

Frequently Asked Questions

Magis Core Curriculum Students

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Answers

I am uncertain whether I need to complete the Magis Core Curriculum or the Legacy Core Curriculum. How do I determine which requirements I must satisfy?

Students who first enrolled at Creighton University as degree-seeking undergraduate students in Fall Semester 2014 or later are required to complete the Magis Core Curriculum. This includes both students who newly enroll as first-year students and new transfer students to Creighton University. Students who first enrolled at Creighton University as degree-seeking undergraduate students prior to Fall Semester 2014 are required to complete the Core Curriculum that was in place in their college at the time when they enrolled in their college. The degree evaluation function of [the NEST](#) should reflect the Core Curriculum requirements that you need to complete based on the semester of your first enrollment as a degree-seeking student.

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Ok, I'll bite. What in the world is a “degree-seeking undergraduate student”?

A degree-seeking undergraduate student is a student who is enrolled in a program of study that leads to a baccalaureate degree, such as a B.A. or B.S. degree. Degree-seeking students are different from special students because special students are not enrolled at Creighton University to earn a degree, but just to take a course or two. For example, if you took a dual-credit course or a summer course at Creighton University while you were enrolled in high school, you were a special student at that time. If you subsequently enrolled at Creighton University as a traditional full-time student, then you became a degree-seeking student at that time. If you are unsure whether or when you became a degree-seeking undergraduate student, please contact the Office of the Dean of the college in which you are enrolled.

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How can I find out what courses satisfy requirements of the Magis Core Curriculum?

The University Core Curriculum Committee reviews and approves new Magis Core Curriculum course applications almost every week during the academic year, so the list of approved Magis Core Curriculum courses is constantly expanding. The best way to get a completely accurate, up-to-date list of all the courses that satisfy a particular Magis Core Curriculum requirement is to point your browser to [the NEST](#) and search the [Course Catalog](#) by course attribute. For instance, if you want to find out which courses satisfy the Magis Core Curriculum Mathematical Reasoning requirement, then you should search the Course Catalog for courses with the attribute, “Magis Common Core:I Mth Reason”.

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Where do I find a list of all the courses that satisfy requirements of the Magis Core Curriculum?

The Undergraduate Issue of the Creighton University Catalog contains a [comprehensive list of Magis Core Curriculum courses](#) that will be updated approximately twice yearly. The [Magis Core Curriculum web site](#) also contains a document called “[Magis Core Curriculum Information for Current Students](#)”. This document, which is updated approximately twice yearly, contains a list of courses that satisfy Magis Core Curriculum requirements. The University Core Curriculum Committee reviews and approves new Magis Core Curriculum course applications almost every week during the academic year, so the list of approved Magis Core Curriculum courses is constantly expanding. This makes the list of courses in the “Magis Core Curriculum Information for Current Students” outdated within a week of its publication each semester.

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What is the difference between the Magis Core Curriculum requirements for College of Arts & Sciences students, College of Nursing students, and Heider College of Business students?

All undergraduate students of Creighton University must complete the [Magis Common Core Curriculum](#), which involves 13 components (approximately 35 credit hours) and 5 designated courses that are normally taken as part of the major program of study. In addition, arts and sciences students must complete 5 additional components (approximately 16 credit hours) of [Magis Arts & Sciences Core Curriculum courses](#). In addition to the requirements of the Magis Common Core Curriculum, nursing students must complete the [requirements of the B.S.N. program](#) and business students must complete [the General B.S.B.A. requirements](#).

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I transferred in a large number of credits that satisfy Foundations and Explorations requirements of the Magis Core Curriculum. This permitted me to complete the Foundations level of the Magis Core Curriculum in the first semester of study. What other classes can I take now?

Updated April 3, 2015

Because the university faculty focused on the development of courses satisfying the Foundations components and certain Explorations components of the Magis Core Curriculum during 2013-2014, some first-year students with large numbers of transfer credits struggled to identify Magis Core Curriculum classes to take in Spring Semester 2015. With the development of many Ethics, Global Perspectives in History, Literature, and The Biblical Tradition courses during 2014-2015, this should be less of a problem in Fall Semester 2015 and thereafter.

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I am having trouble completing both the Magis Core Curriculum Foundations requirements and the first-year requirements for the pre-health professional program that I am pursuing. What should I do?

All undergraduate students are expected to complete Contemporary Composition (3 hrs.), Critical Issues in Human Inquiry (3 hrs.), Oral Communication (1 hr.), Philosophical Ideas (3 hrs.), and The Christian Tradition (3 hrs.) during the first year of undergraduate study. Most pre-health students will also seek to complete BIO 201/205 (4 hrs.), BIO 202/206 (4 hrs.), CHM 203/204 (4 hrs.), and CHM 205/206 (4 hrs.) during the first year of undergraduate study. Once you add in RSP 101/102/103/105 (1 hr.), this comes to a grand total of 30 hours, which should be easy to complete within the first two semesters. The preferred Mathematical Reasoning course for pre-health students not intending to major in chemistry, mathematics, or physics, namely, MTH 231 Mathematics for the Biological Sciences (3 hrs.), may be taken as late as the second year of study.

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I am having difficulty registering for Critical Issues in Human Inquiry and COM 101. What am I doing wrong?

Because each Critical Issues in Human Inquiry course has a specific section of COM 101 as a co-requisite, you must register for the Critical Issues in Human Inquiry course and the co-requisite section of COM 101 at the same time on the same screen. If you fail to do so, then you will receive a cryptic error message.

