Bachelor's Degrees

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Degree Requirements

Bachelor of Science Degrees

To receive a Bachelor of Science degree from University College, students must be admitted to degree candidacy; complete a minimum of 120 units of college-level work with a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or higher in all courses taken; and satisfy basic, distribution, major and residency requirements. Students must also complete a major with grades of C- or better in all major courses. For certain majors, students must satisfy specific prerequisites before declaring the major.

The total number of units required for each major varies according to the department. At least half of the units for the major must be completed at Washington University. At least 30 units of advanced courses overall must be completed at Washington University. No more than 6 units of study abroad credit may count toward the major. We encourage students to use their time at Washington University to augment the major with related course work and to explore many different areas of knowledge.

General Education Requirements*

Basic Requirements:
- EComp 111 Analytical Writing**
- EComp 203 Critical and Researched Writing**
- One additional 3-unit advanced writing course, which may be chosen from EComp 304 Exposition, EComp 3120 Argumentation, EComp 324 Writing for Public Speaking, EComp 331 Technical Writing, or Rhetoric.**
- One 3-unit course in numerical applications with a minimum grade of C-, which may be applied to the relevant distribution area as noted below.
- One course in moral reasoning, which may be applied to the relevant distribution requirements noted below.
- One 3-unit course in cultural diversity, which may be applied to the Social Sciences or Humanities distribution requirements noted below. Courses that satisfy the cultural diversity requirement explore issues of global human diversity and the interactions among cultures, with a focus on the societies of Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Latin America or the Middle East or on the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

* These requirements are effective as of spring 2019. Students admitted to University College programs prior to spring 2019 are expected to fulfill the requirements in place at the time of their admission.

** Students who receive a grade of C- or lower in EComp 111 Analytical Writing taken at University College must repeat the course. Students who receive a grade of C- or lower in EComp 203 Critical and Researched Writing taken at University College must, in consultation with the Department of English and University College, choose between two options to satisfy the requirement: (1) repeat the course; or (2) complete a 3-unit composition tutorial with a grade of C or higher. Students who have completed English composition courses at another college or university should be well prepared for the required writing courses at University College, and transfer credit will be awarded for this work according to our regular transfer credit policies. However, new students will begin with EComp 111 in University College. Students who feel they have a strong writing background may petition to take a placement test to demonstrate the skills needed to begin with EComp 203 instead. All students will complete EComp 203 and a 300-level writing course at University College.

Distribution Requirements: 36 units; 9 units in each area noted below. Major courses may also fulfill basic and distribution requirements, but each distribution area must include course work from at least two disciplines:
- Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- Social Sciences
- Humanities
- Languages and the Arts

Overlap Policies: If a student has two majors, each major's upper-level units of credit must be independent of the other (i.e., no double counting of the upper-level units required for the majors is permitted). Prerequisite courses at the 100 or 200 level may count for both majors.

Should the same upper-level course satisfy a requirement in more than one of a student's major programs, a departmentally sanctioned upper-level elective must be chosen to replace the course in one of the programs. If a student has a major and a minor, the minor must include at least 9 unique units. Major or minor course work may be applied to distribution requirements for general education. If a student is pursuing a bachelor's degree and a certificate, the certificate must include at least 9 unique units. (The exception to this restriction on certificates applies to sequential programs of the same name, in which case all certificate courses may apply to the next-level program.)

A single course can count without restriction toward any two of the following categories: (1) major requirements; (2) basic requirements for numerical applications or cultural diversity; or (3) distribution requirements.