

LIBERAL EDUCATION

That perfection of the Intellect, which is the result of Education, to be imparted to individuals in their respective measures is the clear, calm, accurate vision and comprehension of all things, as far as the finite mind can embrace them, each in its place, and with its own characteristics upon it.

- John Henry Cardinal Newman

Because the University of St. Francis holds learning to be a life-long process aimed at the full development of the human person, the University strives to prepare its students to seek truth and excellence and to exercise habits of sound judgment. To this end, the University espouses a liberal education designed to introduce the student to various areas of knowledge and the modes of inquiry associated with them. The steady pursuit of truth and excellence, the mastery of broad areas of learning, and the study of great works contribute to the perfection of students' intellectual powers. The knowledge, dispositions, and intellectual skills developed through liberal education prepare students to assume roles of leadership in their careers and communities. And yet, liberal education is offered as a good in itself: it is a significant achievement to attain some measure of that perfection of the intellect which Cardinal Newman describes above as a "clear, calm, accurate vision." Based on the conversation of the great minds of all ages, liberal education is rooted in our University of St. Francis heritage; our faculty and students seek to carry on the search for truth in a community of faith and learning.

At the University of St. Francis, a liberal education integrates:

1. **general education**, which is the part of a liberal education curriculum shared by all students;
2. a choice of a **major program** of study, which is the in-depth study of one or more disciplines; and
3. **other transformational experiences** such as those encountered through University Ministry, internships, research programs, service learning, clubs, or athletics.

The general education curriculum includes two foundations courses taken in the freshman year. These two courses are required of students entering the University as freshmen. The interconnected courses of the Foundations program are designed to introduce students to liberal education. *Foundations I – Bona Ventura: The Cosmic Journey* uses an integrative approach to prepare students for academic success while helping them transition to university life. The academic content utilizes a contemporary framework known as "Big History," a narrative of our universe that begins with the Big Bang, progresses steadily through time marking particular changes or "thresholds," and ends with a projection into the future. *Foundations II – Continuing the Journey* focuses on an evidence-based writing process within the context of courses that reflect the faculty member's academic field of study and connect with "thresholds"/key ideas found in the first semester course.

Upon graduation the USF student in the undergraduate programs should manifest:

- A sense of ethics and values reflecting the religious foundations of USF and its Franciscan charism
 - evidence of having embarked on a personal search for truth, meaning, and faith, including an understanding of and respect for Catholic ideals

- understanding of and sensitivity to values including: personal integrity, respect for the dignity of others, and reverence for creation, compassion, justice, and peacemaking
- Mastery of the chosen discipline
 - clear understanding of key ideas, concepts, and theories of the chosen discipline
 - proficiency in skills and methodology
- Active participation as a citizen of a diverse democracy and pluralistic world
 - deep understanding of oneself and respect for the diverse identities of others, their histories, and their cultures
 - positive personal and interpersonal skills
 - capacity for associative living (i.e., living in common with others)
 - potential to contribute to society with leadership through service
- Ability to communicate complex ideas in written and oral form in various situations and with diverse audiences
- Intellectual competencies, curiosity and habits of mind that foster continual pursuit of knowledge and independent thought
 - facility in quantitative reasoning, as well as scientific and technological literacy
 - aesthetic awareness and appreciation
 - ability to analyze and interpret historical data; to understand methods and analyze concepts from philosophy, theology, and the social sciences
 - to read imaginatively and critically
- Intellectual agility and ability to adapt and manage change, including the ability to translate knowledge into action and to solve problems.
 - ability to learn in multiple modes and from different disciplines
 - ability to find the best available sources of information (electronic and print, questionnaire, interviews, etc.); sift, organize, and evaluate that information, and develop critical analyses

General Education Outcomes

By completing the USF General Education requirements, students will be able to meet the outcomes listed under each of the following categories:

Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World (HCW)

Aesthetic Awareness (HCW-1)

Analyze and implement an artistic method through artistic investigation and practice in the fine arts while utilizing either applied practice (creation and critique) or historical and theoretical studies (written and oral) within a critical framework. (HCW-1.1)

Historical Understanding (HCW-2)

