
Sapere Aude Incipe
(Dare to Know, Begin Now!)

Overall Plan Rationale

York College is re-inventing itself for the 21st-century. Our recently approved Strategic Plan for the next ten years engages in the process of “Charting a course for the Future of York College,” articulating a set of core values for the institution. A new master plan presents a vision of the campus of the future.

The York College motto “Dare to Know” conceptualizes York’s General Education Curriculum ideals and how they correlate to the practical application of the Pathways model. The aim is to provide a liberal education that will allow students to dare to know the world from different perspectives and a variety of pedagogical approaches.

The mission of York College’s General Education curriculum is to enable students to acquire knowledge that will deepen their understanding of the complex world in which they live; productively engage in the political process; and develop their skills of communication, critical analysis and problem-solving. Through the Pathways model students have the opportunity to select courses from a broad array of disciplines in the liberal arts and sciences. General Education courses are designed to enhance students’ academic background, promote understanding of the historical context of current issues, foster creative expression, develop students’ self-knowledge and capacity for reasoning, emphasize the importance of obtaining and analyzing information from multiple sources, and enhance student appreciation of the diversity of world societies and cultures. The York College mission statement that follows (Passed by the York College Senate, December 6, 2008), corresponds with the expectations and goals established by Pathways.

Mission Statement

An individual who has received a sound general education is characterized by intellectual curiosity and an awareness of the social significance of education in a diverse world. General education thus fosters personal growth, as well as providing a strong academic base that will lead to the successful completion of a baccalaureate degree. General Education Requirements at York College have been designed to introduce students to the content and methodology of diverse academic disciplines and to appreciate their interrelationship.

This serves not only to expand students’ knowledge but to help them formulate goals regarding future careers and graduate study, and provide a foundation for a well-lived life. General Education Requirements provide a foundation for a life of learning and professional success by enabling students to:

- Develop skills of critical analysis and problem-solving.
- Construct an effective argument based on evidence and reasoning.
- Generate, synthesize and clearly express ideas through writing and speaking.
- Develop research skills, using both traditional and electronic media.
- Acquire quantitative literacy and essential mathematical skills.
- Develop skills of visual literacy in order to analyze and interpret information presented in diverse forms.
- Gain knowledge of diverse world societies, cultures and languages.
- Understand the economic, political and social structure of contemporary society and the background of ideas and events that contributed to its formation.
- Appreciate diverse forms of creative expression in literature and the fine and performing arts.
- Develop opportunities for self-expression through writing, speaking and artistic activity.
- Understand the workings of the human mind and body and learn activities that promote health and well-being.
- Gain scientific knowledge of the physical environment and the ecological impact of human behavior.

General Education Requirements

While it is understood that meeting all graduation requirements is the responsibility of each student, it is imperative that all students choose an academic advisor from among their program faculty and meet with that advisor at least once during the semester.

I. Required Core (12 credits):

- **English Composition (6 credits): 125, 126**
Composition I and Composition II (English 125 and English 126) must be completed within a student's first three semesters (full time) or 45 credits (part time) at York. This requirement applies to transfer students who do not enter York with Composition I and II course equivalencies.
- **Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning (3 credits): 111, 115, 119, 120, 121, 150, 184, 190**
Choose one under advisement according to major program of study; certain programs may require additional coursework in Mathematics and Quantitative reasoning as part of the major requirements.
- **Life and Physical Sciences (3 credits): Astronomy 141; Biology 140, 201, Chemistry 106, 107; Geology 140; Physics 140,151**
Chosen under advisement according to major program of study.

II. Flexible Core (18 credits):

To meet the requirements of the Flexible Core, students must take at least one course from each of the five areas and no more than two courses in any discipline or interdisciplinary field.

World Cultures and Global Issues: Anthropology 101; English 200; History 100, 108, 113; Humanities 350; Political Science 202, 241; World Literature 201, 205, 207, 210, 212, 225

U.S. Diversity in its Experience: Anthropology 246; History 201, 202, 204; Humanities 250, 253; Political Science 103; Sociology 235, 289

Creative Expression: English 286; Fine Arts 104, 297; Humanities 221, 224, 260; Music 101, 250, 253, 270; Speech 160; Theater Arts 110, 210; World Literature 211

Individual and Society: Anthropology 205, 211; Cultural Diversity 100; Economics 102; Humanities 209, 304; Philosophy 103; Political Science 267, 268; Sociology 101

Scientific World: Anthropology 152; Astronomy 101, 102; Biology 110, 120, 130 and 202; Chemistry 108, 109; Geology 110, 115, 120, 121; Physics 152, HPEH 110; HPGC 102; Humanities 202; Philosophy 102; Psychology 102

III. College Option:

12 Credits (for native students and those entering York with fewer than 30 credits)

- Foreign Languages, 0 to 6 credits, as per department placement
- Health Education 111, 3 credits
- Any WI course at the 200-level or higher, 3 credits or Writing 300, 3 credits
(Chosen under advisement according to major program of study.)

9 Credits (for students who enter York with more than 30 credits, but without an associate's degree)

- Foreign Languages, 0-6 credits, as per department placement
- One (1) WI course at the 200-level or higher, 3 credits **or** Writing 300, 3 credits
(Chosen under advisement according to major program of study.)

6 Credits (for student who enter York with an associate's degree – AA, AS, or AAS)

- Two (2) writing courses (These include WI courses at the 200-level or higher, 3 credits and Writing 300, 3 credits.) Students are required to take three (3) WI courses as part the undergraduate degree.
(Chosen under advisement according to major program of study.)

Matriculation Status	Foreign Language course requirement for students with no prior foreign language proficiency	Foreign Language course requirement for students with credit for one semester of foreign language proficiency	# Courses Required in Flexible Core to replace Foreign Languages	Total # of College Option Credits for graduation
Fewer than 30 credits	2	1	0	6
More than 30 credits but no Associates Degree	2	1	1	6
Associates Degree	0	0	0	0

1. Students who enter the college with credit in a Foreign Language in a Flexible Core area from a CUNY college, but do not have an associate's degree, will be required to take the additional credits needed for York's college option from different disciplines in that same Flexible Core area.

2. Students who enter the college with credit in a Foreign Language from a non-CUNY college will be required to take the additional credits needed for York's college option from different disciplines in the Flexible Core areas chosen under advisement according to major program of study.
3. Students who meet the Foreign Language requirement through department placement will be required to take six (6) additional credits from York's Flexible Core offerings.

Approved and submitted by the York College Pathways to Degree Completion Committee, July, 2012;
approved by the College Curriculum Committee, September 2012,
approved by the College Senate, October 2012

The committee acknowledges the work of the York College Gen Ed Task Force for its contribution to the rationale and guiding framework for this plan.