

# 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:

- 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

## Competencies

In addition to completing 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:

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.

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

3. Mathematics competency: Met by successful completion of any three-hour college-level math course of at least 3 semester hours.

Such courses include but are not limited to:

MA 125	Fundamentals Of Arithmetic & Logic
MA 130	Finite Mathematics
MA 132	Basic Mathematical Modeling
MA 135	Basic Statistics
MA 139	Pre-Calculus
MA 162	Discrete Mathematics
MA 164	Calculus I
MA 165	Calculus II
MA 166	Calculus III

4. Technology Competency: Met according to criteria set within the curriculum of each major.

## 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 150	Introduction to Film Adaptation
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 <sup>1</sup>
EN 192	The Lost Generation: Expatriates in Paris <sup>1</sup>
EN 195	Irish Literature & Culture <sup>1</sup>

Fine arts courses:

AR 101	Introduction To Art
EN 203	Creative Writing
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	Discovering Biology Laboratory *
BI 123	Biology of Human Concern
BI 120	Forensic Anthropology (Additional 1 hr lab required to meet domain)
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 <sup>2</sup>
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 Theology. 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

Theology courses:

RS 110	Christian Moral Life
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 217	Catholic Biomedical Ethics

**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
EN 140	Introduction to Diversity Studies
PO 100	Power & Justice
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 transcend national borders.

BI 210	Biology And Human Culture
CO 260	Intercultural Communication
EN 190	British Literature and Culture <sup>1</sup>
EN 192	The Lost Generation: Expatriates in Paris <sup>1</sup>
EN 195	Irish Literature & Culture <sup>1</sup>
GS 159	Healthcare in the UK
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
PS 201	History and Systems of Psychology
SL 165	Service Learning Abroad
SO 183	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

SO 235	Social Inequalities
SO 330	Global Race Relations
SP 200	Intermediate Spanish I
SP 370	Race, Class and Gender in Latin American Film

**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 138	The Final Journey: Death & Dying
GS 145	Introduction to Sustainability
GS 157	American Food
GS 179	Psychology Of Eating
GS 195	Men's Health
PS 205	Psychology Of Adjustment
PS 210	Stress Management
SO/SW 310	Human Sexuality
SO 240	Medical Sociology
SP 103	Spanish for Health Professions

## 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.

<sup>1</sup> Course counts in only one area in the core requirements, it will not satisfy two core requirements.

<sup>2</sup> For nursing majors only.

\* BI 110 Discovering Biology Laboratory, CH 100 Discovering Chemistry Laboratory, and PH 100 Discovering Physics Laboratory are 1 credit laboratory courses that fulfill the requirement of the Natural World domain for transfer students who have taken a non-laboratory based non-major course before transferring into Mount Mercy.

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

## 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 for business department majors). 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).

Course credit may be earned in each of the subject examinations by scoring at or above a specific score level; course credit varies in the general examinations. Information explaining the procedures and passing test scores can be obtained by contacting the Registrar's Office.

Any Mount Mercy student or prospective student is eligible to earn up to a maximum of 60 semester hours through CLEP exams\*. In those cases where CLEP scores are 10 years old or older, students must petition the Provost's Office. CLEP scores over 10 years old will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

\*CLEP credits do not count against the 63 hour maximum transferable from a 2-year college.