2011-2012
Academic Catalog

University of South Carolina Upstate

UPSTATE
University of South Carolina Upstate
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 becoming 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 seek 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 are, therefore, 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 additional hours in electives, if hours are required by their degree program ........................................... 3

VII. History Course

History .................................................. 3