

# GENERAL EDUCATION

Plymouth State University provides opportunities for students to cultivate the mind in ways that will lead them to full awareness as adults, and to lives in which occupational achievement is balanced by social responsibility, cultural experience, and personal happiness. The University measures its excellence, not by the quality of students who enter its doors, but by the quality it adds to those who graduate. Because of this commitment, Plymouth State University believes that every student must receive a strong general education as well as specialized instruction in a field. The undergraduate General Education program gives students a broad perspective on ideas and an awareness of diverse human experiences and cultures.

The General Education program is meant to ensure that students develop the skills necessary for academic success and lifelong learning, an appreciation of the various ways scholars consider and understand human experience, and an appreciation of the process by which different approaches to scholarship can be brought to bear on the same problem. Courses taken to ensure breadth of knowledge emphasize the relevance and application of methods of inquiry and content to students' lives.

## Habits of Mind

Habits of Mind are a set of four usual ways of thinking or ways of engaging with the world. They will equip students well for life and work after college. In this General Education program, the following Habits of Mind are developed in meaningful contexts.

**Purposeful Communication** is a Habit of Mind characterized by the construction of meaning through interactions with texts and people and the creation of new messages. "Text" refers broadly to any communicative message including, but not limited to, messages that are spoken or written, read or listened to, nonverbal, and/or delivered through any form of media (digital, social, artistic, print, etc.). Construction of meaning and creation of messages are influenced by individuals' prior experiences as well as cultural and historical contexts. Creation of messages involves the development and purposeful expression of ideas and is designed to increase knowledge, foster understanding, and/or promote change in others' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors. To be effective, messages must engage the perspectives of others and foster dialog among individuals and the community.

**Problem Solving** is a Habit of Mind that involves an iterative process of identifying, explaining, and exploring problems, describing challenges, envisioning possible solutions and their implication, and make decisions about how to proceed based on all of these considerations. Problem solving encompasses a broad array of activities and approaches. Problems range widely in scale and scope—small to large, local to global, well-defined to ambiguous, simulated to real-world—and problem solving may be undertaken individually or in collaboration with others. In all cases, engaging in problem solving requires the ability to think creatively, adapt and extend one's thinking, acknowledge different contexts and incorporate different perspectives, embrace flexibility, consider potential implication, determine courses of action, persist and adapt despite failure, and reflect on the results. While the types of problems encountered and the strategies used to grapple with problems vary across disciplines, the problem solving Habit of Mind is relevant to all disciplines.

**Integrated Perspective** is a Habit of Mind characterized by the recognition that individual beliefs, ideas, and values are influenced by personal

experience as well as multiple contextual factors—cultural, historical, political, etc. All human beings are interconnected through their participation in natural and social systems. An integrated perspective recognizes that individual decisions impact the self, the community, and the environment. Students will acknowledge the limitations of singular points of view and recognize the benefits of engaging with and learning from others in order to integrate multiple perspectives for effective communication, problem-solving, and collaboration.

**Self-Regulated Learning** is a Habit of Mind that encompasses the desire to learn, the ability to set personal goals for learning, and the capacity to engage in a self-monitored learning process. Self-regulated learners demonstrate strong commitment to the process of learning and take responsibility for their own learning. They take intellectual risks, persist in the face of challenges, and learn from their mistakes. They are able to organize and reorganize information, interpret information in new ways, and generate their own ideas. Self-regulated learners demonstrate metacognitive awareness (an understanding of the factors that influence their own learning) and cultivate the skills and confidence they need in order to be effective learners.

## Skills

To live and learn in a multicultural, multimedia, multidimensional world, students need certain skills. These are the competencies expected of an educated person, the skills needed for lifelong learning. In this General Education program, the following skills are developed in meaningful contexts.

**Critical Thinking:** the abilities to compare, contrast, analyze, and synthesize; and to challenge underlying assumptions; to take imaginative leaps and intellectual risks; and to solve problems creatively and effectively.

**Reading:** the achievement of advanced literacy; that is, the ability to comprehend written material within a variety of genres, and to articulate one's response verbally and in writing.

**Quantitative Reasoning:** the ability to analyze quantitative materials and use quantitative techniques to solve problems.

**Writing:** development of a writing process that includes the ability to pre-write (brainstorm, outline, take notes, free-write) on a selected topic; to prepare, assess, and organize information; and to compose, revise, and edit a polished product.

**Speaking and Listening:** the ability to use both verbal and nonverbal skills to communicate effectively in one or more languages, to listen actively, and to take part respectfully in group discussions.

**Conducting Research:** the ability to locate, comprehend, and synthesize information; and to understand what constitutes reliable evidence for decision making.

**Working with Information Technology:** the ability to perform searches; to use word processing and spreadsheets; to work with database management systems and presentation software; to work with software to enhance the creative process; and to make effective use of software to organize information and to communicate with others.

**Collaborating with Others:** to know, understand, and respond to others' feelings and perspectives; to work and learn in teams to enhance interpersonal relationship skills; and to develop an awareness of leadership approaches and the ability to influence others.

## Components of the Program

In Plymouth State University's General Education program, students take three First-Year Experience courses, which introduce the skills listed above. The skills are then further developed and refined in the other components of the program: the Directions courses and the Connections courses, as well as in the major. Students must take one course in each of the Directions categories as well as an additional 4-8 credits of Directions (total of 20 credits of Directions). These courses are designed to excite students about learning and to give them breadth of knowledge and experience with different approaches to learning. Though taught by the various academic departments, they are required of no major and are open to all students. Connections courses help students develop more advanced academic skills, appreciation of difference, and appreciation of wellness within specific academic contexts. Three of the seven Connections must be explored within the context of the major; the other four may be explored in that context or in some other.