Analyze key historical facts, values, and ideas that have shaped civilizations throughout history by developing a historical literacy that emphasizes analysis of primary and secondary sources, examining societies in a global context, and constructing historical arguments in both written and oral forms. (HCW-2.1)

Literary Inquiry (HCW-3)

Relate to, enjoy, analyze, discuss, and write about imaginative literature—including poetry, fiction, and drama or film—within such contexts as formalist, historicist, and reader-response theory. (HCW-3.1)

Mathematical Reasoning and Numerical Understanding (HCW-4)

Analyze and interpret formulae and quantitative information using appropriate technologies and mathematical methods. (HCW-4.1)

Demonstrate logic and deductive reasoning skills through mathematical concepts and application problems. (HCW-4.2)

Philosophical Understanding (HCW-5)

Demonstrate a basic understanding of the basic philosophical ideas that are at the foundation of the Western and Catholic intellectual traditions and how those questions are central to the issues of contemporary life and culture. (HCW-5.1)

Demonstrate an understanding of fundamental philosophical ethical ideas and be able to use them in the analysis of ethical issues. (HCW-5.2)

Scientific Inquiry (HCW-6)

Experience the scientific enterprise in the natural sciences by using the scientific method to formulate testable hypotheses, design appropriate experiments, analyze the data, draw conclusions and report the findings in both written and oral forms. (HCW-6.1)

Social Awareness (HCW-7)

Demonstrate a critical understanding of how social forces and the major institutions in society function and interact; how they influence individuals, groups, and organizations; how they are shaped by human actions; and how these actions can provide service to the community. (HCW-7.1)

Demonstrate a critical understanding of both patterned and diverse ways humans think, feel, and behave; how they are influenced by social interactions and forces; and how they can alter the systems in which they are embedded. (HCW-7.2)

Intellectual and Practical Skills (IPS)**Information Literacy (IPS-1)**

Discover, access, critically evaluate, translate and effectively use relevant information from a variety of sources with integrity to achieve a specific purpose. (IPS-1.1)

Inquiry & Analysis, Critical and Creative Thinking (IPS-2)

Synthesize information from a variety of sources to gain insight into patterns of organization about significant issues. (IPS-2.1)

Comprehensively evaluate evidence, context and assumptions in order to construct a logical and compassionate argument. (IPS-2.2)

Respectfully integrate a wide range of divergent perspectives and ideas to extend and transform one's existing knowledge. (IPS-2.3)

Integrative and Applied Learning (IPS-3)

Synthesize experience with academic knowledge by transferring skills across situations, reflecting on connections, drawing conclusions, solving problems and serving the community. (IPS-3.1)

Oral Communication (IPS-4)

Listen in order to comprehend information, critique and evaluate a message, and show empathy for the feelings expressed by others in

order to engage in purposeful discourse, including both literal and critical comprehension of ideas and information. (IPS-4.1)

Present ideas and information orally in a variety of situations by generating a compelling thesis, using credible support, sound reasoning and/or argument and delivering a message with effective language, articulation, and nonverbal signals suitable to the topic, purpose, and audience. (IPS-4.2)

Problem Solving (IPS-5)

Construct insightful problem statements and multiple solution strategies sensitive to context; then thoroughly evaluate potential solutions based on clarity, relevance, completeness and fairness; and implement a solution that includes evaluation of the outcomes. (IPS-5.1)

Teamwork (IPS-6)

Exemplify teamwork qualities by collaborating and cooperating with others, using communication and negotiation skills, exhibiting encouragement and compassion, and serving as a leader and follower. (IPS-6.1)

Written Communication (IPS-7)

Construct an argument in writing that illustrates mastery of content; is sensitive to context, audience, and purpose; works within the rules and conventions of the discipline; demonstrates integrity and relevant sources; communicates meaning with clarity and fluency, as well as grace, elegance, and style. (IPS-7.1)

Personal and Social Responsibility (PSR)**Catholic and Franciscan Charism (PSR-1)**

Understand the Catholic Franciscan perspective and demonstrate this understanding with compassion when confronting ethical issues, ethical perspectives. (PSR-1.1)

