University of Minnesota, Morris

Goals of the General Education Requirements

I. Intellectual Community: To foster development of a liberal arts intellectual community through the introduction of intellectual and practical skills and through active student-faculty engagement in unique course material in their first semester at UMM.

II. A. Writing for the Liberal Arts: To learn the general conventions of academic writing, including analysis and argumentation; lay the foundation for learning conventions specific to individual disciplines; practice the writing process, especially revision; develop information literacy and understand research process.

B. Foreign Language: To develop some fluency in the skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing in a second language; and critical insight into another culture.

C. Mathematical/Symbolic Reasoning: To strengthen students’ ability to formulate abstractions, construct proofs, and utilize symbols in formal systems.

D. Artistic Performance: To introduce an understanding of the creative process through individual performance, and demonstrate skill in such activities as composition, theater, dance, studio art, and music.

III. A. Historical Perspectives: To increase students’ understanding of the past, the complexity of human affairs, the ways in which various forces—economic, cultural, religious, political, scientific—influence efforts to control events, and the ways historians verify and interpret their findings.

B. Human Behavior, Social Processes, and Institutions: To increase students’ systematic understanding of themselves as functioning humans, their individual similarities to and differences from others, their awareness of the nature and significance of their conscious experience, and the forces that shape their interpersonal attachments and interactions; or to increase students’ understanding of methods of analyzing modern society or some significant legal, political, economic, religious, social, or scientific component of it.

C. Communication, Language, Literature, and Philosophy: To expand students’ capacity to understand, analyze, discuss, and evaluate discourse concerning the complexity of the human condition through the study of languages and works of thought and imagination.

D. Fine Arts: To develop students’ understanding, analysis, and appreciation of the arts.

E. Physical and Biological Sciences: To increase students’ understanding of the structure and dynamics of the physical and biological worlds, and of the scientific method.

F. The Global Village: To increase students’ understanding of the growing interdependence among nations, peoples, and the natural world.

1. Human Diversity: To increase students’ understanding of individual and group differences (e.g., race, gender, class, etc.) and their knowledge of the traditions and values of various groups in the United States.

2. People and the Environment: To increase students’ understanding of the interrelatedness of human society and the natural world.

3. International Perspective: To increase students’ systematic understanding of national cultures substantially different from those in which they received their prior schooling.

4. Ethical and Civic Responsibility: To broaden and develop students’ capacity to question and reflect upon their own and society’s values and critical responsibilities, and to understand forces, such as technology, that cause them to modify these views and often mandate creation of new ways to resolve legal, social, and scientific issues.

UMM courses designated as appropriate for meeting general education requirements are those which, if passed successfully, demonstrate the student’s competency in a given skill or area.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 60 credits of general education coursework outside the discipline of the major and must meet the requirements described on the next page. The requirements may be met not only through UMM courses, but also by transfer of credit, examinations for proficiency or credit, assessment of prior learning, individual projects, and other means. For details, students should consult with their advisers.

In some instances the specific general education requirements may be met using fewer than 60 UMM credits. If this occurs, then introductory or advanced elective courses from any discipline outside the major—with the exception of courses in elementary or secondary education, wellness and sport science, or accounting courses in management—may be used to fulfill the remaining credits of the 60-credit general education requirements.
**ACHIEVING A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION AND UMM LEARNING OUTCOMES** = General Education + a Major*(see your APAS for degree requirements).

“Liberal Education is an approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. It provides students with broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g. science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest. A liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.” AAC&U ([http://www.aacu.org/leap/what_is_liberal_education.cfm](http://www.aacu.org/leap/what_is_liberal_education.cfm))

![Table of Liberal Arts Education Requirements](image)