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 was crafted with a variety of important interests, multiple forms of integration, and an emphasis on the goals of a Jesuit education. Careful Core advising matters. This resource document provides brief guidelines to facilitate meaningful advising conversations and to clarify information for academic planning and decision making.

Core Curriculum Snapshot
Credit-hour requirements can vary with placement.*

Core Requirements	Course	Credit Hrs.
Foundational Competencies	Written Expression (EN 125; EN 120/121; or HP 101)	3-6*
	Oral Expression (COMM 125)	3
	Quantitative Analysis (QA)	3
Language		0-9*
Distribution Courses	Humanities (HUM)	3
	Social Science (SOC)	3
	Natural Science (SCI)	3
Integrated Courses	Linked courses (LINK; 2 co-requisites)	6
	Engaging the Global Community (EGC)	3
Jesuit Heritage	Philosophy (1 course from each of 2 specific categories): Knowledge & Reality (PLKR) and Values & Society (PLVS)	6
	Theology & Religious Studies (2 courses; one-lower and one-upper division): TRS 1xx or TRS 2xx, and also a TRS 3xx	6
	Issues in Social Justice (ISJ)	3
	Creative & Performing Arts (CAPA)	1
Additional Competencies for each Major	Additional Writing (AW)	
	Oral Presentation (OP)	
	Capstone Experience (C)	

Core Basics

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

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

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

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

- 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
This is the university's first step toward ensuring that all students write well. Here they learn to articulate arguments, integrate sources, document ethically, and write with clarity. Writing skills development continues through Integrated coursework and one writing-intensive course (AW) in the major.

- 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 cogent arguments using numbers.

- Students are not required to take a "math" course to fulfill their QA requirement. MT 130, MT 133, and MT 135 **do not** fulfill the QA requirement.
- QA courses are available in various disciplines (ex, ED 101; ER 115; PO 105; and SPS 122).
- QA courses can be tied to specific majors. QA selection should be done within the context of a major planning, if a major is identified.

Language (0-9 credits), depending on placement
Language courses are designed to help students act competently in a global and diverse world. Here students learn to communicate skillfully and effectively in a language other than English, demonstrate cultural and linguistic knowledge, and demonstrate an emerging intercultural competence.

- At New Student Orientation, students take the language placement test in all previously studied languages. The results of the test(s) determine placement level. Typical language placements are 101, 102, 201, or waiver (above 201). The level of placement determines the number of courses (and credits) required to satisfy Core.
- Questions regarding placement testing for languages not offered at JCU should be directed to the CMLC Department.
- Languages at JCU include: Chinese; French; German; Greek (ancient); Italian; Japanese; Latin; Slovak; and Spanish.
- Students who study a **new** language at John Carroll must complete both 101 and 102.
- Those who continue in the language they studied in high school complete three courses in that language (101, 102, and 201). One or more of these courses may be waived based on language placement.

- Students placed in 201 must complete that class. **Only students who place above 201 are exempt from the language requirement**, but they are encouraged to continue language study.
- The requirement cannot be satisfied with 101 in two different languages.
- Students may petition to transfer credit of other foreign languages, including ASL, to fulfill Core.
- International students, those who are citizens of and who have lived for at least ten years in another country whose primary language is not English, are exempt from the language requirement.
- Non-traditional students and/or students approved by Student Accessibility Services for language substitution may fulfill the foreign language requirement by taking 6 hours of coursework (normally 2 courses) given in English and from the CMLC Department list of approved substitute courses.

Distribution Courses (HUM; SOC; and SCI—9 credits)
Students must complete at least one course in each of three major distributions: the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. Distribution designation is satisfied by meeting both content and approved Integrative Core learning goals.
- Approved Distribution courses are designated in the *Bulletin* and listed in the Banner course schedule by their appropriate codes (HUM; SOC; or SCI). **Courses without these codes do not count toward that distribution.**

Humanities Experience: (HUM—3 credits)
Students learn to make informed interpretations of texts, art, or other cultural products or practices within their social, cultural, and/or historical contexts.

Social Science Experience: (SOC—3 credits)
Students demonstrate how social science insights and approaches can be used to understand contemporary social, economic, or political issues.

Natural Science Experience: (SCI—3 credits)
Students develop scientific literacy by effective communication of concepts and processes within the discipline.

Integrated Courses (LINK; EGC—9 credits)
Integrated course requirements are fulfilled by taking one set of Linked courses (LINK) and an Engaging the Global Community (EGC) class. Written Expression (EN 125 or EN 120-121 or HP 101) is a prerequisite for all Integrated courses.

Linked Courses: (LINK—2 co-requisite courses; 6 credits)
Few critical issues today can be adequately addressed through a single perspective. Equipping students to examine real-world problems and key intellectual questions through multiple disciplinary lenses is the goal of linked courses.
- Each course is the co-requisite of the other, so students take them the same semester, and must pass both to achieve LINK credit.

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. EGC faculty team-teach their course or engage in a Core-affiliated, course-relevant learning community.

- 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.

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

Theology & Religious Studies: (1 lower-level TRS course and 1 upper-level TRS course—6 credits)

Theology and Religious Studies provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for the analysis of religion; for investigation of the historical development and contemporary practice of particular religious traditions; for critical reflection on personal faith as well as sympathetic appreciation of the beliefs of others; and for resources to understand and respond to the religious forces that shape our society and world.

- Students must successfully complete two TRS courses, one of which must be taken at the 300 level. There are no prerequisites for the lower level (100 or 200 level) TRS courses. EN 125 is a prerequisite for 300 level TRS courses.

Issues in Social Justice: (ISJ— 3 credits)

Students learn to understand and interrogate concepts of inclusion and empowerment and to analyze systems and structures of oppression and marginalization. ISJ courses pose questions about equality, access, multiculturalism, economic and social barriers, or discrimination based on gender, sexuality, class, race, and/or ethnicity. These courses may focus on historical issues, contemporary problems, or both.

Creative and Performing Arts: (CAPA—1 or more credits)

From their beginnings, Jesuit colleges and universities were distinguished by their attention to the arts and architecture, painting, sculpture, music, theatre, dance, and poetry as methods of 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.

- CAPA requires creation or performance; music/art appreciation is not aligned with Core learning goals.
- 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:

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

<h1 style="text-align:center">Core Curriculum Policies</h1>

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:
    *   EN 125, Seminar on Academic Writing, or its equivalent.
    *   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:
    *   One linked pair of courses from the Integrated Courses component of the Core curriculum.
    *   One Engaging the Global Community course from the Integrated Courses component of the Core curriculum.
    *   A minimum of two courses (6 credits) from the Jesuit Heritage component of the Core curriculum.

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 courses) given in English, but only from the CMLC Department-approved list. The list includes any IC or CL courses and selected EN classes. Contact the CMLC Department and Student Accessibility Services for more information.

International Students
International students, those who are citizens of and who have lived for at least ten years in another country whose primary language is not English, are exempt from the language requirement.

Language Placement for Non-JCU Languages
Students who have learned a language for which there is no placement exam at JCU can demonstrate proficiency in that language by taking a nationally validated proficiency exam approved by the chair of the CMLC Department. The student will bear the cost of taking the exam. Demonstration of proficiency at or above the intermediate-mid level in at least two skills (oral proficiency as well as writing or reading) will qualify the student for a waiver of the language requirement. This waiver only exempts the student from the language requirement; it does not grant the student academic credit.