Undergraduate Curriculum

at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives…Personal Attention…Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

This Undergraduate Curriculum applies to students, both first-years and transfers, entering Arcadia University in 2010-11.

Get Ready for the Journey of Your Life.
Arcadia's new Undergraduate Curriculum provides a distinctively global, integrative and personal learning experience that prepares you to contribute and prosper in a diverse and dynamic world.

Explore the Globe.
Experience other cultures in addition to reading about them. Arcadia provides you the opportunities to study around the world, the nation, and the region. You go where you want to go.

Design Your Own Path.
Arcadia's flexible curriculum allows you and your adviser to design an academic path specially tailored to your interests and enthusiasms.

Make Intellectual Connections.
At Arcadia your courses and academic experiences make the connections—across disciplines and cultures, between theory and practical applications, between the classroom and the community—that help you understand how the world works.

Develop an Expertise.
Choose a major from over 45 fields of study and work with Arcadia's acclaimed teaching faculty to become an expert in your field.

Pursuing a Major

Arcadia students choose from among more than 45 major fields of study in the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities, and business, including eight majors in the Majors Abroad program where students spend a full academic year studying in a foreign country.

No matter which major you choose, you'll work with Arcadia's acclaimed teaching faculty. And with a low student-faculty ratio of 13:1, your learning will take place in small-class environments where you'll get to know your professors, and they'll get to know you, too.

The heart of the major experience is developing expertise in a field of study in which you are passionately interested. You and your adviser—who is a faculty member from your major department—work together to design an academic path tailored to your enthusiasms. That then takes you from foundation-building introductory courses all the way to the Senior Capstone Project.

In addition, your major is the primary pathway through the rest of Arcadia's Undergraduate Curriculum. Courses you take in your chosen major also fulfill some of the required Curricular Experiences, Areas of Inquiry and Intellectual Practices, so your major plan provides a framework for those educational goals you will achieve in courses outside your major.

Curricular Experiences

Arcadia's Undergraduate Curriculum provides an integrative and global experience for all Arcadia University undergraduate students throughout their academic careers. Students have significant flexibility in determining how and with what courses these curricular requirements are satisfied. This enables them to simultaneously delve more deeply into their chosen major while taking a multidisciplinary look at how their work applies to the world. All students participate in four types of required Curricular Experiences:

- **First-Year Experience**
- **University Seminars**
- **Global Connections Experience and Reflection**
- **Senior Capstone Project**

The seminar courses focus on integrative learning by providing vital and distinctive opportunities for students to make intellectual connections between normally discrete disciplinary ideas and the world beyond the classroom. Students also have cross-cultural experiences that place them in new cultural settings that may include study abroad, cross-cultural experiences, or study away in the United States.

Undergraduate Curriculum at Arcadia University

First-Year Experience

The First-Year Experience begins at Orientation in late August. Fellow students, faculty and staff help you to get comfortably settled in on campus. Here you begin learning about the academic, co-curricular and personal opportunities available to you at Arcadia. And you are provided all the information, support, and resources needed to make a successful transition to college life.

The academic core of the First-Year Experience revolves around the First-Year Seminar—a small, interactive class where you explore special topics that interest you. Choose from dozens of different First-Year Seminars, all of them—along with a required first-semester Thought and Expression writing course—designed to spark intellectual curiosity and to begin developing the academic tools and habits you need to thrive in the Arcadia classroom.

That first semester you also participate in a Learning Community with the instructor and the other students in your First-Year Seminar. Together you take advantage of academic and cultural opportunities on Arcadia's campus and around the Philadelphia metropolitan area. In your Learning Community, you make friends with fellow first-year students who share your interests and you learn about and contribute to the wider Arcadia community.

In the spring semester, most first-year students travel with Arcadia faculty and staff mentors for a week of culture and fun in London, Scotland or Spain during spring break. During London/Scotland/Spain Preview, you develop the inspiration and experience to continue your Arcadia journey wherever your heart and head desire.

London/Scotland/Spain Preview is open to any first-year student who enters the University in the summer or fall with less than 32 credits. Students who enter the University in the fall semester must earn a minimum of 1.75 GPA during the fall semester to participate in spring Preview. If a student entered the University in spring, 2009, he or she cannot be on academic probation at the conclusion of the fall semester. Students who are on active social probation at the time of departure in March will forfeit their privilege to participate. Students who enter the University as a member of the Honors Program do not pay the Preview fee.

University Seminars

University Seminars are a showcase of integrative learning at Arcadia designed to make intellectual connections among academic disciplines and between scholarly ideas and the world beyond the classroom. Students participate in at least two University Seminars after the completion of your First-Year Experience. A wide range of University Seminars are offered each semester, and you choose which ones you want to take and when.

