Core Advising: Brief Guidance

The **Integrative Core Curriculum** provides the foundation and scaffolding of a John Carroll education. Through the Core, students develop essential skills and broad knowledge to support and enrich learning within their major and as preparation for their professional and civic lives. The

Core Basics

x Courses receive Core designation through the Core Committee's approval process. Core designation is tied to learning goals, not to a course's title or department affiliation. Not all SC courses are designated as SOC distribution courses, for example.

x Distributive (old) Core designations are not relevant to Integrative Core designations. Students can confirm designation(s) on the "Attributes" tab in Banner's course listings.

x Students may not use a Core course to fulfill more than one Core requirement. However, students may use Core courses to fulfill requirements in majors or minors, depending on the expectations of the academic departments and programs.

x Completion of foundational competencies (writing, oral expression, and quantitative analysis) is recommended in the first year, when possible.

x The University has Core-related academic policies regarding the transfer of credit, registration, course repeat, language fulfillment, and minimum grade required for successful completion; see "Core Curriculum Policies" below for detailed information.

x Advising conversations regarding Core matter: Understanding Core's value and purpose moves students away from "check-box" thinking. Thoughtful Core course selections can enrich and balance a schedule through skills development; balancing work load; complementing non-Core selections; and affording students with opportunities to explore or focus on areas of interest.

x Requests for transfer credit, or Core designation, require submission of an academic petition, unless transfer credit and/or designation has been given automatically by the Registrar.

x Regular review of the degree audit (at least once per semester and prior to registration) is essential for monitoring Core completion.

x Students may contact the Registrar's Office if they want to apply a course (one that carries multiple Core designations) to a particular Core category, especially in cases when the course fulfilled a different Core requirement as indicated on the audit. Both courses should be completed with grades.

Core Requirements

Written Expression (3-6 credits): EN 125 or the two-course sequence of EN 120 and EN 121, depending placement

- First-year writing placement is determined by SAT/ACT scores; high school GPA; and/or demonstration of requisite writing skills. An AP English score of 4 or higher allows students to test out of EN 125. Students needing intensive writing instruction are assigned to EN 120 and EN 121.
- A grade of C- or better (in EN 125 or EN 121) is required for fulfillment of the Written Expression requirement.
- Honors Program students fulfill their Written Expression requirement with HP 101: Honors Colloquium (with a grade of C- or above).
- Completion of the Written Expression requirement is required for LINK and EGC course registrations.

Oral Expression (3 credits): COMM 125
This is the university's first step toward ensuring that all students speak well. Here they learn to defend an oral thesis, develop ideas with appropriate evidence, analyze and adapt to audiences, develop critical listening skills, and deploy appropriate technology. Oral Expression skills are further developed within each major's required Oral Presentation (OP) experience.

Quantitative Analysis (QA—3 credits)
This is the university's first step toward ensuring that all students can reason with numbers. It is not a course in mathematical calculation, but a course in the ability to interpret data and make

x Students placed in 201 must complete that class. **Only students who place above 201 are exempt from the language requirement**, but

Engaging the Global Community: (EGC—3 credits) Interdisciplinary in nature, EGC courses facilitate global awareness and learning. Here students engage with diverse cultural perspectives and develop a sense of global responsibility and citizenship. All EGC courses introduce multi-disciplinary approaches to the topics studied; some courses are team-taught by faculty from different academic departments.

x EGC courses do not have a single global perspective; they must be interdisciplinary for Core designation.

Jesuit Heritage (4 categories—16 credits)

The Society of Jesus opened the first Jesuit school in 1548. Today, a Jesuit Education is recognized as a unique and powerful approach which prioritizes educating the whole person. John Carroll advances a Jesuit heritage which features philosophy, theology and religious studies, social justice, and the creative and performing arts.

Philosophy: (1 PLVS course and 1 PLKR course—6 credits)
Philosophy provides students the opportunity to reflect on the most fundamental questions of our lives that often go unexamined. Philosophy courses acquaint students with the intellectual and moral traditions of world civilizations and aim to develop the critical thinking skills necessary to question assumptions, to weigh propositions fundamental to personal responsibility, and to consider the ethical implications of their decisions.

x Students successfully complete one PL course from each of two categories: Knowledge & Reality category (PLKR) and Values & Society (PLVS). PLKR courses explore fundamental questions of nature, existence, and understanding, while PLVS classes often focus on ethics.

x Taking two PL courses from the same category does not fulfill Core.

Theology & Religious Studies: (2 course, at least one of which must be taken at the 300 level—6 credits)

religious communication. CAPA courses are creative or performative in nature and can include classes in creative writing, screenwriting, playwriting, theatre performance, photography, music, and dance.

- x CAPA requires creation or performance; music/art appreciation is not aligned with Core learning goals.
- x CAPA courses may be one or more credits.