Comprehend a worldview informed by the philosophical and theological truths of the Catholic Intellectual tradition. (PSR-1.2)

Experience and understand Catholic and Franciscan spirituality as a lifelong resource and guide for personal career and vocational choice. (PSR-1.3)

Civic Engagement (PSR-2)

Develop awareness of local and global civic issues and engage collaboratively with diverse communities to address these issues in light of Catholic Social Teachings. (PSR-2.1)

Ethical Reasoning and Action (PSR-3)

Apply ethical concepts or perspectives to an ethical question, decision, issue or action and demonstrate a full understanding and responsibility when responding with compassion and respect. (PSR-3.1)

Foundations & Skills for Life Long Learning (PSR-4)

Demonstrate skills for lifelong learning including reflection, curiosity, initiative, self-regulation, independence, and transfer. (PSR-4.1)

Intercultural Knowledge and Competence (PSR-5)

Demonstrate a cultural awareness respecting the dignity of each person that is informed by multiple world views, an understanding of

cross-cultural similarities and differences, cultural self-awareness, and intercultural experience. (PSR-5.1)

Demonstrate an understanding of the essence of culture including its historic roots and dynamic changes in sociopolitical contexts, key values and conventions, ethnic diversity, language(s) and other symbolic tools, etc. (PSR-5.2)

Sustainability (PSR-6)

Demonstrate an understanding of the three Ps (People, Planet, and Profit) and the four Es (Environment conservation, Ecological benefits, Equity, and Education) of sustainability and be able to apply their understanding of these concepts with respect in the real world. (PSR-6.1)

Theology (PSR-7)

Describe and analyze the basic teachings of the Catholic faith and the Franciscan tradition and be able to apply that knowledge to the questions of the meaning and purpose of a good human life that exemplifies the values of respect, service, integrity and compassion. (PSR-7.1)

Demonstrate the manner in which the Catholic /Franciscan tradition is the integrative source of learning and living in the world. (PSR-7.2)

Pattern of General Education Courses Required for Graduation

General Education Area	Hours Required	Specific Requirements
Communications	9	One course in oral communication Two courses in College Writing
Literary Inquiry & Aesthetic Awareness	9	One course in Literary Inquiry One course in Aesthetic Awareness One course in History, Creative Arts, or Literature
Numerical Understanding & Scientific Inquiry	9-12	One course in Numerical Understanding (above Intermediate Algebra) One course in Scientific Inquiry One course in Numerical Understanding, Scientific Inquiry, or Computer Understanding
Historical Understanding	3	One course in Historical Understanding
Social Awareness	6	Two approved courses – each from a different discipline (see list of approved courses)

Philosophical Inquiry	6	Two courses including a component in ethical understanding
Religious Foundations	6	Two courses

The following courses have been approved to meet the General Education requirements listed above.

First Year Experience

Two Foundations Courses

Course Code	Title	IAI#
ACAF 110	Foundations I: Bona Venture: Cosmic Journey ¹	
ACAF 120	Foundations II: Continuing the Journey ²	

¹ ACAF 110 will fulfill the history, creative arts, or literature requirement.

² ACAF 120 will fulfill the ENGL 112 requirement.

Communications

One course in oral communication

Course Code	Title	IAI#
CMMA 142	Speech Communication ¹	C2 900

Two courses in college writing

Course Code	Title	IAI#
ENGL 111	College Writing I ¹	C1 900
ENGL 112	College Writing II ¹	C1 901

¹ Illinois Articulation Initiative course. Transfer students should contact the transfer coordinator for course equivalencies to satisfy liberal education requirements.

If a student places out of College Writing I (through the freshman writing placement test or by transferring-in College Writing II or the equivalent), they will instead take one advanced writing course (select from English courses numbered 300-330).

