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 COMM 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 (including MT 119, MT 122, MT 221, MT 228, MT 229); but students can take approved QA courses in other departments as well. Most semesters we offer foundational QA courses in Chemistry (CH 261/263), Economics (EC 208 or EC 210, which will replace EC 208), Entrepreneurship (ER 115), Education (ED 101), Political Science (PO 105 and PO 203), Sports Studies (SPS 122). We have recently added a new QA course: DATA 100, Introduction to Data Science.

When should students 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 (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 COMM 125 in the spring, or vice versa. The foundational writing course (EN 125 or EN 120/121) is a prerequisite for all integrated courses (EGC and linked courses), 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.

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, which could entail taking three language courses if beginning at 101. Those who place above 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 to 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. 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 changes to Integrated Courses component of the Integrative Core Curriculum?
In May 2017, the JCU faculty approved revised requirements for the integrated courses. Previously, students were required to complete EGC (one course), ENW (two linked courses), EHE (two linked courses), and with these courses also fulfill distribution requirements (a humanities course, a social science course, and a natural science course). The revised requirements have separated the integrated courses and the distribution requirements. The new requirements are as follows:

Integrated Courses:
Each student must take one set of two linked courses (6 cr.) and one EGC course (3 cr.). The linked courses no longer have content requirements (as did ENW and EHE); there are no disciplinary restrictions for the combination of linked courses, other than the two courses must come from different academic departments. The EGC course remains the same.

The linked courses and the EGC course will continue to have a writing component, and so foundational writing (EN 125 or EN 120/121) will continue as a pre-requisite. With the elimination of the ENW category, QA is no longer a required component in the linked courses, and so foundational QA will not be a pre-requisite for the linked courses.

Distribution Courses:
Each student must take three distribution courses: a course in the humanities, a course in the social sciences, and a course in the natural sciences (each 3 cr.). Keeping true to our liberal arts tradition, these courses ensure that each student is introduced to a broad range of academic inquiry.

What are the distribution courses? At least initially, the courses identified for each category will come from the departments noted in the original (new) Core document for distribution within the Integrated Courses: "Integrated Courses must include one science (BL, CH, MT/CS, PH/EP, PS), one social science (EC, PO, SC), and one humanities (AH, CMLC/IC/CL, CO, EN, HS)." These categories are also similar to divisions II, III, and IV of the old, Distributive Core.

For the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters, department chairs will be asked to present a preliminary list of courses in their departments identified as distribution courses, and these courses will have provisional approval. They will be noted on the Banner schedule as HUM, SOC, and SCI. During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Core committee will work with departments and divisions to go through a formal process of approving distribution courses and learning goals for those courses.

While the faculty has had some discussion (and may continue discussion) of "double-dipping" among integrated courses and distribution courses, the current policy states that no double-dipping is allowed. In other words, a course taken for EGC or the links will not simultaneously count for distribution. In many cases, the distribution courses will be introductions to disciplines (though this is not required), and thus the students will benefit from a focus on disciplinary knowledge before (or at least apart from) the focus on interdisciplinary knowledge (in the integrated courses).

It is likely that most of our students will complete at least one of their distribution requirements by fulfilling major/minor requirements.

How does this new policy for Integrated Courses and Distribution courses affect our current students who have already been completing their Core requirements?
We have made the revised integrated courses component retroactive so that all new Core students, including our current new Core students (mostly rising sophomores and juniors) will be governed by the new model.

However, students get credit for all the work they have done under the original design of the integrated courses: they were taking these courses with those requirements in mind. For example, if a current student took an ENW link in Fall 2017 or earlier that paired a BL course and an EN course, that student would get credit for the "Linked Courses" requirement, as well as the SCI and HUM distribution requirements. Because the policy under which the student took the courses stated that the distribution is built into the linked courses, we honor that policy in the transition—we will not require the students to take a separate humanities or natural science course. However, linked courses taken in Spring 2018 and later may not be used to meet the distribution requirement.

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The Core Director, the Registrar, and the Advising office are working to make the transition as smooth as possible for students and advisors. The guiding principle is that no student who came in under the Integrative Core will be penalized (forced to take additional credit hours) by this proposed revision to the Integrative Core. If it appears that in the transition a current new Core student would need more credits than in the old model (this will be rare), the student and advisor will work with the Core director to determine the best plan forward.   Graduation audits have been adjusted so that faculty and students can simply run an audit to determine what requirements they have left.