## Overview of Three Components

Course	Title	Credits
<b>First Year Experience</b>		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1111	The First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry	3
MA	Mathematics Foundations	3-4
<b>Directions</b>		
CTDI	Creative Thought	3-4
PPDI	Past and Present	3-4
SIDI	Scientific Inquiry	3-4
SSDI	Self and Society	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (p. 1) <sup>1</sup>		4-8
<b>Connections</b>		
DICO	Diversity <sup>2</sup>	3-4
GACO	Global Awareness <sup>2</sup>	3-4
INCO	Integration <sup>2</sup>	3-4
WECO	Wellness <sup>2</sup>	3-4
QRCO	Quantitative Reasoning in the Disciplines <sup>3</sup>	
TECO	Technology in the Disciplines <sup>3</sup>	
WRCO	Writing in the Disciplines <sup>3</sup>	
Total Credits		42-47

<sup>1</sup> Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

<sup>2</sup> These Connections may be double counted with a major, minor, or any other General Education requirement.

<sup>3</sup> These Connections are three or four-credit experiences taken as part of the major and hence add no credits to those required of the major.

## Description of the Three Components

### First Year Experience (3-4 credits)

The goals of the First-Year Experience component are to connect students to life in an academic community and to introduce and practice in a meaningful context the skills listed above. The component consists of the following three courses to be taken during the first year.

### Composition (4 credits)

The Composition requirement is intended to help students become responsible writers who can take charge of their own writing process. It is satisfied by the course Composition (EN 1400) or its equivalency.

Students learn how to draft, respond to feedback from peers and instructor, revise, and edit successful college prose. By the end of the course, they should be able to write essays that are unified by a central thesis, well-developed in carefully organized paragraphs with vivid details, and grammatically appropriate with effective sentence structure and correct mechanics.

Students also learn to read comprehensively and effectively in order to relate ideas and arguments to their writing and thinking. They are expected to summarize different kinds of texts, paraphrase the ideas of someone else, analyze others' arguments and positions, compare and contrast ideas, and generate their own thoughts and ideas following research and observation. Students are required to engage in library research and to write papers based on their research. Thus the General Education Skills being given special emphasis in this course are **writing, reading, conducting research, and collaborating with others.**

### First Year Seminar (3 credits)

During the first semester, all first year students, including those transferring in fewer than 24 credits, take the course IS 1111 The First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry. This course introduces students to the concepts of general education and the academic community and to the skills educated people use to generate and address important questions. Using critical thinking skills and basic tools of gathering and evaluating information, students and the instructor together explore a specific question which challenges contemporary thinkers. The question varies across sections of the course.

The First-Year Seminar is a cornerstone course, through which students begin to build the repertoire of intellectual skills needed for university-level work. The skills are not taught in isolation but rather in the context of the topic or problem of the course. Assignments and activities introduce all of the skills listed above, but special emphasis is given to **critical thinking, conducting research, working with information technology, writing, speaking and listening, and collaborating with others.**

### Mathematics Foundations (3-4 credits)

Through the Mathematics Foundations requirement, students become aware of the importance of mathematics and its application to fields as diverse as art, music, and science. It is satisfied by a mathematics course numbered Mathematics and the Humanities (MA 1500) or above, or by a mathematics course that is equivalent to Mathematics and the Humanities (MA 1500) or above, including credit-by-exam as explained below.

Mathematics Foundations courses focus on problem solving using the language of mathematics and on developing students' ability to reason quantitatively in diverse contexts. Students learn to reduce complex problems to their fundamentals using algebra and geometry.

The Mathematics Foundations requirement enables students to make connections between mathematics and their own lives and to explore the roles of mathematics in society, culture, and politics. General Education skills given special emphasis are **quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and working with information technology.**

Students may demonstrate proficiency in mathematics by recording under the credit-by-examination policy, credits for a satisfactory performance on an AP, CLEP, DSST, or IB examination (see Transferring

Credits (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/university-policies-procedures/undergraduate-academic-policies>). Mathematics coursework for which equivalent AP, CLEP, DSST, or IB credit has been received will not be granted credit.

Transfer students may demonstrate proficiency in mathematics by recording mathematics transfer credits that are equivalent to Plymouth State University courses. In cases where there is no equivalent course, the transfer credits must be deemed to be at a level equivalent to Mathematics and the Humanities (MA 1500) or higher by the transfer and articulation specialist and the mathematics faculty. Mathematics course work at PSU for which equivalent transfer credit has been recorded will not be granted credit.

If a student fulfilled the Mathematics Proficiency (as indicated in the 1998–1999 Catalog) by August 31, 1999, and chooses to change to the 1999–2000 or subsequent Catalog, the requirement to take a Mathematics Foundations course will be waived.

**Mathematics Placement Assessment.** The Department of Mathematics offers an online placement assessment. The goal of the placement assessment is to help students enroll in the math course most suited to their background. Students may take the assessment a total of two times. Students are encouraged to study after they take the assessment the first time and then retake it. The placement level determines placement in the algebra/precalculus/calculus sequence. Note that not all students are required to take courses in this sequence. Based on the placement level, students may also receive a recommendation to complete Elementary Algebra (MA 1200) before taking their required Mathematics Foundations course. The mathematics placement assessment is scored at four levels:

- **Level 0:** Students must complete College Algebra (MA 1800) before entering Precalculus (MA 2140). However, students may not be prepared for success in College Algebra (MA 1800) or their Mathematics Foundations course and should consult with their academic advisor and the mathematics faculty before enrolling. The mathematics faculty recommends students who score at this level complete Elementary Algebra (MA 1200) prior to subsequent math courses.
- **Level 1:** Students must complete College Algebra (MA 1800) before entering Precalculus (MA 2140).
- **Level 2:** Students meet the prerequisite for Precalculus (MA 2140).
- **Level 3:** Students meet the prerequisite for Applied Calculus I (MA 2490).
- **Level 4:** Students meet the prerequisite for Calculus I (MA 2550).

The mathematics placement assessment is available online for all registered students through the Math Activity Center website (<https://campus.plymouth.edu/math/overview/math-placement-assessment>).

