

A Survey of Core Curricula at Catholic Universities

This survey is meant to be a basic reference. We have not captured all of the details of each core, and encourage you to use the included links to explore further. Our hope is that these examples can suggest some of the options available to USD, as it seeks to design a Catholic-inflected core curriculum.

Method

- Unless otherwise noted these are 3-unit, semester courses.
- For consistency, with each curriculum we count the maximum number of language courses.
- Many core requirements can be double counted, like USD's D courses. These are identified with an asterisk, and for consistency they are not counted in the total core size tally.
- Some schools have slightly different core requirements for business or engineering schools. Reported here are requirements for colleges of liberal arts.
- All information is taken from university websites.

Vocabulary

- "Distribution by category": a standard distribution structure, but not by department. In some places the categories are the familiar units, "social science," "humanities," etc. and in other places they are thematic, such as "Critical Thinking" or "Engaging the World"
- "Required Core Course": a course with a relatively universal syllabus, required for all students, such as Columbia's well known Literature Humanities course.
- "LLC": Living Learning Community, such as USD is currently developing
- See the Core Action Plan glossary for further descriptions of types of core curricula

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Please see Appendix (final page), for a chart summarizing the results of this survey.

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Univ. of San Diego

<http://www.sandiego.edu/catalogs/undergraduate/bachelor.php>

http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/documents/theo/Faculty_Res/Core_Curriculum_Checklist_Fall_2010.pdf

http://www.sandiego.edu/admissions/undergraduate/academics/general_requirements.php

Core Size: 18 courses

Degree Req.: 42 courses (124 units)

% of total curriculum for Core: 43%

Type: Distribution

- 1 Written Literacy
- 1 Math
- 1 Critical Reasoning
- 3 Second Language
- 3 THRS
- 2 PHIL
- 1 HIST
- 1 Literature
- 1 Fine Arts
- 1 Physical Science
- 1 Life Science (plus 1 lab)
- 2 Social Science
- 1 UD Writing Course*
- 1 Diversity*

* May simultaneously fulfill a core or major requirement. (Because it can be double counted, this course is not included in the core size total above.)

Boston College

<http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/avp/core.html>

<http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/avp/core/structure.html>

<http://www.bc.edu/admission/undergrad/transfer/corerequirements.html>

Core Size: 18 courses

Degree Req.: 38 courses

% of total curriculum for Core: 47%

Type: Distribution

- 1 Writing
- 1 Literature
- 1 Arts
- 1 Mathematics
- 2 History
- 2 Philosophy

- 2 Social Sciences
- 2 Natural Science
- 2 Theology
- 4 Language
- 1 Cultural Diversity*

* May simultaneously fulfill a core or major requirement. (Because it can be double counted, this course is not included in the core size total above.)

Creighton

<http://www.creighton.edu/admissions/prospectivestudents/admitted/registerforfallclasses/collegeofartssciencesregistration/guidelines/corecurriculumrequirements/index.php>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chyLFOcKUOQ> [!!!!]

Core Size: 21 courses

Degree Req: 43 courses (128 credits @ 3 credits)

% of total curriculum for Core: 49%

Type: Distribution by category; required core courses; capstone

- 6 larger categories organize the distribution, but the distribution is effectively by department
- Within the distribution are several required courses
- Capstone “Senior Perspective”: an interdisciplinary, team-taught course, related to student’s major - <http://puffin.creighton.edu/srp/srp.htm>

- 3 Theology (required course: “Christianity in Context”)
- 2 Philosophy (required course: “God and Persons”)
- 1 Ethics (taught by Philosophy or Theology)
- 2 History (required course: “The Modern Western World”)
- 2 English (required courses: “World Lit I” and “World Lit II”)
- 3 Natural Science (plus lab)
- 2 Social and Behavioral Sciences
- 1 Math
- 1 college writing
- 1 speech or studio/performing arts
- 2 second language
- 1 Senior Perspective

Duquesne

<http://www.duq.edu/core-curriculum/index.cfm>

<http://www.duq.edu/catalog-2012-2013/academic-programs/liberal-arts/degrees-and-requirements.cfm>

Size: 22 courses (11 in the “Core”; 11 in “College General Requirements”)

Degree Req.: 40 courses

% of total curriculum for Core: 55%

Type: Distribution by department and by “Theme Areas”

- 4 Theme Areas: “Creative Arts,” “Faith and Reason,” “Global Diversity,” “Social Justice” – taught by any department

2 Composition

1 Mathematics

1 Natural Science

1 Philosophy

1 Theology

1 Ethics

1 Creative Arts

1 Faith and Reason

1 Global Diversity

1 Social Justice

3 Second Language

1 Communication

1 Math/Science

2 Social Science

2 History/Literature

2 Philosophy/Theology

1 Service-Learning Course*

1 Information Literacy Course*

4 Writing-Intensive Courses*

* May simultaneously fulfill a core or major requirement. (Because it can be double counted, this course is not included in the core size total above.)

