Academic Programs
Curricula

The curricula established for all bachelor's degrees include, usually, a set of courses that fulfill the general education requirements, a set of courses that comprise a departmental major, a set of courses that comprise a cognate or minor, and several elective courses.

General Education

A competency based general education program offers students a common academic experience and stimulates an appetite for life-long education while serving the overarching purposes of general education—to collect and evaluate information, integrate and draw conclusions from this information, and communicate this new knowledge to others—providing students with the skills and abilities necessary to become responsible citizens. A competency based system is predicated on outcome-based education and the concept of focusing and organizing learning around what is essential for all students to be able to do successfully at the end of their learning experiences.

A set of general education requirements is included in each baccalaureate program. The purpose of such requirements is to provide a broadly based education foundation upon which an area of specialization may be developed. For this reason, students are encouraged to select various courses outside their major area of study.

To help ensure common educational competencies and skills in all students, the faculty has adopted: A) a set of general education competencies—the fundamental skills students will possess upon graduation from the University, and B) a general education course distribution—the courses a student must take to gain these competencies—that apply across all curricula of the University. However, the options provided in the general education course distribution have been limited and structured to meet the needs of each major. Students, therefore, are advised to follow the specific requirements listed in the catalog under the individual majors.

A. General Education Competencies

Competency 1: The USC Upstate graduate should demonstrate an ability to communicate in English, both orally and in writing.
1.1 Students are able to create and deliver coherent, grammatically correct oral presentations.
1.2 Students are able to create coherent, grammatically correct written responses to prompts and questions.

Competency 2: The USC Upstate graduate should demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to apply scientific investigation and quantitative and logical reasoning.
2.1 Students demonstrate an ability to apply scientific reasoning by drawing appropriate conclusions from scientific data.
2.2 Students demonstrate an ability to apply quantitative and logical reasoning by producing solutions to or analyses of appropriate problems.

Competency 3: The USC Upstate graduate should be able to integrate and critically evaluate information.

3.1 Students are able to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of varying points of view.
3.2 Students demonstrate the ability to distinguish between pertinent and irrelevant information.

Competency 4: The USC Upstate graduate should understand and demonstrate an awareness of distinctive features of language and cultures.
4.1 Students demonstrate knowledge of linguistic and cultural diversity and contributions of such diversity to society.

Competency 5: The USC Upstate graduate should demonstrate responsible and appropriate use of information technologies.
5.1 Students are able to gather and correctly process information through appropriate use of technological tools.
5.2 Students demonstrate the ability to use information technologies to communicate information to others.

B. General Education Course Distribution

The general education requirements listed below are incorporated into all majors at USC Upstate. This distribution represents a minimum level of introduction to various subdivisions in the liberal arts, providing a common educational experience for all USC Upstate graduates. A course may be used to satisfy only one general education requirement.

I. Communication Courses
   English ................................................. 6
   Speech ................................................ 3

II. Mathematics & Logic Courses
   One mathematics course, .......................... 3
   One course from math, logic or statistics ......... 3

III. Information Technology Course
   One information technology course ............... 3

IV. Natural Sciences Courses
   Two courses including one laboratory course
   Selected from the following: astronomy, biology,
   chemistry, geography, geology, physics .......... 7-8

V. Arts & Humanities Courses
   One fine arts course: art history, music, theatre or
   African American studies .......................... 3
   One course from the following: ** .................. 3
   Literature, African American studies, American studies,
   linguistics, film, philosophy, religion, theatre.

**No more than three credit hours from a specific discipline
will be accepted for the general education requirement
under the Arts and Humanities distribution.

VI. Foreign Language/Culture
    The minimum acceptable level of competency is
    completion of the 102 level of a language. Students
    who place into the 201 or higher level of a language
    satisfy the language requirement but will have ad-
    ditional hours in electives, if hours are required by
    their degree program .............................. 3

VII. History Course
    History .............................................. 3
VIII. Social and Behavioral Sciences Courses
Courses from two of the following, with two disciplines represented:
African American studies, Anthropology, Economics,
Government & International studies, Geography,
Psychology, Sociology, Women's studies

Total General Education Requirements

For specific courses that meet the major's distribution requirement, consult the degree worksheets.