*Note: Elementary Algebra (MA 1200) does **not** satisfy Mathematics Foundation or any General Education requirement.*

Students satisfy the Mathematics Foundations requirement (3-4 credits) by **either** successfully completing a three-credit mathematics course at the level of Mathematics and the Humanities (MA 1500) or higher, **OR** by successfully completing a mathematics course that is specified by the student's major.

## Directions

The Directions component is intended to introduce students to different ways of considering and understanding human experience which

they can apply as they seek meaning in their lives. Directions courses challenge them to see how different perspectives shape the ways in which people interpret ideas and experiences to construct meaning. They emphasize connections between the world of ideas and the “real world.”

Rather than introducing a whole academic discipline, these courses focus on a particular issue or problem or topic of interest within the discipline, especially a topic relevant to students' own lives. Ideally and whenever possible, alternative perspectives and approaches are woven into the course. No Directions course is required as part of any major.

The four Directions essentially represent four different approaches to learning, defined by a combination of method of inquiry and content. They are intended to further strengthen the academic skills upon which the First-Year Experience is based. Different Directions emphasize different of these, but among them all skills are included. Because these skills are useful in all academic work, students are encouraged to take Directions courses early. Ideally all should be completed by the end of the second year.

Students must take one course in each of the Directions categories as well as an additional 4-8 credits of Directions (total of 20 credits of Directions). Directions courses will be a minimum of three credits. Some, for example, Scientific Inquiry courses involving laboratory work, may be more.

### Creative Thought (3-4 credits)

People need to be creative in order to thrive in our complex and changing world. People need to understand the creative processes that lead to the generation of ideas and to engage in new interpretations of existing ideas. Creative Thought courses encourage students to recognize beauty in its many manifestations and to become aware of formal elements of creative expression.

These courses also encourage students to view themselves as creative beings, to appreciate creativity in others, and to regard creativity as an essential component in all areas of human endeavor. In these courses, students develop and value perseverance and a tolerance for ambiguity. Students are challenged to appreciate aesthetic forms, to use their imaginations, and to develop the skills and attitudes that allow creativity to flourish: independence and non-conformity, the ability to organize and reorganize information, and the confidence to think in new ways. Creative Thought courses emphasize the skills of critical thinking, reading, writing, listening and speaking, and working with information technology.

Course	Title	Credits
ARDI 1200	Creativity and the Visual World	3
ARDI 1400	The Art of Sketching	3
ARDI 1450	Public Art: The Politics of Visual Meaning	3
ARDI 2310	Table Manners: Functional Pottery	3
CMDI 1100	Creating Games	3
CMDI 1200	Web Expressions	3
CMDI 2100	The Digital Imagination	3
CSDI 1200	Web Expressions	3
CSDI 1300	Digital Media Creation	3
DNDI 2105	Movement for Community	4
DNDI 2205	Athleticism in the Performing Arts	4
DNDI 2250	Hip-Hop Culture and Performance	3
EDDI 2100	Transformation Through the Arts	3
ENDI 1402	Writing and the Creative Process	4

ENDI 2205	The Art of Film	4	LLDI 2500	The History of the English Language	3
ENDI 2230	Creating Arguments	3	MUDI 1005	Jazz Styles: Past and Present	4
GEDI 2400	Mapping Our World: Creating Realities	4	MUDI 1310	Exploring Music	3
LIDI 2450	Creating Language	3	PODI 1045	Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism	4
MUDI 1105	Creating Sound Effects and Music for Video Games	4	PODI 1056	Humanitarianism: Working in the Global Community	4
MUDI 1355	American Popular Music: History and Creation	4	PYDI 1300	Perspectives on Religion	3
MUDI 2005	Sound Design for Multimedia	4	PYDI 2280	Women Philosophers	3
PODI 1061	Politics and Art	4	PYDI 2415	Death and Dying	3
PTDI 2200	The Art of Photography	3			
PTDI 2450	Digital Photography	3			
PYDI 2410	Creative Problem Solving in Ethics	3			
THDI 1300	The Theatrical Experience	3			

### Past and Present (3-4 credits)

In order to comprehend the present and envision the future, we must understand the past. Cultures and societies discern time and construct chronologies of significant events to explain the past, comprehend the present, and envision the future. By examining issues and events that are currently impacting students' lives, Past and Present courses explore how people interpret causes and effects within events.

These courses encourage students to realize that different times shape different views of the world. For students to realize that all fields of knowledge are subject to change, they need to study the changes that have taken place within those fields. They also need to understand the dialectic movement between the past and present: just as the past shapes the present, so does the present shape our understanding of the past. Past and Present courses emphasize the skills of **reading, writing, speaking and listening, critical thinking, and conducting research.**

Course	Title	Credits
AHDI 1200	Exploring Art: Temples and Treasures	3
AHDI 1210	Exploring Art: Revelations and Revolutions	3
BIDI 1400	Plagues and Peoples	3
CLDI 2100	Writing Systems of the World	3
CMDI 2020	Sex and Cinema in the 20th Century (and Beyond)	3
CSDI 1400	Computers: Past, Present, and Future	3
ENDI 1335	Arthurian Legends: Myth, Fantasy, and Romance	4
ENDI 1350	Twice-Told Tales	3
ENDI 2320	Settling the American West: Women and Men on the Overland Trail	3
FLDI 2300	Comedy and History in Foreign Film	3
GEDI 1400	Globalization and Diversity	3
HIDI 1201	War in US History	4
HIDI 1207	The American West	3
HIDI 1209	Creating the US: 1600-1877	3
HIDI 1211	Modern United States History	3
HIDI 1215	US Society in the Vietnam Era	4
HIDI 1355	Medieval Legacies in Our Modern Era	4
HIDI 1455	Roots of Current Global Conflicts	4
HIDI 1600	(Re)Considering the Holocaust in a Polarized Society	3
HIDI 2310	American Economic Development	3
LIDI 2500	The History of the English Language	3
LLDI 2300	Comedy and History in Foreign Film	3

### Scientific Inquiry (3-4 credits)

**The methods of science are powerful tools with which we can attain a clearer understanding of the world.** In the modern world, science has real application to all people's lives. Scientific literacy helps people to make sense of the explosion of information they encounter every day. Scientific Inquiry courses use scientific methodologies to examine relationships between events in the natural world and make students aware that science occurs in a social, cultural, political, and ethical context.