Literary Inquiry and Aesthetic Awareness

One course in literary inquiry

Course Code	Title	IAI#
ENGL 200	Introduction to Literature ¹	H3 900
ENGL 201	Nature Writing	H3 900
ENGL 202	Travel Writing	H3 900
ENGL 203	Introduction to African American Literature	H3 900
ENGL 204	Know Thyself	H3 900

One course in aesthetic awareness

Course Code	Title	IAI#
ARTD 101	2-D Design Principles	
ARTD 151	Introduction to Drawing	
ARTD 152	Introduction to Painting	
ARTD 153	Introduction to Cartooning	
ARTD 202	Art and Culture Travel Studies	
ARTD 205	Exploring the Fine Arts ¹	F9 900
ARTD 215	Photo I	
ARTD 250	Screen Printing	
ARTD 253	Ceramics	
ARTD 255	Mechanical Reproduction	
ARTD 257	Ancient, Medieval & Non-European Art History ¹	F2 901
ARTD 258	Renaissance and Modern Art History	
ARTD 259	Art Now	
ARTD 360	Film and Photo Visual Culture	
ARTD 361	Comics and Graphic Novels: A Seminar	
ARTD 362	Video Game Seminar	
ARTD 363	Women in Art	
ARTD 364	Graphic Design History	
ARTD 494	Topics in Art & Design (depending on course content, see schedule)	
DARA 101	Digital Audio Recording I	
ENGL 123	Introduction to Creative Writing	
MUSC 105	Theory of Music	
MUSC 106	Theory of Music II	
MUSC 121	Introduction to Western Art Music ¹	F1 900
MUSC 222	Musical History I ¹	F1 901
MUSC 322	Music History II ¹	F1 902
MUSC 494	Topics in Music (depending on course content, see schedule)	

One course in history, creative arts, and literature

Course Code	Title	IAI#
ACAF 110	Foundations I: Bona Ventura: Cosmic Journey ²	
ARTD 101	2-D Design Principles	
ARTD 151	Introduction to Drawing	
ARTD 152	Introduction to Painting	
ARTD 153	Introduction to Cartooning	

ARTD 202	Art and Culture Travel Studies	
ARTD 205	Exploring the Fine Arts ¹	F9 900
ARTD 215	Photo I	
ARTD 253	Ceramics	
ARTD 257	Ancient, Medieval & Non-European Art History ¹	F2 901
ARTD 258	Renaissance and Modern Art History	
ARTD 259	Art Now	
ARTD 360	Film and Photo Visual Culture	
ARTD 361	Comics and Graphic Novels: A Seminar	
ARTD 494	Topics in Art & Design (depending on course content, see schedule)	
DARA 101	Digital Audio Recording I	
ENGL XXX	Any Advanced Level English course numbered 291 or higher ³	
HIST 111	History of World Civilization to 1500 ¹	S2 902
HIST 112	History of World Civilization Since 1500 ¹	S2 903
HIST 121	The United States to 1865 ¹	S2 900
HIST 122	The United States Since 1865	S2 901
HIST 241	History of Africa ¹	S2 906N
HIST 242	The Middle East	
HIST 244	History of India	
HIST 246	History of Latin America ¹	S2 910N
HIST 304	20th Century Europe	
HIST 320	Colonial America	
HIST 321	National Development	
HIST 322	Civil War and Reconstruction	
HIST 323	Emergence of Modern America	
HIST 324	The United States: 1914 – 1945	
HIST 325	The United States Since 1945	
HIST 344	Medieval Europe	
HIST 349	Modern Europe	
HIST 351	Classical Civilization of Greece and Rome	
HIST 352	Renaissance and Reformation	

HIST 494	Topics in History (depending on course content, see schedule)	
MUSC 105	Theory of Music	
MUSC 106	Theory of Music II	
MUSC 121	Introduction to Western Art Music ¹	F1 900
MUSC 222	Musical History I ¹	F1 901
MUSC 322	Music History II ¹	F1 902
MUSC 494	Topics in Music (depending on course content, see schedule)	

¹ Illinois Articulation Initiative course. Transfer students should contact the transfer coordinator for course equivalencies to satisfy liberal education requirements.

² Students that enter USF as freshmen are required to take ACAF 110.

³ Excluding ENGL 390.

