

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES (CLAS)

Alfred University Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree

The CLAS requirements for the bachelor's degree combine breadth of study in a range of disciplines, represented by the CLAS General Education requirements, with specialization in a major field of study. Grounded in the values and goals of liberal education, our curriculum helps to prepare students for a future of responsible citizenship and career flexibility. To qualify for a bachelor's degree, students are required to complete at least 124 credits with a minimum grade point average of 2.0; a bachelor of arts requires 90 of those credits to be in liberal arts (as defined by New York State). A bachelor of science requires 60 liberal arts hours. The 124 credits are distributed among three general categories: General Education requirements (including University requirements); major requirements; and electives. NOTE: A maximum of 10 Music Ensemble credits and 8 Physical Education/Equestrian credits can be counted toward the 124 credits. Students choose their major(s) in consultation with their advisor and must formally declare their major(s) by the end of their sophomore year. Details about individual majors are available on the AU website and from individual programs. The General Education program requirements are divided into three parts: Basic Competencies, Areas of Knowledge, and Additional University requirements. Students are expected to fulfill the Basic Competencies in the first two years. In consultation with faculty academic advisors, students work out a plan of study for each semester, such that an appropriate balance is achieved of General Education courses, major requirements, electives, and extracurricular activities.

Upon entering the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, all students take either an FYE (First Year Experience course), or CLAS 101: Transfer Seminar. FYE courses are staffed by dedicated faculty members and student peer leaders. They help students transition to the College and also fulfill one of the General Education requirements.

Basic Competencies

Competency requirements may be satisfied through either proficiency examinations (which carry no academic credit) or course work (which does carry academic credit). While these requirements are fulfilled with one or two courses, students are encouraged to go beyond the basic requirements with further coursework in these areas to continue to hone these important skills.

Written Communication (Attribute 01)

Each student must successfully demonstrate competency equivalent to the second semester of college writing. Students take the appropriate level writing course based on scores achieved on college entrance exams. Students who have achieved one of the following minimum scores will place into Writing II: SAT Verbal 540-739; SAT Writing 500-699; or ACT English 26-29. Students who have achieved one of the following scores have met this basic competency requirement: SAT Verbal 740; SAT Writing 700; or ACT English 30.

Foreign Language (Attribute 02)

Students must successfully complete the second semester of the first year of a foreign language at the college level or pass an equivalency (placement) exam with a score of 61% or higher. Language placement tests are offered during Orientation Week. Students should start their language requirement no later than their sophomore year and continue each subsequent semester with language study until the requirement is fulfilled.

Quantitative Reasoning (Attribute 03)

Students must demonstrate competency in Quantitative Reasoning through a) a score of 630 or higher on the SAT-Math exam or 28 or higher on the ACT Math exam; b) a score of 4 or higher on the Advanced Placement Exam in either Calculus AB or Calculus BC; or c) the successful completion of an AU course identified as a Quantitative Reasoning course (Attribute 03).

Areas of Knowledge

Literature (Attribute A): 4 credits of coursework required.

Philosophy or Religious Studies (Attribute B): 4 credits of coursework required.

The Arts (Attribute C): 4 credits of coursework required. (maximum 10 credits of music ensembles allowed)

Historical Studies (Attribute D): 4 credits of coursework required.

Social Sciences (Attribute E): 8 credits of coursework, which must be selected from at least two of the following categories:

E1. Psychology/Gerontology

E2. Political Science/Economics

E3. Sociology/Anthropology

Natural Sciences (Attribute F): 8 credits required.

For students admitted before Fall 2015

(at least one course must include lab work)

F1. Science with a laboratory

F2. Non-laboratory Science

For students admitted Fall 2015 and after

(at least 2 credits must be from FI category)

FI. Scientific Inquiry

FII. Scientific Knowledge

FIII. Science and Society

Most CLAS courses are 4-credit hours, so a 4-credit requirement is normally fulfilled by taking one course. Only certain courses in the CLAS curriculum are designated as fulfilling specified General Education requirements. "Attribute" codes in the on-line course system (Banner) help students search for and identify appropriate courses. For approved transfer course work, a three-credit course may be considered equivalent to a 4-credit General Education course and may satisfy a designated requirement, but still only counts for 3 credits toward the 124 minimum credits needed for graduation. Consult your advisor on these matters.

Additional University Course Requirements

Global Perspectives Requirement (fulfilled by a course designated as GP; study abroad; or an international internship)

Physical Education (fulfilled by two PE courses, two different Varsity sports, a combination, or proficiency exam, max. 8 credits)