

Undergraduate Curriculum



GRACE COLLEGE & GRACE THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY CATALOG 2024-2025

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 nonprofits 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 classes of 25-30 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
- BIB 2010 Scripture and Interpretation
- SCI 2030 Faith, Science, & Reason
- HUM 2100 Creative Arts & Culture
- Cross Cultural Field Experience (HUM 2010-2030, STA 0010-0640, or STX 3000-4000)

3000-Level Courses

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

The Grace Core is intended to be a common experience for all Grace College students enrolled in traditional, undergraduate programs. See [Core Courses Policy](#) for exceptions and/or substitutions.

First-Year Learning Communities

FYE 1010 First-Year Foundations

The purpose of this course is to welcome, transition, and connect first-year students to the Grace community as the foundation of a formative and transformative learning experience. FYE1000 provides first-year students a space to transition into college with an emphasis on meaningful relationships, intentional reflection, and collaborative learning. Each course component is designed around the themes of community, curiosity, and calling. Learning tasks are intended to develop a growth mindset, motivate life-long learning, and apply critical thinking to complex problems. 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

Global Perspectives equips students to read and understand contemporary literature from around the world. In this interdisciplinary course, students engage with varied cultural perspectives through novels, short stories, poems, graphic novels, films, and/or essays. The course situates these works with respect to complex contemporary issues such as post-colonialism, cultural hybridity, immigration, and cultural hegemony. Students will enhance their oral and written communication skills as they learn to analyze authors' and filmmakers' creative choices, and to discuss portrayals of culture through a redemptive theological framework. Three hours.

Cross-Cultural Field Experience

Grace College undergraduates must fulfill their Cross-Cultural Field Experience requirement through an approved cultural immersion experience 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 to meet six interrelated learning outcomes focused on developing cultural humility and the skills to engage with diverse Image-bearers.

HUM 2010 Go Encounter Trips

Students who select the Go Encounter Trip option to fulfill their Cross-Cultural Field Experience (CCFE) requirement register for an international or domestic Go Encounter trip offered by the Institute for Global Studies. Students must attend pre-departure meetings, actively participate in on-site activities and debriefings, and complete a post-trip assignment to receive credit. 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. Students must complete the requisite assignments, including event participation, reflections, and presentations, to receive credit. 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 according to the guidelines provided by the Institute for Global Studies. These experiences must be pre-approved by the Institute for Global Studies. Students must complete all pre-departure assignments, on-site assignments, and post-trip assignments, including a debriefing presentation. Completion of the HUM 2040 course will grant the student the required CCFE credit. 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. 6-18 Hours.

STX 3000-STX 4000 Exchange Programs

All majors are welcome to participate in an Exchange semester at one of our exchange partner institutions to fulfill their Cross-Cultural Field Experience Requirement and/or other degree requirements as needed. Consult the Institute for Global Studies website for current listings. 12-18 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 connections 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

Internship and Practicum emphasizes commitment to analytic inquiry, active learning, real-world problem solving, and innovation. 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 determine how their students will meet Internship and Practicum credits, which may be demonstrated through traditional and non-traditional assignments and link knowledge and/or skills acquired in work, community, and/or research activities with knowledge acquired in one or more disciplines through a project, paper, or performance. Internship and Practicum is a core element of an undergraduate's experience at Grace College.

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 consists 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. For degrees outside the mathematical sciences, this consists of 3 credits of science or social science and 3 credits of mathematics. Academic programs may further limit the choices of courses that meet this requirement.

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 at least 3 credits of internship.

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 Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary 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 and first-year housing costs to Grace College, and are responsible for their own meals and transportation abroad. 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. If the student has filled out the proper petitions in consultation with his/her advisor prior to participating in the exchange program, courses can be applied toward the student's major requirements once the student completes the course abroad.

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 to study abroad to meet their cross-cultural field experience requirement. 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.

Study Abroad for Language Majors

For language majors, 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. In most cases, 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 Buenos Aires, Argentina or in Madrid, Spain. French students study in the beautiful city of Dijon, France, capital of Burgundy.

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 programs at either Handong Global University in Pohang, South Korea or Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Budapest, Hungary.

International Business majors and minors may also select from English business programs in Dijon, France; Buenos Aires, Argentina; or Madrid, Spain.

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 at global@grace.edu.

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.