Numerical Understanding and Scientific Inquiry

One course in numerical understanding

Course Code	Title	IAI#
MATH 102	Contemporary Mathematical Thinking	M1 904
MATH 105	Introduction to Statistics ¹	M1 902
MATH 109	Math for Teachers II ¹	M1 903
MATH 121	Finite Mathematics ¹	M1 906
MATH 170	Applied Calculus ¹	M1 900B
MATH 175	Statistics ¹	M1 902, BUS 901
MATH 181	Calculus with Analytic Geometry I ¹	M1 900-1
MATH 182	Calculus with Analytic Geometry II ¹	M1 900-1

One course in scientific inquiry

Course Code	Title	IAI#
BIOL 112	Introduction to the Principles of Heredity ¹	L1 906
BIOL 113	Anatomy and Physiology	
BIOL 114	Human Biology ¹	L1 904L
BIOL 115	Plants and Civilization ¹	L1 901L
BIOL 116	Intro to Life Science for Educators	
BIOL 124/BIOL 125	Principles of Biology I with Lab ¹	L1 900L
BIOL 126/BIOL 127	Principles of Biology II with Lab ¹	
BIOL 165	Tropical Biology	
CHEM 105	Chemistry and the Environment ¹	P1 903L
CHEM 120	Foundations of Chemistry	

CHEM 121/CHEM 123	General Chemistry I with Lab ¹	P1 902L
CHEM 122/CHEM 124	General Chemistry II with Lab ¹	
ENVS 105	Environment and Humanity ¹	P1 908L
ENVS 115	Science of Fly Fishing	
ENVS 120	Earth Science ¹	P1 905L
PSCI 101	Introduction to Physical Science ¹	P9 900L
PSCI 102	Introduction to Physical Science for Educators	
PSCI 104	Astronomy ¹	P1 906
PSCI 111	General Physics I ¹	P1 900L

One course in numerical understanding, scientific inquiry, or computer science

Course Code	Title	IAI#
BIOL 112	Introduction to the Principles of Heredity ¹	L1 906
BIOL 113	Anatomy and Physiology	
BIOL 114	Human Biology ¹	L1 904L
BIOL 115	Plants and Civilization ¹	L1 901L
BIOL 116	Intro to Life Science for Educators	
BIOL 124/BIOL 125	Principles of Biology I with Lab ¹	L1 900L
BIOL 126/BIOL 127	Principles of Biology II with Lab ¹	
BIOL 165	Tropical Biology	
BSAD 276	Business Statistics	
CHEM 105	Chemistry and the Environment ¹	P1 903L
CHEM 120	Foundations of Chemistry	
CHEM 121/CHEM 123	General Chemistry I with Lab ¹	P1 902L
CHEM 122/CHEM 124	General Chemistry II with Lab ¹	
COMP 101	Computer Concepts and Applications	
COMP 135	Introduction to Information Technology	
COMP 140	Computer Science I	
ENVS 105	Environment and Humanity ¹	
ENVS 115	Science of Fly Fishing	
ENVS 120	Earth Science ¹	P1 905L
MATH 102	Contemporary Mathematical Thinking	M1 904
MATH 105	Introduction to Statistics ¹	M1 902
MATH 109	Math for Teachers II ¹	M1 903
MATH 121	Finite Mathematics ¹	M1 906

MATH 170	Applied Calculus ¹	M1 900B
MATH 175	Statistics ¹	M1 902, BUS 901
MATH 181	Calculus with Analytic Geometry I ¹	M1 900-1
MATH 182	Calculus with Analytic Geometry II ¹	M1 900-1
PSCI 101	Introduction to Physical Science ¹	P9 900L
PSCI 104	Astronomy ¹	P1 906
PSCI 111	General Physics I ¹	P1 900L

¹ Illinois Articulation Initiative course. Transfer students should contact the transfer coordinator for course equivalencies to satisfy liberal education requirements.