Fairfield

http://www.fairfield.edu/academic/core_require.html

http://www.fairfield.edu/academic/core_about.html

Core Size: 22 courses

Degree Req: 40 courses

% of total curriculum for Core: 55%

Type: Distribution

2 Mathematics

2 Natural Sciences

2 History
2 Social Sciences
2 Philosophy
2 Religious Studies
1 Philosophy, religious studies, or applied ethics
3 English & Literature
2 Visual and Performing Arts
4 Language (4 units each)
1 US Diversity*
1 Global Diversity*

* May simultaneously fulfill a core or major requirement. (Because it can be double counted, this course is not included in the core size total above.)

Fordham

<http://www.fordham.edu/UndergraduateBulletin/>

Core Size: 19

Degree Req.: 36 courses (lower division 3 unit, upper division 4 unit)

% of total curriculum for Core: 53%

Type: Distribution, with scaffolding, and advanced components

- Distribution by discipline and category
- Some scaffolding: “Advanced Disciplinary Study” requires UD courses
- Advanced components: 2 capstones; 1 optional service learning course

1 Composition
3 Second Language
1 Mathematical/Computational Reasoning
2 Natural Science
1 Philosophy of Human Nature
1 Faith and Critical Reason
1 Fine and Performing Arts
1 English
1 History
1 Social Science
1 Ethics
1 Sacred Texts and Traditions
2 Advanced courses in History, Literature, and Social Science
1 Interdisciplinary Capstone in History, Literature, and Social Science
1 Values Seminar
4 “Eloquentia Perfecta” courses, marked “EP” among core courses and in majors*
1 Global Studies *
1 American Pluralism*

* May simultaneously fulfill a core or major requirement. (Because it can be double counted, this course is not included in the core size total above.)

Georgetown

<http://www12.georgetown.edu/undergrad/bulletin/collegegen.html#general>

Core Size: 16

Degree Req.: 38-40 (120 credit hours)

% of total curriculum for Core: 40 - 42%

Type: distribution, by department and category

2 Humanities and Writing
2 History
2 Philosophy
2 Theology
2 Math/Science
2 Social Science
4 Second Language*

*Non-Indo-European languages require equivalent of 8 courses

Gonzaga

<http://www.gonzaga.edu/Academics/Colleges-and-Schools/College-of-Arts-and-Sciences/Core-Curriculum/default.asp>

Core Size: 20 courses

Degree Req.: 42 courses

% of total curriculum for Core: 48%

Type: Distribution by department and cluster

- All freshmen take a “Thought and Expression” cluster, which combines Composition, Philosophy, and a 1-unit Speech Communication course. This does not appear to be themed

2 Thought & Expression (plus 1-unit course)
3 Philosophy
3 Religious Studies
1 Mathematics
2 Literature
2 History
1 Fine Arts
1 Laboratory Science (4 units)
1 Mathematics or Natural Science
2 Social Science

1 Foreign Language or Culture
1 Social Justice

Holy Cross

<http://www.holycross.edu/catalog/catalog.pdf>
<http://www.holycross.edu/academics/requirements/>

Core Size: 12 courses

Degree Req.: 32 courses

% of total curriculum for Core: 38 %

Type: Distribution by category; LLC

- Montserrat is a freshman LLC. Students take a year-long seminar and live together, clustered into 5 themes with Catholic-inflected content. It is equivalent to two courses, but supplies credit for 1 course from the core, double counting one of two credits. (<http://academics.holycross.edu/montserrat>)

2 Montserrat LLC*
1 Arts and Literature
1 Studies in Religion
1 Philosophical Studies
1 Historical Studies
1 Cross-Cultural Studies
2 Second Language
2 Social Science
2 Natural and Mathematical Science

* 1 of the two courses simultaneously fulfills a core requirement. (Because one course can be double counted, Montserrat accounts for one in the core size total above.)

