

Core Curriculum Catalog, 2025-26

Descriptions of courses and requirements available in the current year are included below. Please see summary of the Core curriculum requirements in the Academic Regulations section.

COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM:

CORE 101: FIRST-YEAR FOUNDATIONS: WHAT'S YOUR STORY? (4)

This course helps bridge the gap between high school and college and fosters essential skills and habits of mind for college success. This course is required for all entering first-time, first-year students. This course may not be repeated. Offered Term 1.

CORE 102: CONFLICT & COLLABORATION (4)

Students in this course will practice how to take risks, fail forward, navigate difficult conversations, negotiate conflict, work as part of a team, and accept feedback with a growth mindset. Students will also hone their oral communication skills, specifically in the context of negotiation and self-advocacy. This course should be completed during Short Term of a student's first year, unless the student has been approved to do an internship or to participate in a Hollins study away trip. If the student doesn't complete the course during Short Term of their first year, they must enroll in it during Short Term of their second year. Offered in Short Term.

CORE 110: CAREER TOOLKIT (1)

The Career Toolkit (also known as "The Purposeful Career") is a required one-credit hybrid course that focuses on career reflection and the building of professional networks. By the end of the course, participants will be able to explain their career aspirations and apply the Career Launch framework to build relationships for both career exploration and landing future employment. Facilitated by staff of Career and Life Design over six weeks, The Career Toolkit engages students in microlearning videos, exercises, and networking practice, along with a group coaching session once a week.

CORE 111: TECHNOLOGY TOOLKIT (1)

This self-paced, online course aims to equip students with essential digital skills crucial for their academic and personal endeavors at Hollins as well as their future careers. Topics may include Hollins platforms, Office 365 applications, emerging technologies such as

artificial intelligence, and file management in the cloud. Emphasis will be placed on fostering informed decision-making in all digital interactions.

CORE 112: FINANCIAL TOOLKIT (1)

This one-credit, online, asynchronous course is designed to provide an introduction to foundational financial literacy concepts, including credit, debt, budgeting, saving, and retirement. Some of this material will be immediately relevant to you, while other material provides a preview of situations you may encounter after graduation.

CORE 201: CLIMATE, COMMUNITIES, AND CARE (2)

This interdisciplinary course explores climate science, climate justice, and the impacts of environmental change on communities global and local. Students will have the opportunity to imagine solutions and cultivate care and resiliency skills in both personal and communal contexts. (CCC)

CORE 301: PURPOSE (2)

In this general education capstone course, students integrate and reflect on what they have learned during their college journey as the foundation for envisioning a life of purpose and meaning. Returning to the theme of “telling your story” introduced in First-Year Foundations, students will consider: How has my path changed? How can I contribute to the world? How would I tell my story now? Prerequisite: junior or senior standing. (PUR)

CORE COURSES TAUGHT ACROSS THE CURRICULUM:

INQUIRY & COMMUNICATION (4)

These courses, offered across the curriculum, help students further develop skills of close reading and written and oral communication. Additionally, this course will foster students’ capacity for inquiry, as they explore a particular topic in depth and learn to pose their own questions, use evidence, cite sources, and formulate arguments. (INQ)

QUANTITATIVE LITERACY (4)

In these courses, students will work on strengthening their ability to understand the world quantitatively and to approach problems with a quantitative lens. Students will connect what they are learning to their own lives and areas of interest through applications and/or projects. (QL)

WORLD LANGUAGES (4-8)

This requirement speaks directly to our goal of helping students become engaged citizens. By learning another language, students come to appreciate the breadth of the human

experience and their responsibilities to a global community; practice self-awareness, adaptability, and cultural humility; and come to a deeper understanding of their own culture and language. In addition to learning to speak, listen, read, and write at a basic functional level in a second language, students will develop a knowledge of the relationship between language and cultural perspectives and practices. (WL)

STORYTELLING, MYTHS, AND NARRATIVES (4)

These courses focus on the role of stories, myths, and narratives in the human experience, and how they have helped people make sense of the world around them. How have stories, myths, and narratives communicated identities and perspectives, both individual and communal? How have they helped people organize their experiences and make sense of the world around them? (SMN)

DIVERSITY, JUSTICE, AND POWER (4)

In these courses, students will develop an awareness and deeper understanding of social categories of difference including race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, nationality, and/or age. (DJP)

