

THE INTEGRATIVE CORE CURRICULUM AT JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the courses students take for Foundational Competencies?

Students will take courses in writing, oral expression, and quantitative analysis. Each of these courses will have training in technological and information literacy embedded in them—students will not take a separate course in technological and information literacy.

How are students placed in their foundational writing courses?

Most students will be placed in EN 125, Seminar on Academic Writing, a one-semester course that fulfills the Core foundational writing requirement. Students who need additional training in writing will take two courses in a two-semester sequence: EN 120 and EN 121, Developmental Writing I and II (both courses required for fulfilling the foundational writing requirement). Students will be placed as they have in the past: those students who would have been placed in EN 111/112 and EN 114/116 will take EN 125; those students who would have been placed in EN 103/104 will take EN 120/121.

What foundational oral expression will students take?

Students will take CO 125, Speech Communications. This 3-credit course replaces the 2-credit CO 100.

From what departments can students take Quantitative Analysis courses?

The MT/CS department offers many of our foundational QA courses (currently MT 119, MT 122, MT 228, MT 229); but students can take approved QA courses in other departments as well. For Fall 2015, students can take a QA course in EC, ER and PO; and we have just approved a QA course in ED.

When should student take their courses for Foundational Competencies?

Students should take try to take all courses for foundational competencies their first year, particularly writing and oral expression. For some majors, it makes sense for students to take their QA course later (probably sophomore year); but in any case, early is better because these competencies are reiterated elsewhere in the Integrative Core Curriculum and in the majors.

Do they need to take all courses for Foundational Competencies their first semester at JCU?

No, in fact, it may be good to spread these courses out first and second semesters. For students placed in EN 120, they should take this course in the Fall of their first year (EN 121 will then be offered in the Spring). Students might consider EN 125 in the fall and CO 125 in the spring, or vice versa. The foundational writing course (EN 125 or EN 120/121) is a prerequisite for all integrated courses (more on this below), and so for students who will be ready to begin their integrated courses in the Spring, taking EN 125 in the Fall makes sense. Keep in mind that not all first-year students will be able to take EN 125 in the fall because of space limitations (however, we are offering more sections in the Fall than in the Spring in anticipation that many students will want to take this course their first semester).

What are the Core requirements for foreign language study?

Students must complete the 201 level or equivalent if they continue with the same language that they studied in high school; those who place above this level (201), as determined by a proctored placement test which is given on campus, are exempt from the Core language requirement. If students choose to start a new language rather than continue with their previously studied language, they must complete a two course sequence (101-102).

How do students get placed in their language courses?

All students are urged to pre-register for the placement test when they sign up for their orientation session. The placement test will be administered during orientation. Students will be tested on the language that they studied in high school. When students register for their classes at the end of the orientation session, their advisors will be informed of the level in which they should be placed. If they place **above** the 201 level, they will be exempt from the Core language requirement (though, of course, they may continue in that language, and if so, are urged continue in their first semester at JCU; also, students should be aware that there are some majors and minors that do require language above the 201 level Core requirement.) For students who decide to begin a new language at JCU, they should register for a 101 section.

Only one placement test can be taken during orientation. Students who have studied more than one language should take the placement test in the language that they are most likely to study at JCU. But placement tests will also be offered right before the beginning of fall semester, and at pre-announced times during the academic year. Pre-registration will always be required for all placement tests.

What are the types of Integrated Courses?

Students will take one course in Examining the Global Community (3 credits), two linked courses in Exploring the Natural World (6 credits), and two linked courses in Examining Human Experience (credits). All courses are interdisciplinary: EGC courses are either team-taught by two professors or taught by a single professor who is part of a faculty learning community (faculty in the learning community will share with each other their different disciplinary perspectives). The linked courses in ENW and EHE are taught by faculty in different departments and with different disciplinary specialties; the linked courses cover the same general topic or related subject matter and give students opportunities to analyze a similar set of issues and problems from multiple perspectives. Often the linked courses will have a signature assignment, required of both classes, that combines the disciplinary perspectives.

ENW links must include one course from the natural sciences (BL, CH, MT/CS, PH/EP, PS). EHE links must include one course from the humanities (AH, CMLC/CL/IC, CO, EN, HS). EGC courses can be from any discipline.

