

General Education Requirements

An Overview

**OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
UNIVERSITY ADVISING CENTER**





General Education

College of Education and Human Development
College of Liberal Arts
College of Science and Mathematics
College of Public and Community Service

UMass Boston's General Education is an integrated curriculum providing the knowledge and skills to support lifelong learning, a productive career, and effective and responsible citizenship. Students will develop skills and knowledge in critical analysis, writing, mathematical reasoning, human diversity, social sciences, natural sciences, and the humanities, all of which serve as preparation for advanced coursework in the major and other chosen areas of study.

For a complete description of the university's General Education, visit the website for the Office of Undergraduate Studies.

Students are encouraged to seek frequent advising and to follow their degree progress report carefully to ensure timely completion of their degree requirements.

The university offers tutoring for most courses. Talk with your advisor about these tutoring services, or visit the University Advising Center website for information about tutoring through the Office of Academic Support or college-based centers.

Office of Undergraduate Studies

Campus Center, 1st floor, Room 1300
617-287-6330

www.umb.edu/academics/undergraduate/office/gened/index.html

University Advising Center

Campus Center, 1st floor, Room 1100
617-287-5500

www.uac.umb.edu/

Requirements

The College of Education and Human Development, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Science and Mathematics, and the College of Public and Community Service offer students a wide variety of academic programs. The 120 credits required for graduation are typically split into three areas: the general education requirements, the major requirements, and electives.

Each undergraduate major offers either a bachelor of arts (BA) or a bachelor of science (BS) degree. Some majors offer both degrees, and students may select the one that best meets their needs. The general education requirements differ somewhat depending upon which degree a student chooses to pursue. The BA provides a broader education while the BS devotes more courses to the major and closely related areas. Students pursuing a BS degree must take additional courses in natural sciences and mathematics, specifically Calculus I.

Students pursuing a BA are encouraged to complete their general education within the first 60 credits. Students in the College of Science and Mathematics or students pursuing a BS should extend this length of time and complete their general education alongside their major requirements.

Note on sequencing: It is imperative that all students complete their English and critical analysis courses early in their academic career. In addition, the math requirements for BS students serve as preparation and prerequisites for most courses in the major and should be completed as early as possible.

Please refer to the University Catalog to learn which degree(s) your major offers. Consult your academic advisor for guidance in selecting your major and degree.

Courses Fulfilling the General Education Requirement

Verbal Reasoning and Expression

- Freshman English I
- Freshman English II

Both courses are required for students entering with 0-89 credits. These introductory courses in critical reading and writing prepare students for working with the complex texts and ideas they will find in their college studies. Emphasis is placed on the drafting and redrafting process, the development of research skills, and preparation for the Writing Proficiency Requirement.

Critical Analysis

- First Year Seminar
- Intermediate Seminar

The First Year Seminar is required for students entering with 0-29 credits. The Intermediate Seminar is required for students entering with 0-89 credits. These courses examine a topic or problem in some depth while addressing the academic capabilities of critical reading, critical thinking, clear writing, academic self-assessment, collaborative learning, information technology, and oral presentation.

Quantitative Reasoning Requirement

- BA: Math 114Q, Math 115, Math 125 (or substitute statistics), or placement into pre-calculus or higher
- BS: Math 135, 140, or 145 depending upon major requirements

Quantitative reasoning skills allow for the application of concepts and skills to solve real-world problems and to support advanced study in the fields of social and behavioral studies as well as the natural sciences.

Students pursuing a BA take either Quantitative Reasoning (Math 114Q), College Algebra (Math 115), Statistics (Math 125, Sociol 350, Psych 270, Econ 205, or EEOS261), or must place into Pre-Calculus or higher (placement alone demonstrates proficiency). However, BA students may need to complete Pre-Calculus or Calculus for their major requirements.

Students pursuing a BS take either Survey of Calculus (Math 135), Calculus I (Math 140), or Calculus I for Life and Environmental Sciences (Math 145). Please note that Survey of Calculus (Math 135) is a terminal course. Students pursuing a BS are strongly encouraged to enroll in appropriate math courses continuously until their math requirement is satisfied for their major.

