

General Education Program Summary

Institution: **University of Pittsburgh**

Website: <http://www.pitt.edu/>

Overview: The University of Pittsburgh has undergraduate programs in the schools of: Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, College of General Studies, Information Sciences, Nursing, Social Work, and International Studies. They also have an Honors College which functions in conjunction with the other undergraduate units.

Each school has its own set of general education requirements that appear customized to the individual program. All schools require students to take courses that develop competencies in written communication, analytical reasoning and some distribution across the areas of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

School of Arts and Sciences

Website: <http://www.as.pitt.edu/undergraduate/requirements/gened.html>

Program Overview

- Goal: The goal of the School of Arts and Sciences is to provide liberal arts and pre-professional education for undergraduate students that is grounded in scholarly excellence, and offers you the knowledge, understanding, analytical tools, and communication skills you need to become perceptive, reflective, and intellectually self-conscious citizens within a diverse and rapidly changing world. Our General Education Requirements are at the core of that goal. (Pitt website)
- Core Requirements (54-57 hours)
 - Writing (9 hours)
 - Introductory Composition (3 hours) (May Test out)
 - Writing Intensive Courses (6 hours)
 - Quantitative/Formal Reasoning (3 hours)
 - 1 mathematics course for which algebra is prerequisite
 - Or approved course in statistics or mathematical/formal Logic
 - Must be completed in A&S Department
 - Distribution Requirements (45 hours)
 - Literature Course
 - Arts Course
 - Second Literature, Arts or Creative Expression course
 - Philosophy
 - Social Science Course
 - Historical Change Course
 - Three Natural Science Courses
 - Two Foreign Language Courses
 - Three Foreign Culture/International Courses
 - Non Western Culture Course

- Approved List of Courses
 - With the exception of the Introductory Composition Course, the general education requirements do not prescribe specific courses. There is a list of approved courses that meet the specific requirements. Students are free to choose from any approved courses.

- **AACU Principles**
 - Foster Broad Knowledge of Human Culture and Natural World
 - The A&S program requires student to take a minimum of 4 courses focusing on human cultures and 2 semester of a foreign language
 - Student are required to take 3 courses in natural Sciences
 - Students are required to complete a distribution requirement
 - Research opportunities, while not part of the general education requirements, are available. These include:
 - Seeking out faculty to work with.
 - First Experiences in Research Program
 - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
 - The Research Abroad Program
 - Strengthen Intellectual and Practical Skills
 - Students are required to complete 2 writing intensive courses
 - No First Year Seminar Requirement
 - Math or Logic Requirements
 - No oral communications requirement
 - Deepening Personal And Social Responsibility
 - Courses in Foreign Cultures
 - Ethics course available but not required
 - Integrative and Applied Learning
 - Research opportunities available but not required
 - No Capstone Requirements

- **Program Assessment**
 - The A&S requirements offer a fairly traditional distribution of requirements. Students are expected to develop skills in writing, analytic reasoning, and to have broad exposure main academic disciplines.
 - The program lacks a specific requirement in oral communication. (-)
 - The program requires students to complete 2 writing intensive courses. (+)
 - The program allows flexibility in student interests/schedules by providing a list of approved courses for each of the course requirements. (+)
 - The program has a heavy concentration of courses focused on foreign/non-western courses. (+)
 - The program does not ensure integration of information between required courses (eg no “big picture” focus) (-)
 - The Undergraduate program provides opportunities for student research (+)

School of Business

Website: <http://www.business.pitt.edu/cba/programs/arts-and-sciences.html>

Program Overview

- Goal: These basic skills courses prepare students for future courses. The basic-skills requirements include courses in English Composition, Foreign language, algebra, calculus, statistics, economics, and psychology. (web site)
- Core Requirements
 - English Composition
 - 600 or better verbal ACT
 - Placement test if 599 or below verbal ACT
 - 1 of three English Composition Courses
 - Foreign Language
 - three years of study of a single foreign language in high school, passed with an average of C or better over the three years;
 - placement into Level III of a foreign language on a University of Pittsburgh language placement test;
 - placement into Level II of a foreign language on a University of Pittsburgh language placement test and completion of the appropriate course from the Second Course list below;
 - completion of one of the two-course sequences
 - Algebra
 - 600 or better ACT
 - Algebra Placement
 - Required Course
 - Calculus
 - Required Course
 - Statistics
 - Required Course
 - Economics
 - Two Required Courses
 - Psychology
 - Required Course
 - Literature
 - Choose from List of Courses
 - Art
 - Choose from List of Courses
 - Philosophy
 - Choose from List of Courses
 - Social Sciences
 - Choose 2 courses from List of Courses
 - Natural Sciences
 - Choose 2 courses from List of Courses
 - Foreign Culture
 - 2 Courses from List of Courses

- AACU Principles
 - Similar to A&S Requirements
- Assessment
 - The general education requirements between A&S and the School of Business are similar but not exactly the same. Students are required to complete the 54 credit hours from A&S to meet the general education requirements. The Business School requirements are more heavily weighted toward mathematics. There are fewer culture/language requirements.
 - The catalog states that the purpose of the general education requirements is to prepare students for further coursework. To the student, this likely translates that these are just remedial courses that prepare only prepare you for the courses that you really want to take. There is no discussion of the importance of the courses preparing students for the world.
 - Students may earn dual A&S/Business Majors
 - Students changing majors late in their career could face additional general education requirements.

School of Nursing

Website: http://www.nursing.pitt.edu/academics/undergraduate_curriculum.jsp

Program Overview

- Goals: The school of nursing has the clearest set of goals and objectives for its program. They include:
 - **Objectives**
 - The graduate of the baccalaureate program will:
 1. Synthesize knowledge from nursing, biophysical, and social sciences in the practice of professional nursing.
 2. Demonstrate skills in critical thinking and decision making in the use of the nursing process with individuals, families, groups, and communities experiencing complex health problems.
 3. Intervene therapeutically to promote, restore, and maintain the maximum health potential of individuals, families, groups, and communities.
 4. Manage nursing care for groups of clients.
 5. Provide health education for individuals, families, groups, and communities.
 6. Evaluate research findings to guide nursing practice.
 7. Assume responsibility and accountability for own decisions and actions in the practice of nursing.
 8. Incorporate professional values, including ethical and legal aspects, into the practice of nursing.

9. Communicate effectively in interactions with individuals, families, groups, and communities.
10. Demonstrate evolving competence in multicultural interactions.

- Core Requirements

- The nursing curriculum is more prescribed than the A&S or Business Degrees. In addition to their nursing courses, student must complete the following:

- Chemistry (4 hours)
- English Composition (3 hours)
- Psychology (3 hours)
- Art (3 hours)
- PsyEd: Lifespan (3 hours)
- Sociology (3 hours)
- Anthropology (3 hours)
- Speech (3 hours)

- Assessment/AACU principles

- The school of nursing has the fewer distribution hours in non-nursing related courses than A&S or Business
- The program requires a communication skills course in addition to the writing composition course.
- The program does require courses in sociology and anthropology
- The program lacks a specific requirement in ethics, though it is likely part of the central curriculum.
- Given that this is a professional degree, there are fewer courses aimed at human cultures.