THINKING LIKE A SCIENTIST (4-6)

In these courses, students will learn about and practice the scientific method as applied to the quantifiable aspects and foundational knowledge of the natural world. How does this method work to address human bias and deepen our understanding of reality? How do scientists use creative problem-solving to develop and test hypotheses based on experimentation and observation? How do hypotheses become theories, inform further research, and spark empirical questions? Students will practice interpreting scientific data and explaining it to others and will learn how to recognize misleading information and pseudoscience. If the course that a student is using to satisfy this requirement has a separate 2-credit lab, the student will need to complete the lab as well. (TLAS)

CREATIVITY & INNOVATION (4)

In this course, students will study the creative process in the context of a particular genre and develop their own skills of self-expression and creativity. By experimenting with different art forms, media and techniques, students will explore the myriad ways in which creative endeavors enhance the world around them. (C&I)

CORE REQUIREMENTS COURSES

The following Hollins courses satisfy Core requirements. Individual course descriptions (including any prerequisites) under the appropriate discipline code.

INQUIRY & COMMUNICATION (INQ)

1. ARTH 236: Theories of Color
2. ARTH 250: Special Topic: History of the Art Market
3. BLI 220: Decision Making Strategies
4. BUS 100: Introduction to Business
5. COMM 248: Social Media and Social Activism
6. ENG 151: Close Reading, Critical Writing: Books on the Beach
7. ENG 151: Close Reading, Critical Writing: Mixtape
8. ENG 151: Close Reading, Critical Writing: The Portrait
9. ENG 151: Close Reading, Critical Writing: Conceptions of the Hero
10. GWS 150: Eureka! The Social Study of Science
11. HIST/GWS 150: Special Topic: Gender and Sexuality in the British Empire
12. HIST 117: History of American Poverty
13. HIST 150: Special Topic: Americans at Home
14. HUM 150: Quotidian French Literature, Art, Cinema
15. INTL/POLS 150: Special Topic: Mapping History
16. MUS 150: Intro to Video Game Music
17. MUS 256: Women in Western Music
18. PH 101: Intro to Public Health
19. PHIL 181: Contemporary Moral Issues
20. PHYS 141: Lasers, Nanoparticles, and Molecular Medicine
21. POLS 192: Finding Hidden Messages
22. REL 126: Introduction to Religion in a Global Context

QUANTITATIVE LITERACY (QL)

23. MATH 100: Intro to Quantitative Reasoning
24. MATH 105: Quantitative Reasoning in Today's World
25. MATH 130: Math Modeling with Precalculus
26. MATH 140: Precalculus
27. MATH 241: Calculus I
28. STAT 140: Intro to Statistics
29. STAT 251: Statistical Methods I

WORLD LANGUAGE (WL)

30. FREN 101, 102: Elementary French I and II
31. FREN 110: Accelerated Elementary French
32. FREN 111, 112: Intermediate French I and II
33. FREN 203: Advanced Intensive Practices of Spoken French

34. FREN 250: Special Topic (topic varies)
35. FREN 262: Topics in French II
36. FREN 271: French and Francophone Culture and Civilization
37. GREK 101, 102: Elementary Ancient Greek I and II
38. GREK 230/330: New Testament
39. GREK 350: Special Topic: Herodotus
40. JPN 101, 102: Elementary Japanese I and II
41. JPN 111 and 112: Intermediate Japanese I and II
42. LAT 101, 102: Elementary Latin I and II
43. LAT 111: Intermediate Latin
44. LAT 220/320: Roman Lyric Poetry
45. LAT 360: Roman Comedy
46. SPAN 101, 102: Elementary Spanish I and II
47. SPAN 111, 112: Intermediate Spanish I and II
48. SPAN 121: Accelerated Intermediate Spanish
49. SPAN 216: Hip Hop: Americas
50. SPAN 222: Hispanic Cultures: Artifacts
51. SPAN 231: Conversation and Composition: Topics
52. SPAN 232: Conversation and Composition: Readings
53. SPAN 236: Spanish Culture and Civilization
54. SPAN 243: "Nocturnidad Y Vuelo:" Survey of Modern Hispanic Literature
55. SPAN 250: Special Topic: Hispanic Media
56. SPAN 250: Special Topic: Latin American Soundscapes
57. SPAN 250: Special Topic: Latin American Art after 1968
58. SPAN 250: Special Topic: Latinx Studies
59. SPAN 250: Special Topic: Shorts and Shorts