Use of scientific methods in laboratory or field settings is an integral part of these courses. As students plan investigations, collect, analyze, and interpret data, and develop their ability to propose answers, offer explanations, and make predictions, they come to see both the power and the limitations of science. Students investigate the distinctions between rational thinking and anecdotal argumentation and develop an understanding that answers are never final, but always subject to revision. Scientific Inquiry courses emphasize the skills of **critical thinking, writing, conducting research, quantitative reasoning, working with information technology, and collaborating with others.**

Course	Title	Credits
ANDI 1205	Artifacts, Customs & Fossils: Studying Humans through Anthropological Perspectives	4
ANDI 1300	Ancient and Experimental Technology	3
ANDI 2205	The Science of Archaeology	4
BIDI 1220	Biology Core Concepts: Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior	3
BIDI 1320	Biology Core Concepts: Cells, Genes, and Biotechnology	3
BIDI 2010	Human Biology I	4
BIDI 2020	Human Biology II	4
CHDI 1500	The Science of Crime-Solving	3
CHDI 1760	Chemistry in Society	3
CHDI 1770	Chemistry in Society Laboratory	1
CHDI 1800	Chemistry For A Sustainable World	3
CJDI 1500	Profiling Criminal Behavior	4
CMDI 2200	The Science of Animation Programming	4
ESDI 1100	Resource Management – an Earth Systems Science (ESS) Approach	4
ESDI 2500	Environmental Science	4
ESDI 2610	Earth Systems Science: The Hazardous Earth	4
GEDI 1200	Environmental Geography	3
LIDI 2950	Language Acquisition	3
LLDI 2950	Language Acquisition	3
MTDI 1200	Weather and Climate	3
MTDI 1500	Severe and Hazardous Weather	3
PHDI 2100	Physical Science	4



PHDI 2300	Astronomy	3	SODI 2205	Exploring Social Life	4
PSDI 2030	Mind, Brain, and Evolution	3	SPDI 2200	Latin American Literature in English Translation	3
PSDI 2190	Quack Remedies, False Prophets, and Unwarranted Claims	3	SPDI 2250	The Latino Boom: A Survey of US-Latino Literature	3
PYDI 2710	Science or Superstition	3	WSDI 2500	The F Word: Feminism in the United States	3

### Self and Society (3-4 credits)

**A rich and productive life encompasses an understanding of one's self and one's relationship to the world.** An educated person must grapple with a question that has interested human beings for centuries: the relationship between self and society. To understand one's self, one must understand and acknowledge the impact of society on the development of identity and the formation of beliefs. The needs of the individual sometimes conflict with the needs of society. Cultures differ in the relative value they give to the individual and to the group.

Using issues that impact on students' lives, Self and Society courses explore questions of these sorts. They encourage students to inquire into multiple dimensions of self including the social, physical, emotional, and cognitive, and to investigate the interactions between individuals and the spatial, temporal, political, economic, and technological aspects of the social environment. Self and Society courses emphasize the skills of **reading, writing, speaking and listening, critical thinking, conducting research, and collaborating with others.**

Course	Title	Credits
ARDI 1300	Myths, Masks, and Identity	3
BIDI 1500	Insects and Society	3
BIDI 2050	Plants and Society	3
BUDI 2300	Personal Financial Planning	3
BUDI 2650	Career Exploration	3
CJDI 1030	The Individual and the Law	4
CLDI 2550	Cross-Cultural Communication	3
CMDI 2010	Outlaws, Delinquents, and Other "Deviants" in Film and Society	3
CODI 2050	Helping Skills in Society	3
CODI 2060	Interpersonal Conflict Resolution	3
CSDI 1500	Computers: Fact, Fiction, Fantasy, and Film	3
ENDI 1300	Murder, Mayhem, and Madness: Reflections of the Self and Society in Literature	3
ENDI 1450	The Outsider	3
ENDI 1555	Wilderness Literature	4
ENDI 1600	Let's Hear It For Sports - or Not!	3
ENDI 2100	The Story	3
GEDI 1300	Spatial Organization of Everyday Life	3
HIDI 1305	Childhood in American History	3
HIDI 1320	Cultural Contact in World History	4
HIDI 1360	A Mockingbird's Song: Race, Class, and Identity in the United States	3
ISDI 2100	Issues in Sustainability	3
LIDI 2020	Queer Language, Culture, and Identity	3
PEDI 2950	Sociocultural Dimensions in Physical Activity	3
PODI 1051	Global Problems, Power and Politics	4
PODI 1101	Citizen Politics	4
PYDI 1030	Thinking for Yourself	3
PYDI 1050	Building a Civil Society	3
PYDI 1130	Ethics and Everyday Life	3

### Connections

The Connections component is intended to tie general education to the rest of the curriculum, including the majors, by helping students develop attitudes shared by educated people and more advanced academic skills within specific academic contexts. Three of the seven Connections are tied explicitly to the majors in that students take courses required by the major which advance their writing, quantitative, and technological skills in ways appropriate to the major. In many cases, one or more of the other four Connections may be tied to the major as well.

### Diversity<sup>1</sup> (3-4 credits)

Becoming educated involves developing awareness of, sensitivity to, and appreciation for viewpoints other than those to which we have been acculturated. Through such development comes increased respect for those different from oneself.

