undergraduate programs must complete a minimum of 3 credits and maximum of 12 credits of Internship and Practicum. Schools or academic departments are responsible for determining how their students will meet Internship and Practicum credits.

## **UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS**

### **Associate of Arts and Science Degrees**

Grace College offers an associate degree in Liberal Arts that is delivered in different modalities. The Associate of Science degree in Liberal Arts is available online for high school graduates. The College Launch program offers this same degree in Liberal Arts for those in high school, this format is offered on main campus and online. The Associate of Science degree in Liberal Arts is comprised of general education courses, which then enables students to easily pursue a bachelor's degree.

### **Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science**

Grace College offers a variety of majors leading to the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees. In cooperation with Bethel University, students may also receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree.

Most majors require a minor. Specific program requirements are available in the respective catalog section of each department and at the Registrar's Office.

In addition to the 39 credit hours of the Grace Core, students enroll in 6 additional credit hours specific to the B.A. or the B.S. degree. Students who select a B.A. degree take 6 credits of a modern or ancient language. Students who select a B.S. degree take 6 credits of science, math, or social science outside their chosen discipline.

The institutional requirement of at least 120 semester hours of coursework leading to a B.A. or B.S. degree includes the successful completion of one major, one minor (if required), the Grace Core (39 credits), 6 credits specific to the B.A. or the B.S., and 12 credits of applied learning.

### **Blended Degrees**

Students electing to graduate in three years might consider choosing the blended degree option whereby they complete both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in four years by pursuing one of the institution's several online master's programs (see associated program catalogs). A student can complete both a bachelor's degree and the Master of Divinity degree through the Seminary in five years. Degrees are

conferred simultaneously and students are able to retain their financial aid for four years by completing both degrees concurrently. More information about degrees that are available as part of the blended degree option can be found on the [Accelerated Master's Program page](#) of the institution's website, by contacting the School of Professional and Online Education, or from the student's academic advisor. More information about financial aid can be obtained from the Financial Aid Office.

## **STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS**

Grace College students have the opportunity to study at international institutions with which Grace College has developed exchange agreements. Currently, an exchange program has been established with Handong Global University in Pohang, South Korea, and Karoli Gaspar University of the Reformed Church in Budapest, Hungary.

To be eligible to participate in an exchange program, students must be at least a sophomore, in good academic standing, meet all the general Study Abroad requirements, and meet any requirements set forth by the host institution.

Costs for the various programs may vary depending on the details of each agreement, but generally students pay regular tuition to Grace College, and room and board to the host institution. In most cases, students may use their institutional aid irrespective of their major. All travel fees (passport, visas, airfare, etc.) are the student's responsibility.

Classes taken at host institutions are posted to the transcript as Grace College credits and applied toward the student's major requirements if he or she completes a course, and given that the student has filled out the proper petitions, in consultation with his/her advisor, prior to participating in the exchange program.

For more information about exchange programs contact the [Institute for Global Studies](#).

### **Study Abroad Programs**

Grace College is vitally interested in encouraging students to expand their global awareness. To enrich their cross-cultural experience, numerous opportunities are available for study abroad. These experiences are available through the Institute for Global Studies for language and non-language majors and some minors and for students planning cross-cultural experiences to meet their general education requirements for the Global Perspectives course. In addition to these programs, other cross-cultural opportunities are available through summer cross-cultural opportunities. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these experiences to broaden their global awareness.

The [Institute for Global Studies](#) at Grace College coordinates cross-cultural experiences for both language and non-language majors.

### **The Study Abroad for Languages**

For language majors and some minors, Grace's Study Abroad Program requires qualified students to study abroad. Through this cross-cultural, immersive language experience, students become more proficient speakers while learning to appreciate other cultures. They are placed with a host family, participate in the life of a local church, and are enrolled in some of the world's best-known universities with whom Grace has transfer and credit agreements. By signing a language pledge, students commit to speak the target language throughout their experience and therefore attain near-native fluency by the end of the program.

For their overseas experience, Spanish students have the choice of studying in the capital of Argentina, Buenos Aires; San José, Costa Rica; or in Madrid, Spain. French students study in the beautiful city of Dijon, France, capital of Burgundy or in Quebec, Canada.

### **Study Abroad for Non-Language Majors**

Students who desire to study abroad where the instruction is in English may select from pre-approved study abroad programs such as [CCCU GlobalEd](#) through the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) or through Grace's exchange program at Handong Global University.

For further information regarding academic requirements, financial arrangements, and schedule planning, visit the [Study Abroad page](#) of the campus Web site or contact the Institute for Global Studies.

### **PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS**

Some disciplines offer pre-professional programs including the disciplines of political science (pre-law), and health science (e.g., pre-med, pre-veterinary, etc.). Details about these programs are available in the respective academic sections of this catalog and from the department.

#### **Pre-Law Program**

Students preparing for law school are encouraged to consider the pre-law program. Students may choose from a broad range of majors, will be assigned a pre-law advisor, may declare a pre-law minor, will have internship possibilities, and may compete in our award-winning mediation team. Further details are included under the Department of Humanities, which administers this rigorous program.

#### **Pre-Professional Health Science Programs**

The Department of Science and Mathematics manages pre-professional programs in dentistry, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, and veterinary medicine along with a number of other less common professional programs. Students preparing for graduate study in an area of healthcare can usually meet the specific requirements for admission to their respective professional programs by pursuing a department major in biology or health science (both with B.A. or B.S. options). Students may major in any other discipline as long as they include in their course selection those courses required for admission by the professional programs for which they are seeking admission. The admission requirements for any professional program may be obtained online directly from the professional schools or from the Grace College Health Professions Advisor.

Students preparing for health science graduate study should identify the admission requirements of one or more specific graduate programs in their field of interest early in the advising process. This is important to plan the most effective pre-professional program at Grace since some schools may have requirements outside the standard courses required by most schools in that area.

More information on the correlation between the Health Science concentrations and the specific requirements for graduate health science program are available from a Health Professions advisor. A meeting with an advisor will assist the student to plan an effective, broad course of study emphasizing required science classes within the context of a liberal arts education (valued by health science graduate programs).

#### **Pre-Seminary Program Advanced Standing**

Grace College students can gain advanced standing toward several master's programs at Grace Theological Seminary in the following ways:

1. Greek and Hebrew language courses taken while a Grace College student are accepted by the seminary with all fees waived. However, the student must have earned a minimum grade of "B-" in each class.

2. A student may gain additional hours of credit by testing. To qualify to take a test there must have been a similar course taken in the college and the minimum grade earned must be no less than "B-." A list of courses available for testing can be obtained from the seminary office.
3. Some courses are accepted without testing provided the student has earned the minimum grade of "B-."

Maximum limits have been established for the various master's programs in accordance with the seminary accreditation standards. More information about advanced standing may be obtained from the School of Ministry Studies or the student's faculty advisor.