

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, earned 60 hours or more transferable college credits, or have used transfer courses to fulfill 7 of the 10 domain requirements, are exempt from the portal course. Portal courses include:

ME 100	Sharing The Earth With Animals
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 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 160	Law Ungendered: History of the Legal Status of U.S. Women
ME 170	Perspectives on Recent Immigration to the United States

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 speech.

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 Memoirs
EN 117	Writing And Sports
EN 118	Writing And Place

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

2. Oral Communication competency: Met by successful completion of CO 101 Oral Communication.

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 135	Basic Statistics

MA 139	Pre-Calculus
MA 142	Mathematics Modeling
MA 164	Calculus I

4. Technology Competency: Met according to criteria set within the majors. This is one competency that is built into the major curricula, and is thus not waived.

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.

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	Topics In American Multiculture Lit
EN 154	Major World Writers
EN 170	Introduction To Literature
EN 175	American Drama
EN 176	American Literature Survey: Colonial to 1914
EN 178	Major American Writers
EN 180	Literature and Gender
EN 190	British Literature and Culture ¹
EN 195	Irish Literature & Culture ¹
EN/FS 150	Intro to Film Adaptation

Fine arts courses:

AR 101	Introduction To Art
MU 189	Introduction To Music
GS 151	Introduction to Dramatic Art

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	Hist 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 123	Biology Of Human Concern
BI 125	Foundations of Biology & Scientific Inquiry I
BI 150	Basic Microbiology ²
CH 111	General Chemistry I
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 111	Introduction To The Bible: Old Testament
RS 113	Introduction To The Bible: New Testament
RS 114	Introduction to Christianity
RS 115	Introduction To World Religions
RS 118	Christians Divided:Conservative Versus Liberal Battles
RS 119	Christian Action:Moral Responsibility, Charitable Service, Social Justice

Domain V: Self and Society – This domain is designed to expose students to the study of society and the manner in which people behave and impact the world around us. It introduces students to the concepts and methods of social science, the scientific inquiry into human behavior and social, political and economic problems within institutions. Students will appreciate the interconnectedness and complexity of human interaction as represented in the various social science disciplines. The courses included in this domain:

Two of the following courses from different disciplines:

CJ 101	Introduction To Criminal Justice
EC 251	Macroeconomics Principles
PO 111	Introduction To American Politics
PS 101	Introductory Psychology
SO 122	Introduction To Sociology
SO 155	Social Problems
SW 265	Diversity in America

Domain VI: Global Awareness– Courses in the Global Awareness Domain address the basic question of what it means to live in a globalized world. Courses in this Domain address at least one of three areas: multicultural sensitivity as individuals come in contact with cultures that are different from their own; the interconnectedness of global political and economic policies; and an understanding of ecological and resource issues that transcends national borders.

AR 295	Survey Of Mexican Culture Today
BI 210	Biology And Human Culture
CO 260	Intercultural Communication
EN 190	British Literature and Culture ¹
EN 195	Irish Literature & Culture ¹
GS 260	European Union: Culture, Politics & Economics
HI 213	Recent China In Global Economy
HI 230	Modern East Asia
HI 265	Latin American History
PL 270	Introduction to Asian Thought
PO 102	Government and Politics Around the World
PO 103	Introduction to International Relations
PO 112	Globalization and Human Survival
SO 183	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
SO 235	Social Inequalities
SO 330	Global Race Relations
SP 200	Intermediate Spanish I

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:

BA 240	Personal Financial Planning
ED 164	Health Awareness and PE Methods
GS 115	Women's Health
GS 119	Healthy Lifestyle
GS 120	Complementary Therapy&Wellness

GS 157	American Food
GS 171	Meditation And Its Benefits
GS 179	Psychology Of Eating
GS 195	Men's Health
PS 205	Psychology Of Adjustment
SW 250	Human Sexuality

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.

Note: Students should consult accelerated and traditional course schedules to determine course availability and delivery format.