

School of Interdisciplinary Studies

Randall D. Wight, Dean

Ouachita's School of Interdisciplinary Studies offers a coherent curriculum designed to foster intellectual inquiry and breadth of knowledge. Ideas and events have consequences. Insight into these consequences requires developing frameworks and skills that interconnect intellectual and cultural domains within the context of the physical world. The School of Interdisciplinary Studies offers Ouachita's CORE curriculum, required of all graduates, as a means to nurture these skills and frameworks, as a means to foster inquiry and breadth.

The CORE curriculum's goals are...

- To construct coherent knowledge frameworks for ongoing intellectual, aesthetic, physical, and spiritual growth in the presence of diversity;
- To prepare students to understand and deal constructively with the world's diversity and the physical world in which diversity exists;
- To develop competencies in written communication and in both qualitative and quantitative reasoning.

True learning elicits voices from distant places and different times, making us heirs of our species and of our world. Our human inheritance increases in direct proportion to the ground we cover, the times we know, the voices we comprehend. The School of Interdisciplinary Studies seeks to acquaint students with this inheritance within the greater, transcendent context of Christ's sacrifice and love.

CORE Course Requirements

All students must take the following program of courses.

Course Number	Course	Hours
1012	Introduction to Liberal Arts.....	2
1013	Grammar and Rhetoric	3
1022	Concepts of Wellness	2
1023	The Contemporary World.....	3
1033	Applied Mathematics.....	3
1113	Survey of the Bible.....	3
1123	Interpreting the Bible.....	3
2001	SOPHOMORE READINGS.....	1
2113	American Heritage	3
2123	American Letters	3
2213	Western Heritage.....	3
2223	Western Letters	3
2313	Physical Science.....	3
2323	Life Science	3
Sophomore Menu: Choose one of the following four		3
2413	Intellectual Traditions	
2423	Investigative Methods	
2433	Personal Finance	
2443	Social Science Survey	
3001	JUNIOR READINGS.....	1

Fine Arts Menu: Choose two of the following three¹	6
3113 Art	
3123 Music	
3133 Theatre	
4001 Senior Seminar.....	1
Information Resources	
Foreign Language	6
Total	55

Both Introduction to Liberal Arts and Composition are prerequisite to all sophomore-level or above CORE courses. A student with 29 or more hours must remain enrolled in Introduction to Liberal Arts and Composition until they are successfully completed.

1012. Introduction to the Liberal Arts.

Students will investigate Ouachita, the liberal arts tradition, human ways of knowing, the grounding of Christian world views, service to and leadership among humans, and the cultural-intellectual threads and responsibilities connecting these domains.

1013. Grammar and Rhetoric.

Students will improve their ability to write clear, well-organized, and well-reasoned prose, observing the grammatical and mechanical conventions of Standard American English, through study of grammar and a variety of rhetorical modes and patterns of exposition. Students must pass a competency examination to complete the course.

1022. Concepts of Wellness.

Students will examine their fitness needs, producing an exercise program and lifetime personal fitness goals.

1023. The Contemporary World.

Students will examine major issues in the current world, emphasizing the development of understanding to address these issues.

1033. Applied Mathematics.

Students will study set theory, probability, and statistics and as well as applications of geometry and matrix theory. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the Mathematics requirement within their first four college semesters. Enrollment in Applied Mathematics requires either (a) a satisfactory score on the MATH portion of either the ACT or the SAT or (b) a grade of C or better in ASKL 1013.

1113. Survey of the Bible.

Students will survey the redemptive story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, emphasizing how that story shapes the Christian's worldview and affects life decisions.

1123. Interpreting the Bible.

Students will learn to recognize and develop valid interpretations and applications of the Bible.

2001. Sophomore Readings.

This self-paced course introduces students to cultural, historical, philosophical, scientific, and theological works related to the American experiment and experience. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013

¹Upon approval by the Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies, participation in either the European Study Program or the Beijing Summer Study Program earns 3 hours of generic Fine Arts credit.

- 2113. American Heritage.**
Students will examine North American culture from pre-Columbian times to the present, emphasizing the historical-cultural context of institutions and intellectual movements. This course also highlights the ideas, individuals, and events from which modern American culture emerged. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013
- 2123. American Letters.**
Students will examine the literary and philosophical currents of American culture, focusing on primary source material. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013
- 2213. Western Heritage.**
Students will survey the diversity of Western human experience in historical-cultural context, sketching as well the West's entwining with global culture. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013
- 2223. Western Letters.**
Students will survey the diversity of Western literary and philosophical currents in historical-cultural context, sketching as well the West's entwining with global culture. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013
- 2313. Physical Science.**
Students will survey key concepts in the physical sciences and how these concepts influence daily life. Includes laboratory. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013; Suggested prerequisite: CORE 1033 or higher mathematics
- 2323. Life Science.**
Students will survey key concepts in the life sciences and how these concepts influence daily life. Includes laboratory. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013, 2313
- 2413. Intellectual Traditions.**
Students will survey the development of humans as thinkers in cultural context from prehistory to the present. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013
- 2423. Investigative Methods.**
Students will survey both qualitative and quantitative means for acquiring, assessing, and employing data to make informed decisions. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013
- 2433. Personal Finance.**
Students will survey the management of personal and family finances, including budgeting, consumer buying, personal credit, savings and investment, home ownership, insurance, and retirement. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013
- 2443. Social Science Survey.**
Students will survey the web of human culture and interaction, emphasizing the structures and tensions inherent in human diversity and the lines of power therein. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013
- 3001. Junior Readings.**
This self-paced course introduces students to cultural, historical, philosophical, scientific, and theological works related to the diversity of human experience. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013

3113. Fine Arts: Art.

Students will examine visual expression and its cultural context from prehistory to the present. Students also will develop the analytic skills needed to confront art and architecture, fostering the awareness needed to appreciate museums, galleries, and everyday life. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013

3123. Fine Arts: Music.

Students will examine musical expression and its cultural context from prehistory to the present. Students will also survey the major musical stylistic periods, enhance their listening skills, and acquire an understanding of musical elements and forms. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013

3133. Fine Arts: Theatre.

Students will examine theatrical expression and its cultural context from prehistory to the present. Students will also survey the literary dimensions of play-writing and the technical, literary, and performance aspects of theatre. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013

4001. Senior Seminar.

This seminar directs students to cultural, historical, philosophical, scientific, and theological works chosen to draw together their liberal arts experience within the context of their chosen domain of study. The course provides a conceptual springboard for using experience to inform life-long learning of and service to humans and the world humans inhabit. Prerequisites: CORE 1012, 1013

4801-4893. Special Studies.

This course permits students to pursue independent research or creative work within the interdisciplinary studies domain. **On Demand.**

Information Resources.

These educational opportunities, taught in concert with specific content courses, provide instruction in the assessment, retrieval, and ethical use of information. Students will learn how to choose research topics, produce scholarly papers, and use academic style manuals.

Suggested CORE Sequence

First Year

1012	Introduction to Liberal Arts	1022	Concepts of Wellness
1013	Grammar and Rhetoric	1033	Applied Mathematics
1023	The Contemporary World	1123	Interpreting the Bible
1113	Survey of the Bible		Foreign Language

Second Year

2001	Sophomore Readings	2213	Western Heritage
2113	American Heritage	2223	Western Letters
2123	American Letters	2323	Life Science
2313	Physical Science	24_3	Sophomore Menu Choice

Third Year

3001	Junior Readings		1st Fine Arts Choice
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Fourth Year

	2nd Fine Arts Choice	4001	Senior Seminar
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