Additional Competencies within the Major: (AW; OP; C)
Students continue to develop writing and oral expression skills and fulfill a summative capstone experience all within the major. Although the three additional competencies exist in different forms, all majors have them. **Students completing more than one major are expected to fulfill these requirements in each.**

Additional Writing: (AW)
All students, as part of their major, take a course that emphasizes writing skills within the discipline.

Additional Presentational Skills (OP):
Selected courses and other requirements in the major allow students to further cultivate skills in oral presentation and the use of technology to collect and share information.

Capstone Experience: **(C)**
The Capstone represents the culminating academic work within a major and usually occurs during the junior or senior year. It can be a course, creative work, or some form of experiential learning. Capstones meet one or more of the following criteria:

- x Synthesize and apply disciplinary knowledge and skills.
- x Foster reflection on undergraduate learning and experience.
- x Demonstrate emerging professional competencies.
- x Apply, analyze, and/or interpret research, data, or artistic expression.

<center>**Core Curriculum Policies**</center>

Fulfilling Core Requirements
Students may not use a Core course to fulfill more than one Core requirement. However, students may use Core courses to fulfill requirements in majors or minors, depending on the expectations of the academic departments and programs.

Link Course Policy
One distinct element of the Integrative Core Curriculum is the requirement that students pass a linked pair of courses that examine similar concepts from different disciplinary perspectives. The linked pairs require a level of integration that distinguishes them from any other offerings. Students must pass both courses in the linked pair for Core fulfillment. Consequently, the University has a unique policy for how to resolve drops, withdrawals, and insufficient grades, which may occur in one or both linked classes. Specific guidelines are provided below.

Students who **drop both** courses during Add/Drop (Week #1) may retake the entire link without the submission of an academic petition. They also may take a different link to fulfill their Core requirement.

Students who **withdraw from both** courses after Add/Drop (Weeks #2-12), or who **finish both courses with a C- or lower**, may submit an academic petition for permission to retake the entire link. Students should see the University's Course Attempt policy for further guidelines. Students who withdraw from both courses also may take a different link to fulfill their Core requirement.

Students who **withdraw from one** of the linked courses and remain in the other must obtain both instructors' written permission (sent to Enrollment Services) to do so.

Students who **withdraw or fail one of the linked courses and pass the other with a C or better** may submit an academic petition for permission to repeat the entire link.* They also may take a different link for Core fulfillment. If the choice is to repeat the same link, the last passing grades will factor into the grade point average. Course credit will be awarded once, and all attempts remain on the transcript.

*This is an exception to the Course Attempt policy. It is an exception due to the unique integration of courses required in a linked-pair of classes.

Transfer of Credits
Students who transfer in 0-44 credits to John Carroll University from other institutions are responsible for all Core requirements not already met through transferred course work. Students may transfer in credits for the Integrative Core Curriculum, but the courses transferred in must conform substantially to the requirements, including learning goals, of Core courses offered at JCU.

Given the centrality to mission of the Jesuit Heritage component in the Integrative Core Curriculum, students who bring in 0-44 credits to JCU may apply no more than 6 transfer credits

to the Jesuit Heritage portion of the Core. No more than 3 credit hours may count toward fulfilling the Philosophy requirement; no more than 3 credit hours may count toward fulfilling the Theology and Religious Studies requirement.

Requests for transfer credit require submission of an academic petition, unless transfer credit has already been given automatically by the Registrar. Students who transfer in 45+ credits from other institutions may waive most of the Core Curriculum requirements with the following exceptions:

1. Students must transfer in or take the following courses at John Carroll to meet Core or program prerequisites:
    x EN 125, Seminar on Academic Writing, or its equivalent.
    x Some programs of study require foundational course work in oral communication, foreign language, or quantitative analysis. The prerequisites for these programs will not be waived.
2. In addition, students who transfer in 45+ credits must complete all of the following core requirements at John Carroll:
    x One linked pair of courses from the Integrated Courses component of the Core curriculum.
    x One Engaging the Global Community course from the Integrated Courses component of the Core curriculum.
    x A minimum of two courses (6 credits) from the Jesuit Heritage component of the Core Curriculum, each course from a different category:
        o Lower-Division Theology & Religious Studies
        o Upper-Division Theology & Religious Studies
        o Philosophy: Values and Society
        o Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality
        o Issues in Social Justice
        o 3-credit CAPA course

Written Expression
Students must earn at least a C- in their foundational writing course (either EN 125 or EN 121, which concludes the development writing sequence) in order to fulfill the Core requirement for written expression. Students who earn a grade below C- in these courses will be required to re-take the course.

Students in the Honors Program can fulfill their Core written expression requirement by successfully completing (with a C- or above) HP 101, the Honors Colloquium.

Language
Language Substitution
Non-traditional students and/or students approved by Student Accessibility Services for language substitution may fulfill the foreign language requirement by taking six hours of coursework (normally two