Loyola Marymount

<http://bulletin.lmu.edu/core-curriculum-for-the-baccalaureate-degree-in-the-bellarmino-college-of-liberal-arts.htm>

Core Size: 16 courses

Degree Req.: 40 courses

% of total curriculum for Core: 40%

Type: Distribution by department and category

1 American Cultures
1 College Writing
1 Communication or Critical Thinking
2 Critical and Creative Arts
2 History

- 1 Literature
- 1 Mathematics
- 1 Science and Technology
- 2 Philosophy
- 2 Social Sciences
- 2 Theological Studies

Loyola University Chicago

<http://luc.edu/core/coreknowledge-first.shtml>

Core Size: 16 courses

Degree Req.: 40 courses

% of total curriculum for Core: 40%

Type: Distribution by category

- 1 College Writing Seminar
- 1 Artistic Knowledge and Experience
- 2 Historical Knowledge
- 2 Literary Knowledge and Experience
- 1 Quantitative Analysis
- 2 Scientific Literacy
- 2 Societal and Cultural Knowledge
- 2 Philosophical Knowledge
- 2 Theological & Religious Studies Knowledge
- 1 Ethics (Phil or Theology)
- 1 Engaged Learning Requirement*

* May simultaneously fulfill a core or major requirement. (Because it can be double counted, this course is not included in the core size total above.)

Marquette

<http://www.marquette.edu/programs/core/overview.shtml>

<http://www.marquette.edu/programs/core/list.shtml>

Core Size: 16 courses

Degree Req.: 42 courses

% of total curriculum for Core: 38%

Type: Distribution by category and department

- 2 Rhetoric (includes Comm & English comp)
- 1 Mathematical Reasoning
- 1 Individual and Social Behavior (social science)

- 1 Diverse Cultures (wide list from various disciplines)
- 1 Literature and Performing Arts
- 1 Histories of Cultures and Societies (mainly history, some military science)
- 1 Science and Nature (typical list of natural science courses, not clear if lab is required)
- 2 Human Nature and Ethics (philosophy)
- 2 Theology
- 4 Language

Notre Dame

<http://www.nd.edu/~coreclm/>

<http://al.nd.edu/advising/degree-requirements/arts-and-letters/>

N.B. this combines University requirements with College of Arts and Letters requirements

Degree Req.: 40 courses

% of total curriculum for Core: 45%

Core size: 18

Core Type: distribution

- 1 Composition
- 2 Mathematics
- 2 Science
- 1 History
- 1 Social Science
- 1 History or Social Science
- 2 Theology
- 2 Philosophy
- 1 Fine Arts
- 1 Literature
- 3 Language
- 1 College Seminar (an interdisciplinary course)
- 2 Physical Education (not counted in core size total)

Providence College

<http://www.providence.edu/academic-affairs/core-curriculum/Pages/default.aspx>

Core Size: 14 courses

Degree Req.: 36-38 courses (120 units but with several 4-unit courses)

% of total curriculum for Core: 37-39%

Type: Required core courses; distribution; cluster

- 4 required courses in Development of Western Civilization (4 units each)

- Distribution by category and department
- “Core Focus” cluster of two classes by theme or in a discipline other than major

4 Development of Western Civilization

2 Theology

2 Philosophy

1 Natural Science

1 Social Science

1 Quantitative Reasoning

1 Fine Arts

2 Core Focus

2 Intensive Writing*

1 Oral Communication*

1 Diversity*

1 Civic Engagement*

* May simultaneously fulfill a core or major requirement. (Because it can be double counted, this course is not included in the core size total above.)

Saint Mary’s College of California

<http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/academics/saint-marys-core-curriculum>

N.B. this is the new core for 2013

Core Size: 18-22

- 4 courses under “Engaging the world” can be fulfilled by “Qualifying Experience”

Degree Req.: 36 courses

% of total curriculum for Core: 50 - 61%

Type: Required core courses; distribution by category

- Core courses – 4 “Collegiate Seminars” on Western Civilization
- Distribution categories – “Social, Historical, Cultural Understanding,” etc.

Collegiate Seminar 1: Greek Thought

Collegiate Seminar 2: Roman, Early Christian and Medieval Thought

Collegiate Seminar 3: Renaissance, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Thought

Collegiate Seminar 4: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Thought

3 Artistic Understanding (analysis of art and practice of fine arts)

2 Social, Historical, Cultural Understanding (History, Sociology, Economics, etc.)

1 Scientific Understanding (plus a lab)

1 Mathematical Understanding

2 Theological Understanding

English 4: Composition

English 5: Argument & Research

3 Foreign Language

- 1 American Diversity (or qualifying experience)
- 1 Common Good (or qualifying experience)
- 1 Community Engagement (or qualifying experience)
- 1 Global Perspective (or qualifying experience)
- 1 Upper Division Writing*

* May simultaneously fulfill a core or major requirement. (Because it can be double counted, this course is not included in the core size total above.)

