

Undergraduate Curriculum



GENERAL EDUCATION

At the heart of a Grace education are academically challenging courses that are specifically designed to foster a thirst for character, competence, and service within the hearts and minds of our students. Every student in a traditional undergraduate program at Grace completes a series of general education courses called the Grace Core and thus enjoys a common experience that stretches across all the disciplines. Students in other non-traditional undergraduate programs complete a similar series of general education courses. Explicitly taught from a liberal arts approach, these courses are driven by the mission and evangelical heritage of the college, and have been created around four key human relationships: with God, with others, with self, and with the world, which includes both cultures and the environment.

We believe that worshipping Christ, following His calling, connecting with others, and engaging His world are the key to unlocking an academic experience that strengthens character, sharpens competence, and prepares for service.

Character is the sum of distinctive dispositions, traits, qualities, attributes, and behaviors that constitute the nature of an individual or community. People of good character are marked by a desire to be learners. The goal of a Grace College education is to create people of deeper substance who understand and desire the more noble and healthy values. They are able to make discriminating judgments between truth and error, merit and demerit, the substantial and superficial. They possess a developing sense of self and place in God's world and purpose. They are people who have maturing skills and a growing sense of confidence that they can contribute and make a positive difference. People of strong character appreciate (give place to) and engage (think through, even debate) the perennial and often controversial questions of life in a civil and reasonable way. People of character possess an elevated work ethic, care about workmanship, and are committed to a productive life, careful performance, and excellent products. As Christians, we best demonstrate this character when we live intentionally and consistently through our calling and profession of faith and biblical/theological commitments. Therefore, the undergraduate curriculum at Grace is designed to strengthen character.

Competence is the pursuit of proficiencies and credentials that enable one to be a contributing member of society. A competent person possesses the requisite capacities and skills essential to a personal, professional, and community life. A competent person increases knowledge bases and sharpens abilities and dispositions to put this knowledge to use in productive ways. A person who is competent is one who can gather data, think, discern, analyze, synthesize, and create solutions to problems. Such a person is one who suspends personal prejudices, who uses wise judgment, and who negotiates the world of ideas, grasps issues, wrestles with argumentation, interprets and traces implications, and makes connections to others and their ideas and expressions. A competent person is a literate person who is empowered to take in more and contribute more with his or her mind and life. A competent person is creative, enterprising, and confident -- one who exercises initiative, takes risks, exhibits leadership, and commands respect. A competent person is thoughtful, articulate, expressive, and able to communicate in knowledgeable and persuasive ways. Such a person is one whose curiosity is wide ranging and one who can conduct a substantive conversation on a variety of subject matters, someone who is interesting to be around. Therefore, the Grace undergraduate education is designed to produce people who are sharpening their competence as persons, Christians, citizens, and professionals.

Service is a central imperative of the Christian faith. It is the natural outgrowth of loving and worshiping God. It is an outcome of a life well-lived. People of character serve competently. One ought to use one's personal and professional competencies to serve one another and the larger society, thus fulfilling

one's service to God. Learning for the purpose of service is an act of stewardship and worship. Learning is a prerequisite that empowers service. A Grace education contributes to both the practical and moral dimensions of life. Practically, it empowers people to gain the proficiencies that make them marketable and employable. One's professional life produces the resources and contexts for service. However, this is not the total goal of education. Life is more than work for personal gain. The Grace education should inspire students to build lives and careers that will be turned toward advancing the cause of the One whom we ultimately serve. The mode of Christian servanthood can be expressed in several specific imperatives, each located somewhere in the curricular and co-curricular educational activities (e.g., go make disciples, call God's people to a renewed vision and energy to serve Christ and his kingdom, defend and perpetuate the truth of God's revelation, work for the moral health of society, and pursue peace and justice in the world). The investment of our time, skills, intellect, and energies will leave an effect on our families, communities, work places, churches, the market place, and all of society. Therefore, at Grace, we have an education designed to foster service.¹

In summary, as faculty, we strive to do our work as faithful worshipers of God, to embody the fruit of the Spirit, and to prod ourselves and our students to reflect on the ways our respective disciplines² intersect with the depths of the Christian faith. This is an issue of character that enhances competence and empowers us for service.

