State Minimum Core

The University of Arkansas has adopted the “state minimum requirements” of 35 semester-credit-hours of courses that are required of all baccalaureate degree candidates. This is in compliance with Arkansas Act 98 of 1989 and the subsequent action of the Arkansas State Board of Higher Education. Since 1991, all state institutions of higher education in Arkansas have had a 35-hour minimum core requirement with specified hours in each of seven academic areas in the table below. The university has identified those courses that meet the minimum requirement, and they are listed in the chart below.

Some colleges and programs have specified which courses to use, so students should consult the requirements of their major when choosing courses from the options below. Completion of these courses will also satisfy many of the university's general education learning outcomes (https://catalog.uark.edu/undergraduatecatalog/gened/generaleducation/).

Areas	Hours	State Minimum Core
English	6	ENGL 10103, ENGL 10203, ENGL 10303
Mathematics[1]	3	MATH 11003, MATH 11103, MATH 15104 or any higher-level mathematics course with MATH 11003 as a prerequisite or as required by major; to include MATH 21003
Science[2] (Students required to take corresponding lecture/lab combinations as listed)	8	ANTH 10143/ANTH 10141, ASTR 20003/ ASTR 20001, BIOL 10004, BIOL 10103/ BIOL 10101, BIOL 10104, BIOL 10303/ BIOL 10301, BIOL 10503/BIOL 10501, BIOL 24003/BIOL 24001, BIOL 24103/ BIOL 24101, CHEM 10003/CHEM 10001, CHEM 12073/CHEM 12071, CHEM 12103/ CHEM 12101, CHEM 12283/CHEM 12281, CHEM 14103/CHEM 14101, CHEM 14203/ CHEM 14201, ENSC 10003/ENSC 10001, ENTO 10203/ENTO 10201, GEOL 11103/ GEOL 11101, GEOL 11203/GEOL 11201, GEOS 11504, PHYS 10243/PHYS 10241, PHYS 10304, PHYS 10404, PHYS 10504, PHYS 20103/PHYS 20101, PHYS 20203/ PHYS 20201, PHYS 20304, PHYS 20404
Fine Arts	3	ARCH 10003, ARHS 10003, COMM 10003, DANC 10003[4], ENGL 20103[4], HUMN 211H4[4], LARC 10003, MUSC 10003, MUSC 10103, MUSC 13303, THTR 10003[4], THTR 10103[4], THTR 16803, THTR 18803
Humanities	3	Any intermediate level foreign language[3], AAST 20203, ARCH 10103, CLST 10003, CLST 10103, COMM 12303, DANC 10003[4], DASC 21303, ENGL 11103, ENGL 11203, ENGL 12103, ENGL 20103[4], GNST 20003, HUMN 112H4, HUMN 22103, LALS 20103, MRST 20103, MUSY 20003, PHIL 20003, PHIL 21003, PHIL 22003, PHIL 23003, PHIL 31003, THTR 10003[4], THTR 10103[4]
U.S. History or Government	3	HIST 20003[4], HIST 20103[4], PLSC 20003[4]
Social Sciences (Select from at least two different fields of study)	9	AGEC 11003, AGEC 21003, ANTH 10203, ANTH 10303, COMM 10203, ECON 21003, ECON 21403, ECON 22003, GEOG 11103, GEOG 21003, HDFS 14003, HDFS 24103, HDFS 26003, HIST 11193[4], HIST 11293[4], HIST 20003[4], HIST 20103[4], HIST 20903, HUMN 111H4, HUMN 211H4[4], INST 20103, INST 211H4, JOUR 10203, PLSC 20003[4], PLSC 20103, PLSC 21003, PLSC 28103, PSYC 20003, RESM 28503, SOCI 10103, SOCI 20103, STEM 20003

1 Some students majoring in architecture, business, engineering, math or engineering may be required to take a higher math as part of the State Minimum Core.

2 Some students majoring in education, engineering, health-related professions, math or science may be required to take higher or specific science courses as part of the State Minimum Core.