STORYTELLING, MYTHS, AND NARRATIVES (SMN)

60. ARTH 263: Renaissance and Baroque Art
61. ARTH 264: Modern Art
62. CLAS 130: Literature and Art in Ancient Greece
63. CLAS 140: Narrating an Empire
64. ENG 223: Major British Writers I
65. FILM 171: Intro to Film as Art
66. FREN 350: Special Topic: The French Novella
67. FREN 350: Special Topic: Understanding the French Caribbean
68. 7HIST 114: Modern Europe
69. HIST 150: Special Topic: Early Modern Europe

70. HIST 246: American Cultural and Intellectual History
71. HIST 250: Special Topic: The History of Fun and Leisure in Early Modern Europe
72. PHIL 207: Philosophy of Art
73. POLS 104: Political Theory
74. SOC 350: Special Topic: Rule Breakers, Rule Makers
75. SPAN 250: Special Topic: Shorts and Shorts
76. THEA 113: Script Anatomy
77. THEA 326: Episodes in Theatre History 2

DIVERSITY, JUSTICE, AND POWER (DJP)

78. ARTH 250: Special Topic: Race, Space, and the Carceral State
79. ARTH/CLAS 352: Power Dynamics and Archaeology in North Africa
80. BLI 210: Conflict, Feedback, and Change
81. ENG/ES 250: Special Topic: Climate Fiction
82. ES 261/POLS 261: Political Ecology
83. ES/SOC 373: Environmental Justice
84. FREN 250: Special Topic: Social Justice and the Forgotten Francophonies
85. GWS 141: Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies
86. GWS 150: Special Topic: Intro to Disability Studies
87. GWS/HIST 250: Special Topic: History of Witchcraft in Europe and the Atlantic World
88. GWS/HIST 250: Special Topic: LGBTQ+ History
89. GWS/INTL 250: Gender, Love, and Class in East Asian Popular Culture
90. GWS/SOC 272: Reproductive Justice
91. GWS/INTL 350: Special Topic: Feminist Geography
92. IST 111: Creating the American Nation
93. HIST/GWS 226: Women and Gender in Modern Europe
94. HIST 264: African American History to 1865
95. HIST 350: History of Race in the West
96. MUS 150: Special Topic: Taylor Swift's Musical Identity and Gender Representation
97. MUS 150: Special Topic: The Sound of Women's Protest
98. PH 250: Social Determinants of Health
99. PH 301: Global Health
100. POLS 217: Politics of the Middle East
101. POLS/REL 250: Special Topic: Religion and Politics
102. SOC 110: Introduction to Sociology: Perspectives and Methods
103. THEA/GWS 206: Theatre for Social Change
104. THEA 263: Episodes in Theater History: Season 1

THINKING LIKE A SCIENTIST (TLAS)

- 105. BIOL/ES 122: Water and Life
- 106. BIOL 142: Biology of the Horse
- 107. BIOL 150: Special Topic: The Nature of Spring
- 108. BIOL 150: Special Topic: Biology of the Horse
- 109. BIOL/ES 207 and 207L: Ecology and lab
- 110. BIOL/ES/PH 316: Wildlife Disease
- 111. PHYS 101: Introduction to Astronomy
- 112. PHYS 150: Special Topic: Physics in Human Affairs
- 113. PHYS 201: Analytical Physics
- 114. PH 201: Epidemiology
- 115. PSY 160: The Musical Brain

CREATIVITY & INNOVATION (C&I)

- 116. ART 203: Introduction to Film Photography
- 117. ART 230: Painting
- 118. ENG 141: Fundamentals of Writing Poetry and Fiction
- 119. FILM 280: Film Production
- 120. FILM 281: Video Production
- 121. FILM 282: Art of Sound Design
- 122. MUS 150: Pop Music Analysis and Composition
- 123. THEA 151: Stagecrafts
- 124. THEA 161: Introduction to Acting Dynamics
- 125. THEA 235: Costume Construction
- 126. THEA 242: Theatrical Design
- 127. THEA 256 Props Crafting
- 128. THEA 364: Playwriting Fundamentals