What follows is a guide for advising our current new Core students who have already been taking their integrated courses.

Key: *LINK = linked courses*
         EGC = Engaging the Global Community
         HUM = humanities distribution
         SOC = social science distribution
         SCI = natural science distribution

For students who have finished only one integrated course:

Taken before Spring 2018:	Will Receive:
EGC only*	EGC; HUM
EGC+SOC*	EGC; SOC
EHE only	LINK; HUM
EHE+SOC	LINK; HUM; SOC
ENW only (CH/PH, CH/ER, and EP/ER pairs)**	LINK; SCI
ENW only (all other pairs)**	LINK; SCI; HUM

*To date, EGCs have only been offered with humanities or social sciences components.

**To date, no ENWs have been offered with a social science component.

For students who have completed two integrated courses:

Taken before Spring 2018:	Will Receive:
EGC+EHE	EGC; HUM; LINK
EGC+ENW	EGC; HUM; LINK; SCI
EHE+ENW	LINK; HUM; SCI
EGC+SOC+EHE	EGC; SOC; LINK; HUM
EGC+SOC+ENW (CH/PH, CH/ER, EP/ER)	EGC; SOC; LINK; SCI
EGC+SOC+ENW (all other pairs)	EGC; SOC; LINK; SCI; HUM
EHE+SOC+ENW (any pair)	LINK; HUM; SOC; SCI

For students who have completed all three:

Taken before Spring 2018:	Will Receive:
EGC + EHE + ENW (any pair)	EGC; HUM; LINK; SCI
EGC+SOC + EHE + ENW (any pair)	EGC; SOC; LINK; HUM; SCI

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To look at it another way:

Currently Have:	Needed in original design:	Need in revised model:
EGC	ENW, EHE+SOC (12 cr.)	LINK; SOC; SCI (12 cr.)
EGC+SOC	ENW, EHE (12)	LINK; HUM; SCI (12)
EHE	EGC+SOC, ENW (9)	EGC; SOC; SCI (9)
EHE+SOC	EGC, ENW (9)	EGC; SCI (**6**)
ENW (CH/PH, CH/ER, EP/ER)	EGC, EHE+SOC (9)	EGC; SOC; HUM (9)
ENW (all other pairs)	EGC, EHE+SOC (9)	EGC; SOC (**6**)
EGC+EHE	ENW+SOC (6)	SCI; SOC (6)
EGC+ENW	EHE+SOC (6)	SOC (**3**)
EHE+ENW	EGC+SOC (3)	EGC; SOC (**6**)
EGC+SOC+EHE	ENW (6)	SCI (**3**)
EGC+SOC+ENW (CH/PH, etc.)	EHE (6)	HUM (3)
EGC+SOC+ENW (all other pairs)	EHE (6)	**Nothing**
EHE+SOC+ENW	EGC (3)	EGC (3)
EGC+EHE+ENW	*waiver of SOC*	SOC (3)
EGC+SOC+EHE+ENW	Nothing	Nothing

How do students sign up for a pair of Linked Courses?
The linked courses 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 in the same semester.

What if a student has to drop or withdraw from one of the linked courses?
- **Dropping a linked course** (add/drop week): If a student drops one linked course, she/he must drop the other, as the courses are co-requisites. The student should select another set of linked courses to take (or two other courses to fill in the schedule).
- **Withdrawal from a linked course**: If a student withdraws from one linked course, she/he may continue in the other course but will need to complete another set of linked courses to fulfill the Core requirement.
- **Failure of a linked course**: If a student fails a linked course, she/he can retake the same set of linked courses or take another set of linked courses to fulfill the Core requirement.

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 (PLKR)** category and one course from the **Values &**

Society (PLVS) 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. **Note that the course number indicates the *type* of course not the level of difficulty:** 200-level courses study philosophical questions in a historical context; 300-level courses study specific philosophical areas.   Therefore, 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?
With the proposed revisions to TRS Core requirements having been approved by faculty vote (May 2017), students are still required to take two TRS courses for the Jesuit Heritage component of the Core; however, they are no longer required to take TRS 101. Instead, students are required to take one lower division TRS Core course (1xx or 2xx) and one 300-level TRS Core course. As of now, a 200-level course will be the most likely option for the lower division course.