First-Year Experience

The purpose of the First-Year Experience for traditional undergraduate students is to transition first-year students into the Grace on-campus community by creating connections and providing curricular and co-curricular resources that will assist students in whole-life development.

It is designed around keys to success for first-year students, including helping them transition in academic, social, and emotional ways into college; helping them grow and develop spiritually, intellectually, and personally; and increasing faculty and peer interactions. The program is also designed to address critical needs of first-year students, which include developing intellectual and academic competence, establishing and maintaining interpersonal relationships, exploring identity development, deciding on a career, maintaining health and wellness, considering faith and spiritual dimensions of life, developing multicultural awareness, and developing civic responsibility.

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: Freshman Foundations, Essentials of Behavioral Science, Global Perspectives, and Scripture and Interpretation. Throughout orientation and the fall first-year courses, freshmen meet with faculty and in breakout groups of 15-20 students led by a student mentor (an upper-class student). These groups are designed to give first-year students the kind of support needed to adapt to college life.

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).

¹ The definitions of Character, Competence, and Service are from: Forbes, et. al.

² See James E. Bowling and Joel B. Curry.

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 worshiping Christ, connecting with others, engaging His world, and following His Calling.

The vision for the Grace Core is a Christ-centered learning community united by intentional worship, transformed by His truth, and equipped with the knowledge and skills to live and serve in an increasingly globalized and changing world.

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We believe that worshiping Christ, following His calling, connecting with others, and engaging His world are keys to unlocking an academic experience that strengthens character, sharpens competence, and prepares for service. We also believe that an education that emphasizes the integration of faith and learning lays the foundation for and is in perfect concert with our mission. At Grace, we are committed to a life of worship and spiritual growth, and actively look for reflective and practical ways the Christian faith intersects with the disciplines we teach in the classroom.³

The specific goals of the Grace Core are located on the portal. Each goal connects to the Grace mission in developing our students in character, competence, or service. In turn, each course within the Core relates to at least one of the core goals.

Grace Core Courses

The Grace Core is composed of thirteen courses devised from program goals and outcomes that emphasize or begin with one of the following four relationships and integrate additional relationships in substantial ways.

Worshiping Christ (Relationship to God)

1. BIB 1050 Exploring the Bible
2. BIB 2010 Scripture and Interpretation
3. BIB 3300 Essential Doctrinal Themes

Following His Calling (Relationship to Self)

4. FYE 1010 Freshman Foundations
5. ECN 3000 Consumer Economics
6. PHI 3010 Christianity and Critical Thinking

Connecting with Others (Relationship to Others)

7. COM 1100 Public Speaking
8. ENG 1100 Effective Writing
9. PSY 1200 Essentials of Behavioral Science

³ See Mission and Values online at <http://www.grace.edu/about/mission-values>

Engaging His World (Relationship to the World and Environment)

10. HIS 1380 Contemporary America and the World
11. HUM 2000 Global Perspectives
12. HUM 2100 Creative Arts and Culture
13. SCI 2000 Science Matters

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 course.

Worshiping Christ (Relationship to God)

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.

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.

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 complete the desired transference from belief to conviction 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 so they can begin to articulate and defend what they believe about the Christian faith. Special attention will be given to helping the students grasp the historical doctrinal commitments of Grace College and Seminary by engaging students in class discussion around those commitments. Three Hours.