3 Numbered at the 20000 level. See Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures (https://catalog.uark.edu/undergraduatecatalog/collegesandschools/jwilliamfulbrightcollegeofartsandsciences/worldlanguagesliteraturesandcultureswllc/) in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences chapter.

4 If not selected to meet another category.

Rationale for U of A State Minimum Requirements

In order to prepare its students for lives of the highest individual quality and the greatest potential contribution to the making of a better world, the University of Arkansas has developed a comprehensive program of general education. Although the basic skills, knowledge, methodologies, and judgments derived from experience in the core area set forth here may provide the basis for a major or professional concentration, the aims of these core requirements are not career specific. Rather, the following areas are designed to develop the tools for critical thinking and effective communication, an understanding of our richly diverse human heritage, the flexibility to adapt successfully to a rapidly changing world, a capacity for lifelong learning, and an enthusiasm for creativity.

English/Communication (6 hours)

Courses offered in this area are designed to develop the ability to organize ideas and to communicate them in grammatically correct written English with clarity, precision, and syntactical maturity.

ENGL 10103 Composition I (ACTS Equivalency = ENGL 1013) and ENGL 00001 Writing Lab

- Below 19 on the English section of the ACT and high school GPA less than 3.20
- Below 490 on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section of the SAT and high school GPA less than 3.20
- Below 255 on the Accuplacer Next-Generation Writing section and high school GPA less than 3.20
- Below 38 sum of the Verbal Reasoning and Grammar/Writing sections of the Classic Learning Test and high school GPA less than 3.20

ENGL 10103 Composition I (ACTS Equivalency = ENGL 1013)

- ACT English scores of 19-27, or
- SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing scores of 490-620, or
- Accuplacer Next-Generation Writing section score of 255 or higher, or
- Classic Learning Test score of 38 or higher sum of the Verbal Reasoning and Grammar/Writing sections
- High school GPA of 3.20 or higher

ENGL 10103 Composition I (ACTS Equivalency = ENGL 1013) or ENGL 101H3 Honors Composition I

- ACT English scores of 28-29, or
- SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing scores of 630-680

Students with ACT English scores of 30 or greater or SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing scores of 690 (or equivalent) may enroll in ENGL 101H3 and ENGL 102H3 or elect exemption. Some degree programs require credit in composition, and students should confer with their advisors before exempting.

Fine Arts/Humanities (6 hours)

Courses presented in this area are drawn from the study of human thought, emotion, values, culture, and aesthetics. They are designed to develop the capacity for reflection, an appreciation of our own diverse culture and a tolerance of those foreign to us, and a heightened aesthetic and ethical sensibility. The courses are not performance-based, but offer students a basis for the gradual acquisition of broad cultural literacy.

Mathematics (3 hours)

Courses offered in this area are designed to develop the student's ability to understand the diverse mathematical concepts that shape our increasingly technical culture. Core mathematics courses presuppose the ability to apply mathematical techniques at the level of high school algebra and geometry. The specific course(s) selected will depend upon each student's curriculum, but no course below college algebra may be used to fulfill core requirements.

Science (8 hours)

A primary goal of these courses is to develop an appreciation of the basic principles that govern natural phenomena and the role of experiment and observation in revealing these principles. Students should acquire an understanding of the relationship between hypothesis, experiment, and theory, and develop the skills common to scientific inquiry, including the ability to frame hypotheses and defend conclusions based on the analysis of data. These courses are designed to prepare a student for informed citizenship by illustrating the importance of science and technology to the present and future quality of life and the ethical questions raised by scientific and technological advances.

Social Science (9 hours)

The purpose of the social science core is to introduce students to the breadth of inquiry in the social sciences — such as the study of ideas, the behavior of individuals, groups, institutions, and their interactions. The core should expose students to the history of and the challenges encountered in our complex, culturally diverse world.

American History or Government (3 hours)

Under Arkansas law, no undergraduate degree may be granted to any student who has not passed a college course in American history or civil government. Courses offered by the University of Arkansas, any one of which will meet this requirement, are HIST 20003, HIST 20103, and PLSC 20003.