Curriculum

Students transferring courses to Mount Mercy from other institutions will have their coursework evaluated by the Registrar's Office to determine whether a transfer course will satisfy a specific core requirement. Applicable transfer policies based on degree status will also be considered.

Reflection and Action: The Core Curriculum

The Core Curriculum is the foundational piece of a Mount Mercy education. Regardless of one's major, every student at Mount Mercy can be assured of a broad course of study in the traditional liberal arts. The courses in the Core are designed to foster inquiry, critical thinking, personal reflection, and a spirit of service and citizenship. The Core emphasizes freedom of choice as each student creates an individualized plan to complete the core requirements according to his or her needs and interests. The Core Curriculum has four components:

- An introductory Portal Course
- A comprehensive survey of the seven Domains of Liberal Study
- A culminating Capstone experience
- Multiple ways to achieve Competency in writing, math, and oral communication

The Mount Mercy Portal

The portal course has two main objectives: to introduce students to the fields of liberal studies, priming them to make informed choices about their future core courses, and to foster a sense of community and service in the class, at Mount Mercy, and in the greater Cedar Rapids area. Students will examine questions from the Mercy Critical Concerns: earth, immigration, non-violence, poverty, racism, and women.

Through an interdisciplinary approach, students will gain experience examining problems from multiple perspectives. The interdisciplinary nature of the course fosters teamwork and leadership in the students. As they encounter questions from various liberal disciplines, students will be asked to reflect, then take action, as they articulate for themselves what it means to be a citizen in their various communities. During the portal course, students will outline an integrated plan for completing their course of liberal studies, as chosen from the Domains.

Transfer students who have an AA degree from an Iowa Community College are considered to have met the hours listed. Students transferring to Mount Mercy with an AA degree below is therefore waived, that does not grant the student the credit hours listed. Students transferring to Mount Mercy with an AA degree from an Iowa Community College are considered to have met the competency requirements in writing, math and oral communication. Students who think that they may be able to demonstrate core competencies. These may be demonstrated by previous experience and coursework. Students who think that they may be able to demonstrate a competency need to arrange assessment well in advance of beginning their Mount Mercy coursework. The competencies should be completed within a student's first two years of college. If a student demonstrates competency and one of the course requirements listed below is therefore waived, that does not grant the student the credit hours listed. Students transferring to Mount Mercy with an AA degree from an Iowa Community College are considered to have met the competency requirements in writing, math and oral communication. The competencies are:

1. Writing Competency: Met by successful completion of four hours of college-level English Composition:
   - EN 101 Writing And History
   - EN 106 Writing And The Environment
   - EN 107 Writing And Popular Culture
   - EN 108 Writing and Issues of Health & Mortality
   - EN 111 Writing And Film
   - EN 112 Writing And Gender Studies
   - EN 114 Writing And Social Issues
   - EN 115 Writing And Other Cultures
   - EN 116 Writing And Life Stories
   - EN 117 Writing And Sports
   - EN 118 Writing And Place

   Note: The writing course is a prerequisite to the literature domain courses.


3. Mathematics competency: Met by successful completion of the three-hour college-level math course including:
   - MA 120 Mathematics In Arts And Humanities
   - MA 125 Fundamentals Of Arithmetic & Logic
   - MA 130 Finite Mathematics
   - MA 132 Basic Mathematical Modeling
   - MA 135 Basic Statistics

Note: Portal course waived for RN-BSN students.

Competencies

In addition to completing a Portal Course, a Capstone course and all of the Domains of Liberal Studies, students are required to demonstrate core competencies. These may be demonstrated by taking and earning at least a C- in particular courses, or a student may demonstrate competencies through previous experience and coursework. Students who think that they may be able to demonstrate a competency need to arrange assessment well in advance of beginning their Mount Mercy coursework. The competencies should be completed within a student's first two years of college. If a student demonstrates competency and one of the course requirements listed below is therefore waived, that does not grant the student the credit hours listed. Students transferring to Mount Mercy with an AA degree from an Iowa Community College are considered to have met the competency requirements in writing, math and oral communication. The competencies are:

- ME 100 Mercy Concerns Through Film
- ME 105 Rogues, Rebels, And Accidental Discoveries: The Crooked Path to Creativity
- ME 110 Ethnic Iowans: Diversity Issues in the New Millennium
- ME 115 Cities, Sewers And Shots: Health Protection
- ME 120 Immigrants and Literacy: In Pursuit of the American Dream
- ME 122 Crises and Disasters: Business, Ethics, and the Environment
- ME 125 Avatars Of Good and Evil: Media Stereotypes vs. Reality
- ME 130 Why A Mercy Education?
- ME 135 Poor Women, Poor Family, Poor Work
- ME 140 Screen Icons: A Cultural & Aesthetic Study
- ME 145 The Religious Roots of Political Involvement
- ME 150 Talking in "She" and "He": Gender Communication in College and Beyond
- ME 155 Water - A Shared Responsibility
- ME 165 Terrorism, Violence and Conflict Resolution
- ME 170 Perspectives on Recent Immigration to the United States
- ME 175 Selfie Living in a Digital Age
- ME 180 Environmental Responsibility
- ME 185 Disability Awareness
- ME 195 Information Literacy in the Information Age
The Mount Mercy Domains of Liberal Studies

The Mount Mercy Domains of Liberal Studies give all students in all majors a sense of breadth and connection among traditional liberal arts disciplines. These courses are grouped according to the overall concepts covered by courses in that domain: Expressive Arts, Global Awareness, Historical Roots, Holistic Health, The Natural World, Self and Society, and Ultimate Questions.