Following His Calling (Relationship to Self)

FYE 1010 Freshman Foundations

This is a practical, academic course which is intended to prepare new students to engage in three key areas of their first-year transition into college: Understanding who we are, understanding who they are, and understanding our call. This course is designed to make their years at Grace the best experience possible. This course will help students discover their God-given strengths, navigate through current college issues, and help the student better understand what makes a Christian liberal arts education valuable. It will also introduce students to the value of service in the local community and introduce students to prospective departments and faculty within the institution, assisting in the selection process of choosing a major and a career. Three Hours.

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. Students will integrate knowledge, skills and practices required for management of resources in a technologically expanding global economy. Real world topics covered will include income, money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing. Core skills in decision making, problem solving, critical thinking, goal setting, management of multiple roles and using technology are integrated into the course content. 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.

Connecting with Others (Relationship to Others)

COM 1100 Public Speaking

A study of communication theory as applicable to public speaking. Students explore the components of an effective speech, as well as current applications of speaking skills. Emphasis will be placed on practicing and displaying these skills in a laboratory setting. Three Hours, including lab.

ENG 1100 Effective Writing

The principles involved in writing clear expository, persuasive, and researched papers are studied and practiced. In addition, the English language is examined from a linguistic perspective. Three Hours.

PSY 1200 Essentials of Behavioral Science

This introductory course in behavioral sciences provides an opportunity to learn about the major behavioral science theories, concepts and its real life applications. This course will survey topics such as child development, parenting, gender differences, stress, self-care and abnormal behavior. 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. Additionally, this course will examine styles of relating as it pertains to employment, dating, marriage and family life. Three Hours.

Engaging His World (Relationship to the World and the Environment)

HIS 1380 Contemporary America and the World

This course is a topical approach to the cultural history of the United States from the end of the Second World War to the present, with special emphasis on America's role in global affairs. Students will not only gain a broad understanding of America's place in recent world events but also a specialized knowledge of various relevant topics and their historical context. Topics covered in this class have included the Cold War, the 1960s, American evangelicalism, and terrorism. Three Hours.

HUM 2000 Global Perspectives

In this course, students engage divergent outlooks from around the world, grappling with cultural differences and presuppositions. Defining literary works, films and guest speakers from different

continents set the stage for literary and cultural discussions. This course will also provide a framework for understanding God's heart for the nations, and will serve as the preparation for the Cross-Cultural Field Experience. Three Hours.

Cross-Cultural Field Experience

The lab component of 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 (in a global sense; i.e. different ethnicities or nationalities) other than their own for at least seven days, and begin to apply learned concepts to a real-life situation.

HUM 2010 Go Encounter Trips

Students selecting this option will choose from a number of domestic and international trips organized and administered by Grace College. Zero hours.

HUM 2030 Third Culture/International

A course designed for bicultural individuals 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. Fall A only. Zero hours.

HUM 2040 CCFE Independent Trips

Students who select this option create their own International field experience in consultation with the Global Perspectives faculty. These experiences must be pre-approved and must last a minimum of seven days. Students must complete a debriefing lab in the semester immediately following their trip. Zero hours.

STA 0010-STA0640 Study Abroad Programs

Select majors require participation in the Study Abroad program to fulfill their program degree requirements. Consult the Study Abroad website for current listings. Twelve to Thirty Hours.

HUM 2100 Creative Arts and Culture

Through a global, thematic approach, this course explores the human phenomenon of creativity. Posing the question "Why creative arts?" this course focuses on exploring how culture and creativity reflect each other within the realm of visual and performing arts. Through themes of survival, religion, the state, and self, this course examines artists' roles within cultures, the way art is made or performed, how meaning is derived, and how art is used, kept or destroyed. Required experiential activities for engaging in visual and performing arts include such things as attending museum exhibits, concerts or theatrical productions. Three Hours.

SCI 2000 Science Matters

A study of major topics from several areas of science. Emphasis will be on understanding the scientific method with its strengths and weaknesses, an overview of scientific disciplines to foster general scientific literacy, and the interaction between science, Scripture and society. Topics will be examined from a biblical worldview and their interactions with current societal attitudes, trends and beliefs. A "hands-on" approach is emphasized with activities and data analysis. 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. Three Hours.