Many University Seminars are interdisciplinary courses where your Arcadia professors explore a dynamic world of ideas with you. For example, science and philosophy come together in a study of bioethics. A combined examination of geology and photography provides a distinctive opportunity to view and interpret the natural world in creative ways. Or a University Seminar on global citizenship draws on politics, sociology and economics to help you consider the meanings of collective engagement in the world.

University Seminars also take you out of the classroom and into the culturally and intellectually rich Philadelphia region. For example, you can explore how the past shapes the present in a University Seminar that takes frequent trips to important Philadelphia historic sites. Study the criminal justice system by making regular visits to a local prison. Or improve your modern language abilities through weekly service learning at a community-based organization in a predominantly Spanish speaking neighborhood.

Taking University Seminars also helps you to work toward fulfilling other Arcadia Undergraduate Curriculum requirements. All University Seminars fulfill at least one Area of Inquiry and at least one Intellectual Practice.

Global Connections Experience and Reflection

The Global Connections Experience and Reflection provide all Arcadia students the opportunity to explore new places and cultures. In a sustained cross-cultural experience, you meet people and learn about

a society different from that in which you have lived previously. In addition, during your Global Connections Experience you participate in a supervised reflection—typically by compiling an electronic portfolio—in which you document and analyze your experiences.

Where you go for your Global Connections Experience is up to you.

You might choose to go to a foreign country. Every major provides a pathway to study abroad that suggest places and times in which foreign travel particularly enhances your academic development, and Arcadia's College of Global Studies puts 14 countries and 100 programs around the world easily at your fingertips. Arcadia students often study abroad for a semester, but others study abroad for an intensive few weeks, for a summer, or for an entire year.

Your Global Connections Experience also might occur in the United States. Domestic study away programs offer the opportunity to spend a semester at universities in places such as California and New York that provide cross-cultural learning and living environments. And some Arcadia courses that engage in extensive service learning as well as other local experiences, such as student teaching and internships, also carry the Global Connections designation when they occur in approved cross-cultural settings.

Senior Capstone Project

The Senior Capstone Project is the opportunity for you to bring four years of coursework and academic and personal experiences together by engaging in an extended project in your major. What you do for your Senior Capstone Project depends on both your chosen field of study and your own personal interests. Each major department designs the parameters of the project to help you develop an expertise and synthesize the learning you've done at Arcadia. And you select the focus of your research, scholarly or creative activities. Then when you've completed your Senior Capstone Project at the conclusion of your final year, you tell the world about your work during our campus-wide celebration of senior projects. Faculty members, family, and friends come out to learn about and enjoy the product of your academic labors. Art and Design majors host an exciting group exhibit. Majors in some departments give oral presentations describing their research and engage in lively discussion sessions. And those in other departments create visual displays of their work for interactive public poster fairs.

Areas of Inquiry

Arcadia students take courses exploring four theme-based Areas of Inquiry that ensure you develop a broad, well-rounded education. Most courses at Arcadia satisfy one Area of Inquiry requirement. Some interdisciplinary First-Year Seminars and University Seminars satisfy more than one. The Four Areas of Inquiry are Creative Expressions, Cultural Legacies, Natural and Physical World, and Self and Society.

Creative Expressions

Students participate in the creative process through the expression and application of their original ideas and imagination. These project-based courses—typically in the fields of fine arts, performing arts, and creative writing—explore and develop ideas by means of production, review, revision and presentation.

Cultural Legacies

Students study human experience and expression through the exploration of the history and interpretation of past cultures and cultural texts. By examining aspects of past cultures such as their politics, religions, ethical systems, and literary and artistic production, students engage in asking and answering questions about understanding the past.

Natural and Physical World

Students learn about and participate in answering questions about the natural and physical world. This includes applying observation and experimentation based on physical events that are predictable and quantifiable. These courses explore both the process and outcome of scientific inquiries.

Self and Society

Students explore the multiple forces that create, shape and sustain the development of self-identity, and they examine how individuals and groups live together, form societies, and distribute resources and power. Students focus on understanding the mechanisms and processes that shape who we are and what we

can become and analyze how and why societies and social institutions function, evolve, and include and exclude.

Intellectual Practices

Arcadia students develop five Intellectual Practices that provide the tools to understand, interpret and communicate in a complex, global society. Intellectual Practices are sometimes developed in stand-alone courses dedicated solely to these practices. But more often they are developed in courses throughout the University—some in your major, others outside of it—that concentrate on the given Intellectual Practice in the context of other subject matter. The five Intellectual Practices are Global Connections, Modern Languages, Quantitative Reasoning, Visual Literacy and Writing.

Global Connections

Students examine issues related to interconnectedness, interdependence, and inequity within and among nation-states of the world. Global Connections courses also explore issues of social justice, social welfare, and economic rights across national borders.

Modern Languages

Students complete the introductory level of a language other than English, which may require up to two courses depending on your prior experience.