Students who transfer to Mount Mercy with an AA degree from an Iowa community college will have all Domain requirements waived except one course in the Ultimate Questions domain.

Domain Requirements

Domain I: Expressive Arts – Great works of art, music, drama, and literature engage us emotionally and cognitively as they interrogate the ways we perceive and understand ourselves and the world around us. Studying literature and the fine arts strengthens habits of mind – observation, the ability to entertain multiple perspectives and discern significant patterns; envisioning, the ability to imagine and think innovatively; reflection, the ability to evaluate one’s own perceptions; expression, the ability to communicate what is meaningful in the pursuit of purposeful living; and aesthetic judgment, the ability to appreciate the context in which fine art is created – that find application in every discipline of study.

Two courses, one from literature, one from fine arts. The courses included in this domain:

**Literature courses:**
- EN 133 Introduction to American Multicultural Literature
- EN 134 Introduction to U.S. Latino Literature
- EN 135 Introduction to African American Literature
- EN 154 Introduction to World Literature
- EN 170 Introduction To Literature
- EN 175 American Drama
- EN 176 American Literature Survey: Colonial to 1914
- EN 178 Major American Writers
- EN 180 Introduction to Literature and Gender
- EN 181 Introduction to LGBTQ Literature
- EN 190 British Literature and Culture
- EN 192 The Lost Generation: Expatriates in Paris
- EN 195 Irish Literature & Culture
- EN 150 Introduction to Film Adaptation

**Fine arts courses:**
- AR 101 Introduction To Art
- EN 234 Shakespeare
- GS 101 Introduction To Film Studies
- GS 151 Introduction to Dramatic Art
- MU 189 Introduction To Music

Domain II: Historical Roots – The courses in this domain will enable students to gain a deeper understanding of the human condition and the relationship between historical developments and contemporary social and political trends. The curriculum provides opportunities for students to investigate the social, economic, political, and cultural development of diverse peoples from the beginnings of civilization to the present. Emphasis is placed on reading, writing, researching, speaking, and on critical and analytical thinking. The courses included in this domain include:

- HI 114 History of Early America
- HI 115 History Of Modern America
- HI 120 Origins Of The Western Tradition
- HI 130 Emergence Of The West, 800-1648
- HI 140 History Of Western World Since 1648

Domain III: The Natural World – Courses in this domain will give students a basic understanding of the natural world and how it functions. Students will learn to employ the scientific method as they engage with specific fields of inquiry, such as the central processes of biological systems, the energetics and chemical reactions underlying all processes in living and non-living systems, the global role of geologic, hydrologic and atmospheric systems in supporting life on earth, and the impact of human activity on the environment. Students are required to take a course and an accompanying lab, but transfer students who have earned at least six hours of approved science credits do not have to meet the lab requirement. The courses included in this domain:

- BI 110 Natural World Domain Laboratory
- BI 123 Biology Of Human Concern
- BI 125 Foundations of Biology & Scientific Inquiry I
- BI 125L Biostatistics and Scientific Investigation I (Must be taken with BI 125 to count towards Domain)
- BI 150 Basic Microbiology
- CH 100 Discovering Chemistry Laboratory
- CH 101 Chemistry in the Kitchen
- CH 111 General Chemistry I
- PH 100 Discovering Physics Laboratory
- PH 114 Natural Science-Physical
- PH 115 Introduction To Earth Science

Domain IV: Ultimate Questions – This domain introduces students to the study of the ultimate questions of human experience. It invites consideration of possible answers to those questions through philosophical or religious reflection about the existence of God, the meaning of human life, ethical responsibility, the common good, and social justice. These courses provide significant encounters in key places with the Catholic intellectual tradition in philosophy and religious studies, including sources, fundamental questions, and developmental stages. As liberal arts courses, they also engage students in critical analysis of ideas and symbols, and foster a variety of skills including critical thinking, finding key concepts in the midst of complex information, evaluating ideas, and communicating effectively.