Santa Clara

<http://www.scu.edu/core/>

N.B. Santa Clara is on the quarter system, so that 3 courses roughly equals 2 of ours

Core Size: 19 courses

Degree Req.: 35 - 44 courses (175 units, courses are 4 or 5 units)

% of total curriculum for Core: 43 - 54 %

Type: Distribution by category, with scaffolding, and a cluster

- Distribution categories: many different departments fulfill each category, e.g. “Religion, Theology & Culture” taught by Theology as well as History, English, Sociology, etc.
- Scaffolding: the core is divided into progressive levels, “Foundations,” “Explorations,” and “Integrations”; some categories, e.g. “Culture & Ideas,” have a required sequence.
- “Pathways” is a cluster of 4 courses organized by theme, with a culminating portfolio; Pathways courses double-count with other core requirements and major

- 2 Critical Thinking & Writing
- 3 Cultures & Ideas
- 3 Second Language
- 1 Mathematics
- 3 Religion, Theology & Culture
- 1 Ethics
- 1 Civic Engagement
- 1 Diversity
- 1 Arts
- 1 Natural Science
- 1 Social Science
- 1 Science, Technology & Society
- 1 Experiential Learning for Social Justice*
- 1 Advanced Writing*
- 4 Pathway cluster courses*

* May simultaneously fulfill a core or major requirement. (Because it can be double counted, this course is not included in the core size total above.)

Seton Hall

http://www.shu.edu/academics/upload/SETON_HALL_2011-12_UNDERGRADUATE_CATALOGUE.pdf#page=87

Core Size: 18

- Plus a one-unit course, “University Life”

Degree Req.: 40 courses

% of total curriculum for Core: 45%

Type: Required core courses and distribution by category

- Required: 5 “University Core” courses plus “University Life”; several have significant Catholic inflection

1 The Journey of Transformation (University Core)
1 Christianity and Culture in Dialogue (University Core)
1 Engaging the World (University Core)
1 Core English I (University Core)
1 Core English II (University Core)
1 Aesthetics/Creativity
3 Humanities
2 Language
1 Foundations in Oral Rhetoric
1 Philosophy
1 Religion
1 Math
1 Science
2 Social Science

University of Dayton

<http://www.udayton.edu/gened/index.php>
<http://bulletin.udayton.edu/content.ud?v=32&p=3778&c=3780>

Core Size: 14-15

- 11 in “General Education”; 3-4 in “Competencies”

Degree Req.: 40 courses

% of total curriculum for Core: 35 - 38%

Type: Distribution by category; cluster

- Distribution across 5 “Domains of Knowledge,” includes a “Humanities Base” and competencies

- Required 3-course thematic cluster; in sophomore year, in conjunction with major; double counts with the distribution

- 1 Quantitative Reasoning Competency
- 1 Oral Communication Competency
- 1-2 Reading and Writing Competencies
- 11 GE courses covering 5 Domains of knowledge
 - Arts Study
 - Historical Study
 - Philosophy and Religious Studies
 - Physical and Life Sciences
 - Social Sciences

Among the 11 GE courses, 4 must be in the Humanities Base (English, History, Philosophy, Religious Studies)

Among the 11 GE courses, 3 must be in a cluster

University of San Francisco

<http://www.usfca.edu/catalog/core/>

Core Size: 13-14 courses

Degree Req.: 32 courses (all courses are 4 units)

% of total curriculum for Core: 41 - 44%

Type: Distribution, by department and category

- 1 Public Speaking
- 1 Rhetoric and Composition
- 1 Math or Quantitative Science
- 1 Applied or Laboratory Science
- 1 Literature
- 1 History
- 1 Philosophy
- 1 Theology and Religious Studies
- 1 Ethics
- 1 Social Sciences
- 1 Visual and Performing Arts
- 2-3 Foreign Language
- 1 Service Learning*
- 1 Cultural Diversity*

* May simultaneously fulfill a core or major requirement. (Because it can be double counted, this course is not included in the core size total above.)

Villanova

<http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/vpaa/catalog.html>

Core Size: 17

Degree Req.: 40 courses, plus 2 labs

% of total curriculum for Core: 43%

Core Type: Required core courses; Distribution by department; capstone

- Foundational Courses are required, universal core courses; they include intensive writing

2 Augustine and Culture (Foundational Courses)

1 Christian Faith and Life (Foundational)

1 Theology and Religious Studies (Foundational)

1 Philosophy (Foundational)

1 Ethics (Foundational)

3 Language

1 Mathematics or Statistics

2 Science, with labs

1 Sophomore Writing Seminar

1 History

2 Social Sciences

1 Fine Arts

2 Diversity*

1 Sophomore/ Junior Research requirement (in the major)*

1 Senior Capstone (in the major)*

* May simultaneously fulfill a core or major requirement. (Because it can be double counted, this course is not included in the core size total above.)

Appendix: Core as Percentage of Total Courses Required to Graduate