Historical Understanding

One course in historical understanding

Course Code	Title	IAI#
HIST 111	History of World Civilization to 1500 ¹	S2 902
HIST 112	History of World Civilization Since 1500 ¹	S2 903
HIST 121	The United States to 1865 ¹	S2 900
HIST 122	The United States Since 1865 ¹	S2 901
HIST 241	History of Africa ¹	S2 906N
HIST 242	The Middle East	
HIST 244	History of India	
HIST 246	History of Latin America ¹	S2 910N
HIST 304	20th Century Europe	
HIST 320	Colonial America	
HIST 321	National Development	
HIST 322	Civil War and Reconstruction	
HIST 323	Emergence of Modern America	
HIST 324	The United States: 1914 – 1945	
HIST 325	The United States Since 1945	
HIST 344	Medieval Europe	
HIST 349	Modern Europe	
HIST 351	Classical Civilization of Greece and Rome	
HIST 352	Renaissance and Reformation	
HIST 494	Topics in History (depending on course content, see schedule)	

¹ Illinois Articulation Initiative course. Transfer students should contact the transfer coordinator for course equivalencies to satisfy liberal education requirements.

Social Awareness

Two courses (each from a different discipline) in communication, economics, foreign language, geography, history, political science, psychology, public health, recreation, sociology, social work

Course Code	Title	IAI#
CMMA 100	Media Literacy	
CSJU 101	Introduction to the Criminal Justice System	
ECON 101	Principles of Macroeconomics ¹	S3 901
ECON 102	Principles of Microeconomics ¹	S3 902
FORL XXX	Any Foreign Language course	
FREN XXX	Any French course	
GEOG 111	World Regional Geography	
HIST 304	20th Century Europe	
ITAL XXX	Any Italian course	
LEAD 101	Introduction to Leadership	
LEAD 225	Women and Leadership	
POLI 103	Intro to World Politics, International Law, and Organization	
POLI 105	American National Government	
POLI 205	Contemporary Political and Social Justice Issues	
POLI 208	Comparative Political Analysis	
POLI 221	State and Local Politics	
POLI 230	Political Communications	
POLI 328	The United States in World Affairs	
PSYC 111	General Psychology ¹	S6 900
PUBH 310	Public Health	
PUBH 312	Global Health	
PUBH 314	Epidemiology	
RSTM 103	Wellness and Lifestyle Satisfaction	
RSTM 200	Outdoor Leadership	
RSTM 299	Inclusion and Leisure in Society	
SOCI 111	Principles of Sociology ¹	S7 900
SOCI 250	Introduction to Anthropology ¹	S1 900N

SPAN XXX	Any Spanish course
SWRK 316	Women in Contemporary Society

¹ Illinois Articulation Initiative course. Transfer students should contact the transfer coordinator for course equivalencies to satisfy liberal education requirements.

Philosophical Inquiry

Two courses including a component in ethical understanding

Course Code	Title	IAI#
PHIL 101	Introduction to Philosophical Thinking ¹	H4 900
PHIL 202	Philosophy of the Human Person	
PHIL 228	Topics in Contemporary Philosophy	
PHIL 250	Ethics for Educators and Services Professionals	
PHIL 310	Ancient Greek Philosophy	
PHIL 312	Philosophy of Religion ¹	H4 905
PHIL 320	Contemporary Issues in Ethics	
PHIL 321	Western Political Philosophy	
PHIL 330	Just Business	

¹ Illinois Articulation Initiative course. Transfer students should contact the transfer coordinator for course equivalencies to satisfy liberal education requirements.

Religious Foundations

Two courses

Course Code	Title	IAI#
THEO 101	Introduction to Theology	
THEO 200	Introduction to Old Testament ¹	H5 901
THEO 210	Introduction to New Testament ¹	H5 901
THEO 220	Church: Yesterday and Today	
THEO 230	Christian Morality	
THEO 240	Christian Marriage	
THEO 250	Christian Social Teaching	
THEO 260	Worship and Christian Life	
THEO 280	Religion in America ¹	H5 905
THEO 290	World Religions ¹	H5 9004N
THEO 305	Second Vatican Council	
THEO 312	Philosophy of Religion	

THEO 330	Theology of Death and Dying
THEO 350	Images of Jesus

¹ Illinois Articulation Initiative course. Transfer students should contact the transfer coordinator for course equivalencies to satisfy liberal education requirements.

Approved Liberal Education Courses

Note: Cross-listed courses count for liberal education requirements only in the department of origin.