Two courses, one from Philosophy, one from Religious Studies. The courses included in this domain:

**Philosophy courses:**
- PL 251 Introduction to Western Philosophy
- PL 261 Introduction to Philosophy of the Human Person
- PL 269 Introduction to Ethics

**Religious Studies courses:**
- RS 110 Christian Moral Life
- RS 111 Introduction To The Bible: Old Testament
- RS 113 Introduction To The Bible: New Testament
Domain VII: Holistic Health – Courses in this domain explore health-related theories and research and address various aspects of the six dimensions of wellness including physical, emotional, social, environmental, intellectual, and spiritual. Courses aim to increase students’ knowledge within the dimensions of wellness to enable them to enhance health-related aspects of their own lives and perhaps the lives of others. The courses included in this domain:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA 240</td>
<td>Personal Financial Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED 164</td>
<td>Health Awareness and PE Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS 115</td>
<td>Women’s Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS 119</td>
<td>Healthy Lifestyle</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS 120</td>
<td>Complementary Therapy &amp; Wellness</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS 138</td>
<td>The Final Journey: Maintaining Wellness for Those Left Behind</td>
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<td>GS 157</td>
<td>American Food</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS 179</td>
<td>Psychology Of Eating</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS 195</td>
<td>Men’s Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 205</td>
<td>Psychology Of Adjustment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW 250</td>
<td>Human Sexuality</td>
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**The Mount Mercy Capstone**

The 400-level Mercy Experience Capstone course (ME 450 Mercy Experience Capstone) is intended as a culminating experience in the liberal studies. Students need to register for this course along with the senior seminar (or another designated course) within their major, typically during the year in which they plan to graduate. During the Mercy Experience Capstone, students will integrate knowledge they have acquired from each of the core domains and will reflect on their Mercy education in the context of their major discipline. In addition, they will examine one of the Mercy critical concerns identified by the Sisters of Mercy from a disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and global perspective and will actively participate in a related capstone project.

1. Course counts in only one area in the core requirements, it will not satisfy two core requirements.
2. For nursing majors only.

Transfer Credits

Developmental, remedial, vocational, test out, or experiential learning college credit is not transferable to Mount Mercy. A maximum of 63 semester hours (non-technical) from two-year, regionally-accredited, associate degree granting institutions will be accepted. (See exceptions below). There is no limit to the number of semester hours that will be accepted from a four-year, regionally-accredited institution. Credit earned at non-regionally accredited institutions may be accepted in transfer on a case by case basis. Students should complete a petition to have credit from non-regionally accredited institutions reviewed.

Transfer courses meeting the requirements noted above and completed with a grade of D- or better will be accepted at Mount Mercy. Whether or not the D- grade counts toward the major is up to the individual department. (See department description.) Transfer course grades will be listed on the Mount Mercy transcript but will not count toward the cumulative grade point average.

Transfer courses marked with a double grade meeting the requirements noted above will have the higher grade transferred to Mount Mercy. For example, if a grade of CD has been assigned, the higher grade, C, will be placed on the Mount Mercy transcript.
Transfer of Technical Credit

Transfer Credits Specific to BAA/BAS Degree

A maximum of 63 semester hours from regionally-accredited, postsecondary technical institutions will be transferred to Mount Mercy for students pursuing majors available under the Bachelor of Applied Arts or Bachelor of Applied Science degrees, unless otherwise designated for a specific major. A maximum of 16 semester hours from postsecondary technical courses will be transferred to Mount Mercy for students pursuing majors not available under the Bachelor of Applied Arts or Bachelor of Applied Science degrees.

* NOTE: Computer science courses taken seven or more years ago are subject to review by the department before awarding credit for a major or minor in computer science.

Iowa Community College AA Transfer Articulation

Students who transfer to Mount Mercy with an AA degree from an Iowa community college will have all Core Curriculum requirements waived except the Mercy Capstone and one course in the Ultimate Questions domain. These two requirements must be taken at Mount Mercy.

Business Department Transfer Articulation

Mount Mercy accepts a maximum of 75 semester hours from an Iowa community college for all transfers planning to pursue either a BBA degree, BAS degree, or BS degree with a major in the business area, provided that the student has completed an AA, AS/CO (Career Option) or AAS degree from an Iowa community college. This is an exception to the general policy of accepting a maximum of 63 semester hours from any community college. The courses comprising the 75 credits will count toward the total 123 semester hours required for graduation with the BBA, BAS, or BS. Iowa community college transfers into Mount Mercy’s BBA, BAS, or BS degree program will be required to meet all the graduation requirements of that degree.

Health Care Leadership Major Transfer Articulation

Mount Mercy accepts a maximum of 75 semester hours from an Iowa community college for all transfers planning to pursue a BAS degree in healthcare leadership, provided that the student has completed an AAS degree in a healthcare related field from an Iowa community college. This is an exception to the general policy of accepting a maximum of 63 semester hours from any community college. The courses comprising the 75 credits will count toward the total 123 semester hours required for graduation with the BAS. Iowa community college transfers into Mount Mercy’s BAS degree program will be required to meet all the graduation requirements of that degree.

RN-BSN Transfer Articulation

Students who transfer to Mount Mercy with an ADN degree from an Iowa community college will have the following Core Curriculum requirements waived: Portal, Natural World Domain, Self & Society Domain, Writing Competency, Holistic Health Domain, Oral Communication Competency.

College Level Examination Program

Credit may be earned by demonstrating academic achievement as measured by the College Level Examination Program (CLEP).