With this change, there no longer will be a TRS 101 pre-requisite for the 200- and 300-level courses. Moreover, the lower-division course is not necessarily a pre-requisite for the 300-level course. **Like Philosophy courses, the TRS course number indicates the *type* of course, not the level of difficulty:** the 200-level courses involve broad surveys of a topic while the 300-level courses have more specific and limited foci.

Both the lower-division and 300-level courses are open to new students; however, the department recommends that only students who place in EN 125 (or who have completed their foundational writing requirement) take these courses their first semester at JCU because all TRS courses have a substantial writing requirement.

Regarding the transition to the new TRS/Jesuit Heritage policy and our current students:

- A student who has completed TRS 101 and a 2xx or 3xx TRS Core course has fulfilled the Jesuit Heritage TRS requirement. Nothing further need be done.
- A student who has passed TRS 101 but has not taken the second TRS/Jesuit Heritage course must take either a 2xx or 3xx TRS Core course to complete the TRS/Jesuit Heritage requirement.
- A student who has not yet taken TRS 101 must take one lower-division TRS Core course (1xx or 2xx) and one 3xx TRS Core course to complete the TRS/Jesuit Heritage requirement. These two courses can be taken in either order, depending upon the student's needs and topical interests.

This change has no effect on students following the old, Distributive Core.

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Regarding the future of TRS 101 and the First in the World (FITW) grant:
TRS 101 eventually will be discontinued. However, in the near future, sections of TRS 101 will be offered as part of the First in the World Grant, and old Core students still needing to complete TRS 101 (or re-take the course) will have the opportunity to do so—some sections will be offered.

What departments offer Issues in Social Justice courses?
Issues in Social Justice courses are not confined to a single department: currently the following departments and programs offer ISJ courses: CL, COMM, ED, EN, ER, HS, IC, LSP, PJHR, PL, PO, PS, SC, TRS, WGS. You can find a full listing of approved courses on the Core website: http://sites.jcu.edu/core.

Our current slate of ISJ courses are also offered at various levels. Some, such as PS 100 and PO 103, are certainly appropriate for first-year students. Many of the 200-level courses do not have pre-requisites and also are appropriate for first-year students. Because the Core curriculum is designed so that students take Core courses throughout their years at JCU, some students may opt to take an upper-division ISJ course, which may also be an elective for their major or minor. Several ISJ courses also have service learning components.

What are students' options for Creative and Performing Arts courses?
Students have a range of opportunities for CAPA courses, including music, dance, creative writing, theatre, photography, and 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).

What are the additional Core requirements in the major?
All new Core students are required to complete these requirements in the major:
- a course in the major (or a course offered by another department that is related to the discipline of the major) that focuses on writing in that profession (AW);
- an additional oral presentation, either in a majors course or at an appropriate venue outside of a course, such as Celebration of Scholarship, a department colloquium, an undergraduate conference, etc. (OP); and
- a capstone (course or project) in the major.

Each department will determine how their students will complete these requirements, and the departments will request approval from the Core committee.

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 course as one of their linked courses, 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.

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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.

The faculty also recently approved a new transfer credit policy (May 2017), which affects the Core curriculum. The policy is as follows:

- Students who bring in 0-44 credits are responsible for all core requirements not already met through transferred coursework.

- Students who bring in 45+ credits must transfer in or take the following courses at John Carroll to meet core or program prerequisites:

    > (1) EN 125, Seminar on Academic Writing, or its equivalent.
    > (2) Some programs of study require foundational coursework in oral communication, foreign language, or quantitative analysis. The prerequisites for these programs will not be waived.

- In addition, students who bring in 45+ credits must complete the following core requirements at John Carroll:

    > (1) One linked pair of courses from the Integrative component of the core curriculum.
    > (2) One Engaging the Global Community course from the Integrative component of the core curriculum.
    > (3) Two courses (6 credits) from the Jesuit Heritage component of the core curriculum.

We also have a transfer policy specifically for the **Jesuit Heritage** component of the Core curriculum:

- Given the centrality-to-mission of this portion of the Core, students who bring in 0-44 credits to JCU may apply no more than 6 transfer credits to the Jesuit Heritage portion of the Core. No more than 3 credit hours may count toward fulfilling the Philosophy requirement; no more than 3 credit hours may count toward fulfilling the Theology & Religious Studies requirement.

Requests for transfer credit require submission of an online Academic Petition. Syllabi may be required. Visit the Registrar's webpage>Services and Forms for the online Academic Petition. Faculty and students may check the status of petitions by contacting the Registrar's Office at **petitions@jcu.edu**.