Assessment Participation
The University of South Carolina Upstate is committed to offering programs and activities that encourage students to develop both academically and socially. In order to evaluate and continuously improve the effectiveness of our efforts, faculty, administrators, and staff conduct ongoing assessments. Also, many of the University’s assessment activities are mandated by external agencies. Consequently, student, faculty, and staff participation in assessment activities is a University priority and responsibility.

Therefore, all students wishing to receive a degree from the University of South Carolina Upstate are required to participate in assessments of general education competencies, their major and/or area of concentration, and other programs and activities sponsored by the University. If a student fails to participate in a required assessment activity, a hold may be placed on the student's records. The results of any University assessment activity will be reported in aggregate and may not be used for the evaluation of a student's progress in a course or program toward a degree.

For more information contact the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

Foreign Language Placement Policy
I. Admission to the 102 level is reserved exclusively for those who have successfully completed the 101 course or been placed into 102 by the foreign language placement exam.

II. The following table summarizes credit awarded under the Advanced Placement (AP) Program. If a student has taken AP exams but has not yet received his/her results, he/she should register for courses based on assuming AP credit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Credit Awarded for USC Upstate Course(s)</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French Lang</td>
<td>3,4</td>
<td>SFRN 101, 102</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Lang</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>SFRN 101, 102, 201</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Lang</td>
<td>3,4</td>
<td>SGRM 101, 102</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Lang</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>SGRM 101, 102, 201</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Lang</td>
<td>3,4</td>
<td>SSSP 101, 102</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Lang</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>SSSP 101, 102, 201</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Lit</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SSSP 101, 102</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Lit</td>
<td>4,5</td>
<td>SSSP 102, 201, 202, 301</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. Students who are multilingual, who have learned English as a foreign language, or who through family and/or cultural background have strong skills in a foreign language should see the chair of Languages, Literature, and Composition or the coordinator of foreign languages to determine if they will be exempt without credit from the foreign language requirement of their majors. An exemption form will be placed in each student's file and copies sent to records. Such students will, at the discretion of the chair or coordinator of foreign languages, be allowed to take upper division courses in their native language and receive credit.

V. While colleges and universities are not obligated to waive foreign language requirements for students with learning disabilities (according to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973), USC Upstate has made the following provision: students who are certified by the USC Upstate Office of Disability Services has having learning disabilities that may interfere with learning a foreign language, may fulfill their general education requirement in foreign languages by taking a course in English on the history, culture, civilization or literature of a non-English speaking country or countries.

Major Requirements
Each baccalaureate program includes courses to enable students to specialize in a particular area of interest. A minimum grade of C is required for any course submitted for fulfillment of a major requirement. Exceptions to this requirement are noted in the description of each academic program.

Senior Seminar
All baccalaureate programs will include a senior seminar course that will serve as a capstone experience for the program. This experience will allow students to integrate knowledge from their discipline and their General Education Program. Senior seminars must also critically evaluate related ethical issues and have students articulate relevant topics in written and oral presentations. Senior seminars must provide an opportunity for the assessment of program and general education goals. These courses are the culminating experience of students in a particular program and may follow a variety of formats such as student teaching or specific courses.

Cognates and Minors
Students seeking degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to complete either a cognate or minor. Neither a cognate nor a minor is required for professional degrees, (i.e., nursing, education, and business). Both cognates and minors are concentrated study in an area that complements the student’s major. Courses may be counted toward both a cognate and a minor, however, students may apply up to 6 hours of minor credit toward general education requirements. See each degree program for cognate or minor regulations specific to a degree program.

Students not pursuing a Business degree may earn a maximum of 29 semester hours in Business courses, excluding SECO 221, 222, 291, and 292, providing they meet the course prerequisites and have earned 54 credit hours before enrolling in 300-level and above courses.

Cognate
Cognate course requirements are selected by a student and the major academic advisor to meet the unique