Diversity Requirement

- US
- International

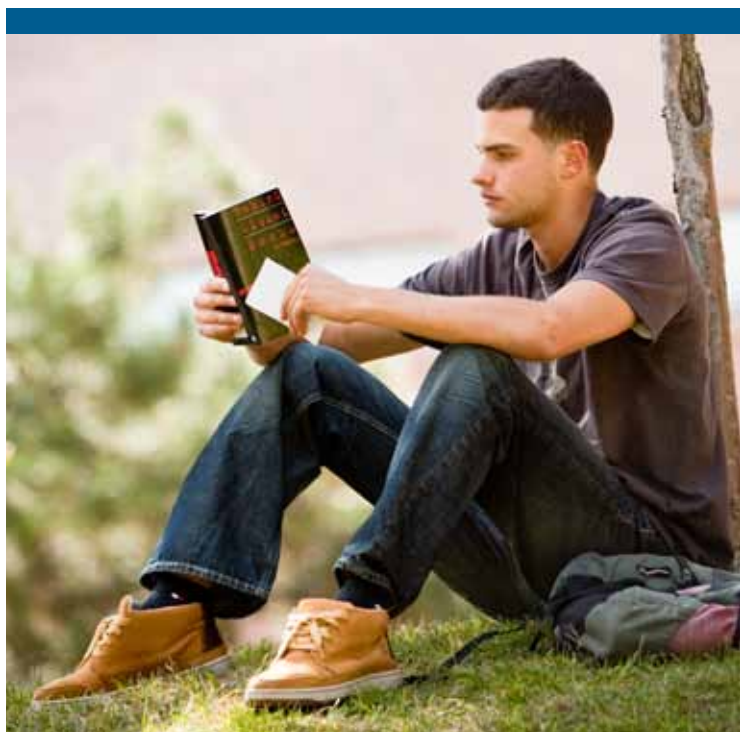
The university offers a wide variety of designated diversity courses, which are listed on a student's degree progress report. Students entering with 0-59 credits need two diversity courses, one from each area. Students entering with 60 or more credits need only one diversity course, from either category. Study of the diversity and commonalities of the world's peoples is an essential component of an undergraduate education. The university defines diversity broadly to include race, gender, culture (national origin, ethnicity, religion), social class, age, sexual orientation, and disability.

The Writing Proficiency Requirement (WPR)

- Exam or Portfolio

The Writing Proficiency Evaluation is a junior-level assessment designed to ensure that students have acquired the necessary analytical reading and writing skills for advanced-level courses. The two options for demonstrating writing proficiency are the Writing Proficiency Exam or the Writing Proficiency Portfolio. Both options require careful study of a set of readings on a particular topic and an independently written analytical essay based on a question provided. The WPR is offered four times each year and should ideally be completed at the beginning of a student's junior level (60 credits, but no later than 75 credits) and after the completion of English 101, 102, First Year Seminar, and Intermediate Seminar.

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Courses Fulfilling the General Education Requirement *continued*

Distribution Requirement

The distribution requirement provides students with an introduction to the following four approaches to knowledge: arts and humanities (AR and HU), social and behavioral sciences (SB), natural sciences and mathematics (NS and MT), and world languages and world cultures (WL and WC). These two-letter codes are used to denote courses that have been approved by the faculty as distribution courses.

Bachelor of Arts: Students must complete the following 11 distribution requirements.

- AR SB NS WC or WL
- HU SB MT or NS WC or WL
- AR or HU SB MT or NS

Bachelor of Science: Students must complete the following 9 distribution requirements.

- AR NS
- HU MT or NS
- SB MT or NS
- SB MT or NS WL or WC

Elementary Language Proficiency: *For BA students only*

Elementary Language Proficiency

Students can meet the elementary language proficiency requirement by:

- completing or transferring in a college foreign language course at the 102 level or higher. If a student completes or transfers in two semesters of the same language (such as 101 and 102), the student will also meet the two-course WC/WL requirement.
- completing up to level three of the same foreign language in high school.
- completing at least one year of secondary or post-secondary education in a non-English-speaking school or university.
- scoring three or higher on an AP exam in a foreign language, or scoring 50 or higher on a CLEP exam in a foreign language.
- demonstrating proficiency to the appropriate language department or, if the language is not taught at UMass Boston, to the Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Please note: Taking a language course out of sequence will result in the loss of the proficiency requirement and the loss of transfer credits. For further information about the requirement, please consult with staff at the Office of Undergraduate Studies.



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