Quantitative Reasoning

Students develop the ability to ask and act on questions related to the analysis of data, the application of mathematical models, or the cultural and political roles of mathematical thinking.

Visual Literacy

Students focus on the viewing and interpretation of visual information and images from a variety of sources as well as the expression of meaning through visual means.

Writing

By emphasizing how expression enhances learning, understanding, and communication, students focus on the craft and process of written presentation through revisions based on critical commentary.

Undergraduate Curriculum Requirements for First-Year Students

Note: Undergraduate Curriculum requirements are defined by courses rather than credits. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of courses.

Major Requirements

Students fulfill the requirements of their majors. Any of the requirements listed below may be fulfilled within a student's major.

Curricular Experiences

- **First-Year Seminar/Learning Community** – Usually taken during the first semester. In most cases if a student does not successfully complete the First-Year Seminar, a third University Seminar will be required.
- **University Seminars** (2) – Take two University Seminars any time after the completion of the First-Year Seminar.
- **Global Connections Experience and Reflection –** Participate in this Experience and at the same time in a separate Global Connections Reflection at any point during your Arcadia career. Students can fulfill the Global Connections Experience, Global Connections Reflection and one Global Connections Intellectual Practice course during a semester away, but no student can fulfill all of his or her Global Connections requirements while off campus for a semester. You will have opportunities to explore Global Connections Intellectual Practice courses before or after study away.
- **Senior Capstone Project** – Complete this project in the final year as a part of the chosen major.

Areas of Inquiry

Students take courses that allow them to explore these four theme-based Areas of Inquiry:

- **Creative Expressions** (1)
- **Cultural Legacies** (2)
- **Natural and Physical World** (2, at least 1 of which must have a laboratory component)
- **Self and Society** (2)

Intellectual Practices

Students sometimes develop Intellectual Practices in standalone courses dedicated solely to these practices; more often they are developed in courses throughout the University that concentrate on the given Intellectual Practice in the context of other subject matter.

- **Global Connections** (2) – Take two Global Connections-designated courses from those offered in various departments. No student can fulfill all of their Global Connections requirements while off campus for a semester, so you will have opportunities to explore Global connections before or after study away. Students may fulfill the Global Connections Experience, Global Connections Reflections and one Global Connections Intellectual Practice course during a semester away.
- **Modern Language** – Complete the introductory (102) level of a modern language. If a student places out of the 200 level of a language, he or she is waived from the Modern Language requirement but not from the Cultural Legacy requirement that is also a part of the 200-level language courses.
- **Quantitative Reasoning** (2) – Take one mathematics course beyond MA 100 and also take one additional Quantitative Reasoning-designated course from those offered in various departments.
- **Visual Literacy** (1) – Take one Visual Literacy-designated course from those offered in various departments.
- **Writing** (4) – Complete English 101 (Thought and Expression) in the first year and complete a Research Writing-designated (RW) course by the end of the second year from those offered either in the major or the English Department. In addition, complete two additional Writing-designated (W) courses from those offered in various departments.

Undergraduate Curriculum Requirements for Transfer Students

The requirements depend upon the number of credits transferred, as indicated below. All students must complete EN101 if they do not have an equivalent course with a “B” or better.

Note: Undergraduate Curriculum requirements are defined by courses rather than credits. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of courses.

Major Requirements
Students will fulfill the requirements of their major. Any of the requirements listed below may be fulfilled within a student's major.

Requirements for Students Transferring 16 or Fewer Credits
Same as first-year students. Need to complete all Curricular Experiences, Areas of Inquiry and Intellectual Practices.

Requirements for Students Transferring 17-45 Credits

- **University Seminars** (2) – Take two University Seminars before Senior Capstone.
- **Global Connections Experience and Reflection** – Participate in this experience and at the same time in a separate reflection at any point in your Arcadia career.
- **Senior Capstone Project** – Complete this project in final year as a part of your chosen major.

Requirements for Students Transferring 46 or More Credits

- **University Seminars** (1) – Take one University Seminar before Senior Capstone.
- **Global Connections Experience and Reflection** – Participate in this experience and at the same time in a separate reflection at any point in your Arcadia career.
- **Senior Capstone Project** – Complete this project in the final year as a part of your chosen major.

Core-to-Core Transfer

- **Global Connections Experience and Reflection** – Participate in this experience and at the same time in a separate reflection at any point in your Arcadia career.
- **Senior Capstone Project** – Complete this project in the final year as a part of your chosen major.

How the Undergraduate Curriculum Works

Most Arcadia Undergraduate Curriculum requirements focus on educational ends rather than particular means to those ends (e.g., specific courses). As a result, students have significant flexibility in determining how and with what courses these requirements may be satisfied. Some courses students complete within their chosen majors also will satisfy Undergraduate Curriculum requirements. In addition, courses taken within one's major and elsewhere throughout the University may, when appropriate, fulfill multiple Undergraduate Curriculum requirements simultaneously.