Students take a three or four-credit Diversity (DICO) course (either within the major or not) designed to broaden and deepen awareness and appreciation of differences and commonalities of sub-cultural groups in the US society defined by differences in race, ethnicity, ability, social class, religion, politics, gender, or sexual orientation. International courses do not address diversity in US society so DICO credit is omitted from international courses. Diversity courses do this by exposing students to the life stories and the voices of members of different groups and by exploring issues of equity, opportunity, and justice.

Course	Title	Credits
AE 3060	Instructional Planning and Pedagogy for Art Education	3
AH 3600	Arts of the United States	3
AH 3750	Women, Art, and Society	3
BI 3240	Conservation	3
BU 3420	Organizational Behavior	3
CD 2360	Foundations of Diversity	3
CJ 3075	Race, Class, Crime and Justice	4
CJ 3155	Society, Ethics, and the Law	4
CJ 3515	Women and Crime	4
CM 3710	Film and Identity Politics	3
CM 3810	Analyzing Film	3
CS 4520	CyberEthics	3
EN 2250	Identity and Difference in American Literature	3
EN 2440	Rethinking Early American Literature	4
EN 2460	Rethinking Modern American Literature	4
ER 3300	Culturally Responsive Early Care and Education	3
FR 1015	French Language and Culture Studies I	3
FR 1025	French Language and Culture Studies II	3
FR 2030	French Language and Culture Studies III	3
FR 2040	French Language and Culture Studies IV	3
FR 4815	The Diversity of Franco Communities in the United States	3
HI 3115	Early American Society to 1776	3
HI 3140	Antebellum America, 1815-1860	3

HI 3350	American Women's History	3
HI 3352	African-American History	3
HI 3358	US Legal History	3
HI 3520	The Great Depression in Film, Print, and on Stage	3
HI 3530	US Home Fronts: The 1940s and 1950s	3
IS 3610	Biology of Sex Roles	3
IS 4360	Cultural Diversity and American Society	3
IS 4370	Hispanic Culture in the United States	3
LIDI 2020	Queer Language, Culture, and Identity	3
LL 2950	American Sign Language I	3
MA 4020	The Cultural and Psychological Aspects of Mathematics Learning	3
MU 3250	Global Jazz	3
NR 3020	Introduction to Patient-Centered Care	3
PO 2025	Public Administration	4
PS 3200	Psychology of Women	3
PY 3155	Society, Ethics, and the Law	4
PY 3330	Business Ethics	3
PY 3370	Ethics and Communication	3
PY 3720	Philosophy of Law	3
PY 3730	Philosophy of Communication	3
PY 3830	Phenomenology	3
PY 3840	Pragmatism	3
SL 2950	American Sign Language I	3
SL 2960	American Sign Language II	3
SO 2225	Foundations of Sociology	4
SO 3185	Sociology of Deviance	4
SO 3375	Sociology of Race and Ethnicity	4
SP 1015	Spanish Language and Culture Studies I	3
SP 1025	Spanish Language and Culture Studies II	3
SP 1060	Conversational Spanish I	3
SP 1080	Spanish for Criminal Justice I	3
SP 1090	Spanish for Criminal Justice II	3
SP 2030	Spanish Language and Culture Studies III	3
SP 2040	Spanish Language and Culture Studies IV	3
SP 3170	Spanish for Social Services	3
SP 3190	Spanish for Business	3
SW 3130	Child Welfare and Family Services	3
SW 3480	Exploring the Dominican Republic: Culture and Social Justice in a Developing Nation	3
TE 3300	Foundations of Multilingual Multicultural Studies	3
TH 2230	American Musical Theatre	3
TH 3930	American Drama	3

### Global Awareness<sup>1</sup> (3-4 credits)

Educated people are aware that human beings are interdependent members of a world community, that there are both similarities and differences in the societies and cultures of the world, and that the manners in which people live their lives need not be exactly alike.

Students take a three or four-credit Global Awareness (GACO) course (either within the major or not) designed to expose them to the important societal issues facing the world and to encourage them to develop the ability to appreciate and think about issues from different points of view. Global Awareness courses focus on the forces that have shaped peoples,

cultures, nations, and regions of the world. They increase students' understanding of each person's position, participation, obligations, and responsibilities within the world community.

Course	Title	Credits
AH 3530	Arts of the Far East	3
AH 3540	Art and Ideas in the 19th Century	3
AH 3620	Mesoamerican Arts: Maya to Frida Kahlo	3
AH 3730	Renaissance Art in Southern Europe	3
AN 2100	Foundations of Anthropology	4
AN 3120	Anthropology of Migration	4
AN 3405	Anthropology of Sub-Saharan Africa	4
BI 3240	Conservation	3
CJ 3515	Women and Crime	4
CM 3480	Global Perspectives in the Media	3
CN 1015	Fundamentals of Chinese I	3
EC 2550	Macroeconomics	3
EN 3515	Currents in Global Literature	4
FLDI 2300	Comedy and History in Foreign Film	3
FR 1015	French Language and Culture Studies I	3
FR 1025	French Language and Culture Studies II	3
FR 2030	French Language and Culture Studies III	3
FR 2040	French Language and Culture Studies IV	3
FR 3030	French Popular Culture and Technology	3
GE 3020	Geography for Educators	3
GE 4110	Topics in Regional Geography	3
GR 1015	Fundamentals of German I	3
GR 1025	Fundamentals of German II	3
HE 3310	Epidemiology and Evidenced Based Medicine	3
HI 2011	Modern World History, 1500 to Present	4
HI 3460	The British Empire in World History	3
HI 3480	The French Revolution and Napoleonic Era, 1789-1815	3
HI 3730	Modern History of East Asia	3
HI 3742	History of Japan	3
HI 3761	History of Southeast Asia	4
HI 3767	India and the World	3
HI 3770	The History of Islamic Empires	3
HI 3825	Topics in World History	4
IS 3560	Philosophical Perspectives on War and Peace	3
IS 3610	Biology of Sex Roles	3
IT 1060	Conversational Italian I	3
IT 1070	Conversational Italian II	3
LLDI 2300	Comedy and History in Foreign Film	3
MA 3460	History of Mathematics	3
MT 2800	Climatology	3
MU 3250	Global Jazz	3
NR 4020	Global Health and Population-Based Health Care	3
PO 1035	World Politics	4
PO 3255	Model United Nations	4
PO 3305	Latin American Politics	4
PO 3505	Politics and Conflict in the Middle East	4
PY 1010	Ultimate Questions	3

