

# Undergraduate Curriculum

## **UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM**

### **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.

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 at Grace completes a series of general education courses and thus enjoys a common experience that stretches across all the disciplines. 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 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.

### **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).

### **First-Year Experience**

The purpose of this course is to transition and integrate first-year students into the Grace community and provide a foundation for their Grace learning experience.

Each course component is designed around a foundational concept including faculty and peer interaction, development of community mindset, self-awareness, preparation for life-long learning, and reflection on students' academic and vocational journey. Students will incorporate these components into written and verbal research projects. Three Hours.

### **First-Year Experience Linked Courses**

---

<sup>1</sup> See *Mission and Values* online at <http://www.grace.edu/about>

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: First-Year 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.

### ***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.

#### ***Worshipping 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 1000 First-Year 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

#### ***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 2030 Faith, Science, and Reason

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.

### ***Worshipping 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 begin to set a solid foundation for a well-rounded and well-informed theological position 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 and engage multiple theological authors so they can begin to articulate and defend what they believe about the Christian faith. Attention will be given to helping the student critically analyze the historical doctrinal commitments of Grace College and Seminary by engaging students in the evaluation of the presuppositions and conclusions of different doctrinal groups. Three Hours.

***Following His Calling (Relationship to Self)***

***FYE 1010 First Year Foundations***

The purpose of this course is to transition and integrate first-year students into the Grace community and provide a foundation for their Grace learning experience. Each course component is designed around a foundational concept including faculty and peer interaction, development of community mindset, self-awareness, preparation for life-long learning, and reflection on students' academic and vocational journey. Students will incorporate these components into written and verbal research projects. 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. The Greek word "Oikinomia" can be translated as economics or household management. This course will challenge students to take control of and properly manage the part of God's creation (household) that he has put in their charge. Students will integrate knowledge and practice the skills required to manage resources in a technologically expanding global economy. Real world topics covered will include economics, personal money management, as well as managing the precious commodities of time, relationships, and spiritual advancement. 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***

The objective of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the principles of public discourse and civic engagement. The focus will be on a practical background in recognizing, analyzing, and constructing arguments in the public sphere. Readings, class time, and assignments will focus on

the skills and concepts necessary for successful application of the principles to a civic engagement project. Three Hours.

***ENG 1100 Effective Writing***

A course designed to help students develop and hone the skills necessary for clear and persuasive writing at the college level and beyond. The primary focus of the course is scholarly research and writing, with emphasis on finding and evaluating sources, integrating and documenting sources, improving writing structure and organization, implementing rhetorical strategies, practicing revision and peer workshop, and strengthening writing mechanics. Three Hours.

***PSY 1200 Essentials of Behavioral Science***

This introductory course in Behavioral Sciences provides an opportunity to learn about the major behavioral science topics, concepts and real life applications. This course will survey multiple topics as they relate to relationships. 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. The focus of this course is on improving relationships in many different sectors of 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 Cold 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 topics related to issues of culture, politics, and conflict as well as current events and trends. Three Hours.

***HUM 2000 Global Perspectives***

The purpose of Global Perspectives is to encounter world cultures through literature and dialogue. In this interdisciplinary course, students engage divergent outlooks from around the world, grappling with cultural differences and presuppositions. Defining literary works and guest speakers from different continents set the stage for literary and cultural discussions. This course cultivates cultural competency, provides a framework for understanding God's heart for the nations, and prepares students for the Cross-Cultural Field Experience. Three Hours.

***Cross-Cultural Field Experience***

The Applied Learning component of HUM 2000 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 (i.e. ethnicities or nationalities) other than their own and articulate application of the learned concepts from HUM 2000 Global Perspectives to their experiences.

***HUM 2010 Go Encounter Trips***

Students who select the Go Encounter Trip option to fulfill their Cross Cultural Field Experience (CCFE) requirement register for a Go Encounter trip offered by the Grace College Global Initiatives Office. A Go Encounter trip is also worth 2 Applied Learning Credits, which emphasizes "analytic inquiry, active learning, real-world problem solving, and innovation," (Applied Learning Syllabus). Zero Hours.

***HUM 2030 Third Culture/International Student***

A course designed for third culture and international students 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. Zero hours.

### ***HUM 2040 CCFE Independent Trips***

Students who select the independent trip option to fulfill their Cross Cultural Field Experience (CCFE) requirement create their own international or domestic field experience in consultation with the Office of Global Initiatives. These experiences must be pre-approved. Any experiences prior to taking HUM 2000 Global Perspectives will only be accepted if the student has transferred to Grace College. Students must complete all work, including a debriefing presentation in the semester immediately following their trip. Completion of this Global Debriefing course will grant the student the required CCFE credit and two Applied Learning credits. 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 the landscape of cultural history, this course explores the human phenomenon of creativity from prehistoric culture to our contemporary urban society. Posing the question "Why creative arts?" this course examines how creativity and culture define and reflect each other. Viewed through a global, chronological, or thematic approach and in context of time and place, interrelationships of various modes of expression are presented for works of art, music, and literature. During the course, students are required to select two experiential activities for engaging in creative arts and culture. Examples include, but are not limited to, art museums, gallery exhibits, visual and performing arts festivals, international/cultural festivals, symphony orchestras, music concerts, theatrical productions, and literary events. Grace Core requirement. Three Hours.

### ***SCI 2030 Faith, Science, and Reason***

This course is designed to assist the student in (1) demonstrating the scope and magnitude of science and mathematics from the 1600's until today; (2) why we study these subjects; (3) knowing the limitations of these subjects; (4) where the Christian fits and operates within the scientific paradigm; and (5) how Christians can incorporate their faith and reason within the scientific enterprise and how to use it as a productive platform when communicating to those of different worldviews. 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.

## ***INTERNSHIP AND PRACTICUM***

To meet graduation requirements, students in traditional undergraduate programs must complete a minimum of 3 and maximum of 12 credits of Internship and Practicum. Schools or Academic Departments are responsible for decisions concerning how their students will meet Internship and Practicum credits.

## ***UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS***

### ***Associate of Arts and Science Degrees***

Grace College offers several associate degrees. The Associate of Science degree in Liberal Arts is available online. College Launch, an Associate of Science degree in Liberal Arts for high school juniors and seniors, is offered on main campus and online. These associate degrees are comprised of general education and additional courses in the area of study, which then enables students to easily pursue a bachelor's degree. The Associate of Applied Science in Agribusiness is comprised of general education and agribusiness courses.

### ***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 University, students may also receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree.

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). A student can complete both a bachelor's degree and the Master of Divinity degree through the Seminary in five years. Degrees are conferred simultaneously and students are able to retain their financial aid for four years 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 Karoli Gaspar University of the Reformed Church in Hungary in Budapest, Hungary. 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 their major requirements if they complete a course, and 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 Program Director of Global Initiatives for language and non-language majors and some 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.

#### ***The Study Abroad for Languages***

For language majors and some minors, Grace's Study Abroad Program requires qualified students to study abroad. Through this cross-cultural, immersive language experience, students become more proficient speakers while learning to appreciate other cultures. They are placed with a host family, participate in the life of a local church, and are enrolled in some of the world's best-known universities with whom Grace 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; San José, Costa Rica; or in Madrid, Spain. French students study in the beautiful city of Dijon, France, capital of Burgundy or in Quebec, Canada.

#### ***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, and 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 master's 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.