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.

APPLIED LEARNING

Of the 120 credits needed for graduation, 12 credits are designated as "applied learning" and may be fulfilled through a variety of experiences such as study abroad, student teaching, internships, research projects, lab work, or individually designed projects intended to fulfill the purpose of applied learning. Other applied learning credits are discrete experiences or courses in which the student enrolls. Some applied learning credits are achieved by enrolling in courses in the major or minor that also have applied learning credits embedded in them.

Approved applied learning experiences for students on the Winona Lake campus are on the portal. These experiences can be found by going on the portal, Campus Life and then Applied Learning. Students and faculty may submit to the Director of Applied Learning a proposal for an applied learning project that is individualized to a student's interests and needs. Students in non-traditional programs or at one of Grace's additional locations should consult with the site director for approved applied learning experiences.

CAREER INSTITUTE:

Career Institute is a free course offered to students to prepare them for internship opportunities and eventually the world of work. The program takes students through seasons of reflection, creation and preparation for the business community.

Goal:

The goal of the **Reflection** Component is to assist students in identifying possible career directions based on the gifts and abilities that God provided them. Each student will perform a self-assessment based on the outputs of several different personality and skill measurement tools. Areas to be investigated will include: personality type, personal strengths, career readiness, other job related self-

assessments. After creating a portfolio of the outputs from these measurements, students will compare their results with different career opportunities.

The goal of the **Creation** Component is to assist students in creating tangible documents they will need in order to be a viable contender in the competitive job market. Each student will create a resume speaking to their quantifiable abilities on a resume instead of a simple list of tasks they completed. Areas to be investigated will include: resumes, business cards, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Email. They will add their tangible documents to their career portfolios.

The goal of the **Preparation** Component is to assist students in preparing to be in the work world after college. Students will learn how their outside actions impact their success on the job. Each student will undergo a career make-over and learn proper on-the-job attire. Areas to be investigated will include: job etiquette (dining, technology, phone, email), appropriate dressing, and deportment (on the job behavior, company culture, appropriate interactions), and interviewing.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Associate Degree in Nursing

An associate degree in nursing is available through a combined Grace College/Bethel College nursing program. More information may be obtained from the Bethel nursing coordinator on the Grace College campus. Students in the nursing program are Bethel students who enroll in general education and cognates on the Grace College campus before officially enrolling in the Bethel nursing program, which confers the nursing degree.

Associate of Arts and Associate of Science Degrees

Associate degrees are available at the Henry and Frances Weber School at Grace College only in its Indianapolis, Indiana and Detroit, Michigan locations. The curriculum is comprised of general education and additional courses in the area of study, 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 College and Trine University, students may also receive a B.S.N. or a B.E.

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

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). Degrees are conferred simultaneously and students are able to retain their financial aid by completing both degrees concurrently. More information about degrees that are available as part of the blended degree option can be found on the [online programs](#) page of the institution's Web site, 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 conversations are underway with other universities for additional exchange programs.

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 Grace Core or major requirements, 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 [Global Initiatives office](#).

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 Director of Global Initiatives for language and non-language majors and 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 [Global Initiatives Office](#) at Grace College coordinates cross-cultural experiences for both language and non-language majors.

Study Abroad for Language Majors and Minors

Because we believe immersion in the target culture and language is the greatest means of attaining proficiency, qualified language students study abroad during their sophomore or junior year to fulfill the requirements for a language major or minor.

Through this cross-cultural experience, students learn to appreciate another part of the world. They are placed with a host family or in a residence, participate in the life of a church, and are enrolled in some of the world's best-known universities with whom Grace College 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, 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 the [BestSemester Programs](#) 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 Director of Global Initiatives.

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, and will have internship possibilities. Further details are included under the Department of History and Political Science, 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, 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 Science 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 masters 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.