PY 3050	Ethical Theories	3	CH 4150	Air Quality	3
PY 3345	Military Ethics	3	CJ 3155	Society, Ethics, and the Law	4
PY 3515	Philosophy of World Religions	3	CM 3000	Rhetoric and Semiotics	3
PY 3560	Philosophical Perspectives on War and Peace	3	CM 3120	Communicating Through Animation	3
PY 3820	Existentialism	3	CM 3800	Analyzing Television	3
PY 3870	Non-western Philosophy	3	CM 3850	Introduction to Game Design and Development	3
SP 1015	Spanish Language and Culture Studies I	3	CM 3940	Social Media: Technology and Culture	3
SP 1025	Spanish Language and Culture Studies II	3	CS 4520	CyberEthics	3
SP 1060	Conversational Spanish I	3	EN 3420	Rethinking Medieval and Renaissance Literature	4
SP 1080	Spanish for Criminal Justice I	3	EN 4040	Mysticism and Contemplation	4
SP 1090	Spanish for Criminal Justice II	3	ER 4200	Senior Seminar: Perspectives on Early Childhood	3
SP 2030	Spanish Language and Culture Studies III	3	ESP 3400	Life in the Universe	3
SP 2040	Spanish Language and Culture Studies IV	3	ESP 4440	Climate Change	3
SP 3030	Advanced Spanish	3	FR 4815	The Diversity of Franco Communities in the United States	3
SP 3170	Spanish for Social Services	3	HI 3140	Antebellum America, 1815-1860	3
SP 3190	Spanish for Business	3	HI 3356	American Ideas	3
SW 3300	Mental Health and Society	3	HI 3520	The Great Depression in Film, Print, and on Stage	3
SW 3480	Exploring the Dominican Republic: Culture and Social Justice in a Developing Nation	3	HI 3767	India and the World	3
SW 3500	Health and Society	3	IP 4425	Interdisciplinary Studies Senior Seminar	3
TMP 2010	Introduction to Travel and Tourism	4	IS 3470	Women in Contemporary American Culture	3

### Integration<sup>1</sup> (3-4 credits)

We live in a world where scholarship is increasingly interdisciplinary. The educated person recognizes the challenges and rewards of drawing connections between fields of knowledge and of applying alternative methods of inquiry to solve problems.

Students take a three or four-credit Integration (INCO) course (either within the major or not), which brings content or methods of inquiry from two or more disciplines or perspectives to bear on a problem or question. The Integration course is a General Education capstone course, taken in the junior or senior year. As such, it should require substantial, although general, background and a high level of proficiency at most or all of the General Education skills.

Course	Title	Credits	Course	Title	Credits
AG 3530	History of Graphic Design	3	IS 3560	Philosophical Perspectives on War and Peace	3
AH 3100	Contemporary Art Seminar	3	IS 3610	Biology of Sex Roles	3
AH 3530	Arts of the Far East	3	IS 4360	Cultural Diversity and American Society	3
AH 3540	Art and Ideas in the 19th Century	3	IS 4370	Hispanic Culture in the United States	3
AH 3620	Mesoamerican Arts: Maya to Frida Kahlo	3	IS 4461	Sustainability Capstone	4
AH 3730	Renaissance Art in Southern Europe	3	MA 4020	The Cultural and Psychological Aspects of Mathematics Learning	3
AN 3505	Illness, Wellness, and Healing	4	MT 4150	Air Quality	3
AR 3570	The Art of Sustainability	3	MT 4400	Numerical Weather Prediction	3
AT 4100	Administration of Athletic Training	3	MT 4420	Tropical Weather and Climate	3
BI 3025	Obesity – The Biology and Sociology of an Epidemic	3	MT 4440	Climate Change	3
BI 3035	Biochemistry I	4	MU 3320	History and Literature of Music II	3
BI 3240	Conservation	3	NR 4050	Nursing Leadership for Acute Care Nursing	3
BU 3720	Career Development	3	PE 4010	Exercise and Health Psychology	3
BU 4220	Strategic Management	3	PO 3255	Model United Nations	4
CD 3000	Philosophical and Historical Perspectives on the Child in Society	3	PO 3305	Latin American Politics	4
CH 3035	Biochemistry I	4	PO 3505	Politics and Conflict in the Middle East	4
CH 3600	Environmental Chemistry	4	PY 3110	History of Ancient Philosophy	3
			PY 3111	History of Medieval Philosophy	3
			PY 3112	History of Modern Philosophy	3
			PY 3113	History of Contemporary Philosophy	3
			PY 3155	Society, Ethics, and the Law	4
			PY 3310	Environmental Ethics	3
			PY 3325	Medical Ethics	3
			PY 3330	Business Ethics	3
			PY 3360	Ethics and Psychology	3
			PY 3370	Ethics and Communication	3
			PY 3515	Philosophy of World Religions	3
			PY 3540	Philosophy of Religion	3
			PY 3560	Philosophical Perspectives on War and Peace	3
			PY 3610	Philosophy of Technology	3

PY 3720	Philosophy of Law	3	PE 2880	Adventures in Wellness	3
PY 3730	Philosophy of Communication	3	PY 3310	Environmental Ethics	3
SO 3385	Drugs and Society	4	PY 3325	Medical Ethics	3
SO 3395	Environment and Society	4	PY 3360	Ethics and Psychology	3
SO 3405	Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management	4	SO 3505	Illness, Wellness, and Healing	4
SO 3505	Illness, Wellness, and Healing	4	SO 3605	Sustainability in Practice	4
SS 4950	Community Research Experience	4	SW 3050	Perspectives on Aging	3
SSE 4505	Advances in Social Studies Pedagogy and Learning	3	SW 3500	Health and Society	3
TH 4610	Directing for the Stage	3	TH 2820	Acting I	3
TMP 4010	Tourism Development	4			

**Wellness<sup>1</sup> (3-4 credits)**

To be fully educated, people need respect for and understanding of how health, physical activity, and wellness contribute to mental acuity and emotional well-being. Awareness of and attention to the physical can enhance the cognitive and emotional aspects of life.