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Why do I have to take an online public speaking class, i.e., COM 101 Communicating Critical Issues?

COM 101 Communicating Critical Issues (1 hr.) gives you crucial experience with oral communication online, experience that will become increasingly important as web-based forms of oral communication come to replace face-to-face forms of oral communication that require travel over great distances. COM 101 instructors have observed that students in the online course manifest the same problems in online speeches that they do in face-to-face speeches and that the online course provides a helpful opportunity for peer review of speeches prior to final public presentation which is difficult or impossible to duplicate in a face-to-face course.

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I have taken both a course that satisfies Critical Issues in Human Inquiry and its co-requisite course, COM 101. Now I am interested in pursuing a major that requires an introductory course that satisfies Critical Issues in Human Inquiry. Can I take the course required for the major even though I have already taken a Critical Issues in Human Inquiry course? If so, do I have to retake the COM 101 co-requisite?

The Department of Education and the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work are developing versions of their Critical Issues in Human Inquiry courses that can be taken by students who need the prerequisite for the major programs of study in education or social work but not the Critical Issues in Human Inquiry course. COM 101 is not a prerequisite for these alternate courses. Please contact the chairs of these departments, Dr. Debra Ponec (dlponec@creighton.edu), Chair of Education, and Dr. Rebecca Murray (RebeccaMurray@creighton.edu), Chair of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, for details.

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What is the sequence for language classes?

The second beginning level course in a language, e.g., SPN 112 Beginning Spanish for Daily Life II (4 hrs.), fulfills the Foreign Language requirement of the Magis Arts & Sciences Core Curriculum. If [the foreign language placement exam for a modern language](#) or [a classical language](#) indicates that you are not yet prepared to take the second beginning level course, then you will first need to take the first beginning-level course, e.g., SPN 111 Beginning Spanish for Daily Life I (4 hrs.). Students who have completed the Foreign Language requirement and wish to pursue further foreign language study will normally take the intermediate level course next, e.g., SPN 225 Intermediate Spanish (4 hrs.).

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When are the language placement exams offered? Once I have taken the exam, how do I find out what language course I have been placed into?

Language placement examinations are administered online and may be taken at any time. In order to take a placement examination in French, German, or Spanish, please consult the [Department of Modern Languages & Literatures web site](#). In order to take a placement examination in Latin, please consult the [Department of Classical & Near Eastern Studies web site](#). You may take a foreign language placement exam only once. If you take an online foreign language placement examination, then you will receive your examination results in an email message once the examination has been graded.

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What is the difference between a language placement exam and a language competency exam?

Updated April 3, 2015

A language placement exam is designed to determine which language course is appropriate for you to take. The language placement exams are offered only online. A language competency exam is designed to determine whether your knowledge of a language is sufficient to satisfy the Magis Arts & Sciences Core Curriculum Foreign Language requirement. The language competency exams are offered only on site at Creighton University.

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When are the language competency exams offered?

Contact Dr. Julian Arribas (JulianArribas@creighton.edu), Chair of Modern Languages & Literatures, or Dr. Martha Habash (MarthaHabash@creighton.edu), Chair of Classical & Near Eastern Studies, for information about the language competency examinations.

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I am an international student who is enrolled in the College of Arts & Sciences. Do I need to take a foreign language course in order to satisfy the Magis Arts & Sciences Core Curriculum Foreign Language requirement?

International students who are enrolled in the College of Arts & Sciences may petition the College of Arts & Sciences to waive the Foreign Language requirement of the Magis Arts & Sciences Core Curriculum if they mainly spoke a language other than English in high school or at home while growing up. Please contact Dr. Holly Ann Harris (harris@creighton.edu), Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences, for more information. Students who are enrolled in the College of Nursing, the College of Professional Studies, and the Heider College of Business are not subject to the Foreign Language requirement, which is not part of the Magis Common Core Curriculum.

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I am enrolled in the College of Arts & Sciences. What course should I take to satisfy the Magis Core Curriculum Mathematical Reasoning requirement?

The major programs of study in chemistry, energy technology, mathematics, and physics require at least one calculus course. Therefore, if you intend to complete one of these major programs of study, then you should satisfy Mathematical Reasoning by completing MTH 245 Calculus I (4 hrs.). Pre-health students who do NOT intend to complete one of these major programs of study should satisfy Mathematical Reasoning by completing MTH 231 Mathematics for the Biological Sciences (3 hrs.). Students who do NOT intend to complete one of these major programs of study AND do NOT intend to pursue admission to a postgraduate program of study in the health sciences should satisfy Mathematical Reasoning by taking MTH 205 Mathematics for the Modern World (2 hrs.).

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I am enrolled in the College of Nursing. What course should I take to satisfy the Magis Core Curriculum Mathematical Reasoning Requirement?

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Students who are enrolled in the College of Nursing should satisfy Mathematical Reasoning by taking MTH 205 Mathematics for the Modern World (2 hrs.).

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I am enrolled in the Heider College of Business. What course should I take to satisfy the Magis Core Curriculum Mathematical Reasoning Requirement?

Students who are enrolled in the Heider College of Business should take MTH 141 Applied Calculus (3 hrs.) to satisfy Mathematical Reasoning. Additional mathematics courses may be required to satisfy [the requirements of the General B.S.B.A. Curriculum](#). Please consult the [Creighton University Catalog: Undergraduate Issue](#) for more information.

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