Undergraduate Curriculum Requirements and Students' Chosen Majors

Students' chosen majors are their primary pathways through the rest of Arcadia's Undergraduate Curriculum since courses taken to fulfill a chosen major also fulfill some of the required Curricular Experiences, Areas of Inquiry, and Intellectual Practices. However, which Undergraduate Curriculum requirements are fulfilled by major courses differs by major. Therefore, each student works with his or her academic adviser – who is a faculty member from the student's major department – to determine which Undergraduate Curriculum requirements the student will fulfill in major courses and which requirements he or she will fulfill in courses outside the major.

How Courses Can Fulfill Multiple Undergraduate Curriculum Requirements

Courses both within and outside students' chosen majors sometimes fulfill multiple Undergraduate Curriculum requirements simultaneously. For example, it is fairly common for courses around the University to satisfy both an Area of Inquiry and an Intellectual Practice. Similarly, First-Year Seminars (which are required Curricular Experiences) also satisfy at least one Area of Inquiry, and all University Seminars (which are another required Curricular Experience) also satisfy at least one Area of Inquiry and at least one Intellectual Practice.

Understanding Courses and Credits

Undergraduates need a total of 128 credits to graduate from Arcadia University – the equivalent of eight semesters of 16 credits each. However, Undergraduate Curriculum requirements are defined by courses rather than credits. Most courses that fulfill Undergraduate Curriculum requirements carry 4 credits. For example, most courses that fulfill an Area of Inquiry or Intellectual Practice requirement carry 4 credits. However, there are some exceptions. The Global Connections Experience is often fulfilled through a semester abroad or through a semester-long domestic exchange with a partner university. When done away from campus (either internationally or domestically), the "experience" is connected to the semester as a whole that one is away from campus, rather than connected to a specific course. The Global Connections Reflection usually is fulfilled by completing a specific 2-credit Reflection course during one's Global Connections Experience. There are some courses offered through the Glenside campus that will fulfill the "experience" requirement.
In addition, 3-credit courses also sometimes may fulfill Undergraduate Curriculum requirements when appropriate.

Courses Taken at Other Institutions

Students also can fulfill curricular requirements through courses taken through study abroad/study away, Advanced Placement, college courses completed during high school, International Baccalaureate or summer courses at other institutions. These courses carry the same designations as their equivalents within the Arcadia University system.

Global Connections Experience & Reflection

There are many ways to fulfill the Global Connections Experience – as close by as the Won Buddhist Temple in Glenside or as far away as Capetown, South Africa. In each case, students are engaged in a sustained,

semester-long cross-cultural experience and are involved in ongoing reflection *during* the experience (typically through enrolling in GCR 101).

Although many students fulfill the Global Connections Experience by studying abroad, there are several domestic exchange options that also fulfill this requirement: For each of the exchange options listed below, students continue to pay Arcadia tuition and fees during the semester they are away rather than paying the institution they are visiting.

Whittier College Exchange: Spend a semester outside Los Angeles exploring this multicultural and multilingual campus and community (Fall and Spring)

Elon University Exchange: Participate in a service semester in communities surrounding this North Carolina campus as part of the ANAC consortium, (Spring only)

North Central College Exchange: Participate in a Chicago Term, exploring the social, historical and cultural dimensions of this great American city as part of the ANAC consortium, (Fall only)

Wagner College Exchange: Participate in a New York Semester, exploring the social, historical, and cultural dimensions of this great American city as part of the ANAC consortium. (Spring only)

In addition to these domestic exchange possibilities, students can participate in Glenside-based courses that have an experiential component in order to fulfill the Global Connections Experience. If a student participates in a course-based experience, he or she are is expected to complete 15 additional experiential hours either in the same community as the course-based experience or in a context or organization that addresses the same issue or topic the student is exploring. Some of the courses currently available that include this experiential component include:

SP 270: Hispanic Experience in Philadelphia

SO 320: Homes, Housing and Homelessness

CJ 325: Inside/Out

SO 207: Introduction to Social Welfare

Individualized Experience: It is also possible to design an individualized Global Connections Experience in consultation with the Director of Global Connections. The University is in the process of designing opportunities that combine short-term study away with a local or online sustained experience.

GCR 101
(2 credits, fall, spring)

This course is the companion course to the Global Connections Experience. This is a key Curricular Experience in Arcadia's Undergraduate Curriculum. All students complete this course while engaging in an experience in a cultural context different from the one in which they grew up (locally, nationally or internationally). This course assists students in reflecting on the interconnections, interdependence, and inequality they encounter during the experience in working to understand the world and their place in it.
Co-requisites: While taking this course, students must be involved in an approved Global Connections Experience. There are no prerequisites.