Students take a three or four-credit Wellness (WECO) course (either within the major or not) designed to increase their understanding of the connection between mind and body.

These courses expose students to the theory and practice of life-span wellness and fitness activity, and to the knowledge, attitudes, habits, and skills needed to live well. Their goal is to help students cultivate life skills, which will promote mental, physical, and emotional well-being.

Course	Title	Credits
AN 3505	Illness, Wellness, and Healing	4
AT 3350	Athletic Training Health, Prevention, and Management	3
BI 3025	Obesity – The Biology and Sociology of an Epidemic	3
BIDI 2010	Human Biology I	4
BIDI 2020	Human Biology II	4
BU 3720	Career Development	3
BU 4650	Professional Employment	3
CM 3510	Communication, Media, and Wellness	3
ED 2350	Child and Youth Health and Development in Context	3
EN 4040	Mysticism and Contemplation	4
ER 2400	Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Health for the Young Child	3
ESP 3550	Environment and Health	3
HE 2900	Disease, Safety, and Environment	3
HE 3200	Stress Management	3
HE 3210	Mental Health Issues	3
HE 3700	Drug Behavior	3
HE 4100	Women's Health Issues	3
HI 3354	Health and Illness in American History	3
ME 1100	Introduction to Music Education	3
NR 3070	Health and Wellness of Older Adults	3
PE 2840	Health and Fitness for Educators	3
PE 2850	Wellness Choices for a Healthy, Active Lifestyle	3
PE 2860	Adventure Programming for Physical Educators	3

**Quantitative Reasoning in the Disciplines<sup>2</sup> (3-4 credits within the major)**

Mathematics finds application in all fields of scholarship. All disciplines make use of quantitative reasoning in some way and to some extent.

Students take a three or four-credit Quantitative Reasoning (QRCO) course specified as required for their major. This course may be taught within the major discipline or not. It might teach quantitative techniques used as primary or secondary tools within the discipline, or might be a course in which students of less quantitative disciplines come to deepen their appreciation of the relevance of quantitative reasoning to us all.

Course	Title	Credits
AG 3490	Production for Graphic Design	3
AR 3060	Foundations of Sculpture: Representing the Body	4
AR 3160	Foundations of Sculpture: Objects and Ideas	4
AT 4200	Research and Statistics in Athletic Training	3
BI 4050	Ecology	4
BU 2240	Business Statistics	3
CH 2335	General Chemistry I	4
CJ 3260	Data Analysis for Criminal Justice	4
CM 4650	Communication Research Methods	3
EN 1600	Studies in English	4
ER 3450	Guiding Young Mathematicians: Math Methods for Early Childhood	4
GE 2050	GIS I: Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	4
HE 3310	Epidemiology and Evidenced Based Medicine	3
HI 2223	Methods, Theories, and Careers in History	4
LI 2000	Introduction to Language and Linguistics	3
LL 2000	Introduction to Language and Linguistics	3
MA 1500	Mathematics and the Humanities	3
MA 1900	Statistical Literacy in Today's Society	3
MA 2120	Mathematics for Grades 4-6 Educators	4
MA 2140	Precalculus	4
MA 2200	Finite Mathematics	3
MA 2300	Statistics I	3
MA 2490	Applied Calculus I	4
MA 2500	Applied Calculus II	4
MA 2550	Calculus I	4
MA 2560	Calculus II	4
NR 4060	Research Process and Evidence-Based Practice	3
PE 3565	Measurement and Assessment in Physical Education	3
PS 3115	Research Methods and Statistics I	4



PY 2310	Elements of Logic	3
SS 3705	Social Statistics	4
SSE 3010	Theories of Learning and Assessment in Social Studies	3
SW 3705	Social Statistics	4
TH 2500	Stagecraft Fundamentals	3

### Technology in the Disciplines<sup>2</sup> (3-4 credits within the major)

In the modern world, technology has application to every academic discipline, and educated people must have an understanding of technology that will allow them to adapt to rapid technological change.

Students take a three or four-credit Technology in the Disciplines (TECO) course specified as required for the major. This course may be taught within the major discipline or not. The course will help students examine the role of technology within their own discipline and within a larger societal and cultural context. The TECO course will provide students with hands-on experience using current technologies; with a broad understanding of the concepts underlying current technology; with an understanding of the potential ethical issues involved with the use of technology; and with an understanding of forces, based in the needs and values of our culture, that drive technological innovation.

