The Grace Core

The Grace Core is composed of five courses:

1. Freshman Foundations (LAC101)
2. Christianity and Critical Thinking (LAC102)
3. Global Perspectives (LAC200) and Global Experience (LAC204–206)
4. Effective Writing (ENG110)
5. Public Speaking in Society (COM110)

Every student is required to take these courses, as they comprise the common Grace experience the institution desires for every student. In some cases, transfer students may be granted exemptions depending on how transcripts are analyzed during the admissions process.

LAC101 Freshman Foundations
The purpose of this course is to facilitate the transition and integration of new students into Grace College. This is a practical, academic course that 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 the Call.

This course is designed to make their four years at Grace the best experience possible. This course will help students discover 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.

LAC102 Christianity and Critical Thinking
This course is an introduction to Christianity and the life of the mind. It examines how faith and intellect relate. Course materials will include an examination of modern Christianity and ask if it is sufficiently rigorous to face the postmodern world. The course will also examine how to investigate an idea by raising the right kinds of questions. How has Christianity come to us in history? What are its core ideas? Is theology static or a process? How does Christianity differ from other worldviews? How should a lively and vigorous Christianity be expressed in the lives of individuals and churches? This course is required in the liberal arts curriculum. Three hours.

LAC200 Global Perspectives
Global Perspectives is a team-taught course that seeks to develop a biblical lens for seeing the world in order to live meaningfully and biblically in increasingly multi-cultural societies. Major themes in the course include
Christ’s incarnation as a model for crossing cultural boundaries, tools necessary for the cultivation of cultural intelligence, an introduction to the basic beliefs of Islam, and a general awareness of world geography. This course includes a required cross-cultural field experience within one calendar year of completion of LAC200. Two hours.

Students will also select one of the following options for a cross-cultural field experience: LAC 204, LAC 205, or LAC 206. This requirement can also be completed through participation in a college-sanctioned study abroad program.

**LAC204: Independent International Cross-Cultural Field Experience**

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. One hour.

**LAC205: Global Experience**

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. One hour.

**LAC206: Grace College Cross-Cultural Field Experience**

Students selecting this option will choose from a number of domestic and international trips that are organized and administered by Grace College. One hour.