Do these courses have pre-requisites?

Yes, because the integrated courses build upon skills students learn in their foundational courses. All integrated courses have a writing component, and so the foundational writing (EN 125 or EN 120/121) must be completed before taking an integrated course. The ENW linked pair has a QA component, and so the foundation QA course must be completed before taking the ENW courses.

At what level are these courses?

These courses can be at any level, but in most cases, they will be lower-division courses without prerequisites.

What are the additional requirements for the integrated courses?

In addition to the requirement that all students complete take EGC, ENW, and EHE courses, within the five courses students take, one course must be a natural science course (BL, CH, MT/CS, PH/EP, PS), one course must be a humanities course (AH, CMLC/CL/IC, CO, EN, HS), and one course must be a social science course (EC, PO, SC).

How do students sign up for a linked pair of courses for EHE and ENW?

The linked courses for ENW and EHE are co-requisites; students register for both courses in the linked pair. The linked courses will be indicated on Banner.

Do students have to take both courses at the same time?

Yes, to be truly integrated, the courses need to be taken at the same time.

What if a student has to drop one of the linked courses?

Students may not drop a linked course without permission of the instructors. If they must drop one class, they may continue in the other class, but they will need to complete another set of linked courses in that category.

What types of courses make up the Jesuit Heritage component of the Integrative Core Curriculum?

Students are required to take two courses in Philosophy, two courses in Theology & Religious Studies, one Issues in Social Justice course, and one Creative and Performing Arts course.

What are the requirements for core Philosophy courses?

In the Integrative Core Curriculum, students will no longer take PL 101. Students will take one course from the **Knowledge & Reality** category and one course from the **Values & Society** category. Taking a course from each of these categories ensures that students will experience a broad range of areas, major themes, and problems within philosophy. Knowledge & Reality courses explore fundamental questions of nature, existence, and understanding. The ethics requirement will be met specifically by the Values & Society courses, which explore fundamental questions of humans' relationship to one another and to the world.

Courses in each category are at the 200 and 300 level. Students are not required to take a 200-level course before a 300-level course. Also, students are not required to take a course from one category before the other. These courses no longer have the PL 101 prerequisite.

What are the requirements for core Theology & Religious Studies courses?

Students are required to take TRS 101 and one additional course (at the 200 or 300 level). TRS 101 is a prerequisite for the second TRS course.

What departments offer Issues in Social Justice courses?

Issues in Social Justice courses are not confined to a single department: currently we offer SJ courses in EN, HS, and SC, and we expect to add other courses and departments.

What are students' options for Creative and Performing Arts courses?

Students have a range of opportunities for CAPA courses, from music, to dance, to theatre, to photography, to entrepreneurship. The minimum requirement for a CAPA course is 1 credit, but students may also take a 3-credit course (students will have several options at 1 and 3 credits).

Can students double-dip in their Core courses?

No, students may not double-dip Core courses; that is, no single Core course will count for more than one Core requirement. For example, if students take a TRS courses as one of the linked courses in Examining Human Experience, they still must take the two required TRS courses for the Jesuit Heritage component of the Core.

Can students double-dip in courses for Core and their major/minor?

Yes, Core courses may count for major/minor requirements, but what counts for major/minor will be determined by the respective academic departments and programs.

Can students transfer in Core credits?

Yes, students may transfer in credits for the Integrative Core Curriculum, but the courses transferred in must conform substantially to the requirements, including learning goals, of Core courses offered at JCU.

We have more specific policies in two areas of the curriculum: (1) for **linked courses**: Transfer students who enter with fewer than 25 hours transferred must take both sets of linked courses (Exploring the Natural World and Examining Human Experience) at JCU. (2) for **Jesuit Heritage courses**: Given the centrality-to-mission of this portion of the Core, students can transfer in only 6 credits for Jesuit Heritage courses. No more than 3 credit hours can count toward fulfilling the Philosophy requirement; no more than 3 credits hours can count toward fulfilling the Theology & Religious Studies requirement.

All requests for transfer credit require submission of an academic petition. Syllabi may be required.