Course	Title	Credits
AG 2330	An Introduction to Graphic Design Software	3
AN 4415	Methods of Social Research	4
AP 3101	Immersion Wilderness Expedition	4
AR 1080	Art Foundations: Digital and New Media	4
AT 4500	Therapeutic Modalities	3
BI 1110	Biological Science I	4
BU 1100	Business Computer Applications	3
CD 1000	Children and Youth in Schools and Community	3
CH 3400	Instrumental Analysis	4
CJ 1060	Technology in Criminal Justice	4
CJ 3260	Data Analysis for Criminal Justice	4
CM 2000	Studies in Communication and Media	4
CM 2770	Introduction to Media and Cultural Studies	3
CM 3090	Technical Communication	3
CM 3670	Journalism	3
CS 1170	Computing Technology in Criminal Justice	3
CS 2010	Computing Fundamentals	3
ED 3350	Classroom Planning, Management, and Organization for Middle School and Secondary Educators	3
EN 2440	Rethinking Early American Literature	4
EN 2490	Rethinking Modern British Literature, 1660-1945	4
EN 4155	Digitalit: Storytelling in the Digital Age	4
ER 4250	Inquiry, Integration, and Problem Solving in the Primary Grades	4
ER 4300	Leadership, Advocacy, and Policy in Early Childhood	3
FR 3030	French Popular Culture and Technology	3
GE 2050	GIS I: Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	4
HE 3220	Applied Nutrition for Healthy Living	3
HI 4360	Doing Public History	4

IP 2225	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies	3
MA 2140	Precalculus	4
MA 3230	College Geometries	4
MA 4430	Numerical Analysis	3
ME 3500	Technology for Music Educators	3
MT 4280	Synoptic Meteorology II	4
MT 4400	Numerical Weather Prediction	3
MU 3200	Technology in Music Performance	3
NR 3065	Leadership, Collaboration, and Quality in Healthcare Systems	4
PE 2550	Foundations of Physical Education	3
PO 3125	Political Parties, Elections, and Interest Groups	4
PS 3115	Research Methods and Statistics I	4
PTDI 2450	Digital Photography	3
PY 2650	Mind and Machine	3
PY 3380	Humans and Humanoids: Ethics in Technology	3
PY 3610	Philosophy of Technology	3
SO 4415	Methods of Social Research	4
SP 3030	Advanced Spanish	3
SW 4020	Social Work Research Methods	3
TH 2100	Technology for Theatre Professionals	3

### Writing in the Disciplines<sup>2</sup> (3-4 credits within the major)

Students take a three or four-credit Writing course (within a major) that contains significant writing experiences appropriate to the discipline. These experiences must include Writing Across the Curriculum activities that facilitate student learning and help students become better writers. At a minimum these activities demonstrate three specific aspects.

1. Students in the course do *substantial* writing that enhances learning and demonstrates knowledge of the subject or the discipline. Writing assignments should be an integral part of the course and account for a significant part (approximately 50 percent or more) of the final grade.
2. The course demonstrates an approach to writing as a process where students have the opportunity to submit and receive feedback on multiple drafts of major assignments.
3. Students have the opportunity to write for formal and informal, graded and ungraded occasions throughout the course with an emphasis on the use of writing as a mode of learning.

*Note: Students who entered in 2003–2004 or earlier, but elect to follow the 2005–2006 or subsequent catalog for their major requirements, must fulfill the General Education requirements of the 2003–2004 catalog. Students who entered in 2004–2005, but elect to follow the 2005–2006 or subsequent catalog for their major requirements, must fulfill the General Education requirements of the 2004–2005 catalog.*

Course	Title	Credits
AG 3530	History of Graphic Design	3
AH 2700	20/21: Art Since 1900	3
AN 4605	Seminar: Theory, Practice, and Careers	4
AP 3320	Adventure Education Philosophy and Theory	3
AT 3350	Athletic Training Health, Prevention, and Management	3
AT 4200	Research and Statistics in Athletic Training	3
BI 4050	Ecology	4

BI 4150	Developmental Biology	4	TH 2230	American Musical Theatre	3
BI 4170	Ecology and Development	4	TH 3930	American Drama	3
BI 4760	Animal Behavior	4	TMP 4010	Tourism Development	4
BI 4770	Animal Physiology	4			
BI 4780	Neurobiology	4			
BU 2290	Organizational Communications	3			
CD 3000	Philosophical and Historical Perspectives on the Child in Society	3			
CH 3410	Physical Chemistry: Thermodynamics and Kinetics	4			
CJ 1060	Technology in Criminal Justice	4			
CJ 4805	Criminal Justice Seminar	4			
CM 3090	Technical Communication	3			
CM 3640	Communication Theory	3			
CM 3670	Journalism	3			
CS 4520	CyberEthics	3			
ED 2500	Learning and Development	3			
EN 1600	Studies in English	4			
ER 3300	Culturally Responsive Early Care and Education	3			
ESP 4550	Environmental Science and Policy Seminar	4			
EX 4840	Research Methods in Exercise Science	3			
FR 3130	Advanced French Composition	3			
GE 4110	Topics in Regional Geography	3			
HE 3240	Health Promotion Planning and Evaluation	4			
HE 3310	Epidemiology and Evidenced Based Medicine	3			
HI 2223	Methods, Theories, and Careers in History	4			
HI 3115	Early American Society to 1776	3			
HI 3150	American Civil War and Reconstruction	3			
HI 3341	New Hampshire and New England History	4			
HI 3358	US Legal History	3			
HI 3520	The Great Depression in Film, Print, and on Stage	3			
HI 3530	US Home Fronts: The 1940s and 1950s	3			
HI 3742	History of Japan	3			
HI 3767	India and the World	3			
HI 4360	Doing Public History	4			
IP 4425	Interdisciplinary Studies Senior Seminar	3			
MA 2700	Logic, Proofs, and Axiomatic Systems	3			
MA 3230	College Geometries	4			
MA 3460	History of Mathematics	3			
MA 4140	Abstract Algebra	3			
MT 3710	Meteorological Instruments and Observations	4			
MU 3320	History and Literature of Music II	3			
NR 4060	Research Process and Evidence-Based Practice	3			
PE 3565	Measurement and Assessment in Physical Education	3			
PO 3060	Political Analysis and Policy	4			
PO 3580	Politics of the Pacific Rim - ASEAN	3			
PS 3125	Research Methods and Statistics II	4			
PY 4770	Great Philosophers Seminar	3			
SO 4605	Seminar: Theory, Practice, and Careers	4			
SP 3220	Advanced Spanish Composition	3			
SSE 4505	Advances in Social Studies Pedagogy and Learning	3			
SW 4550	Social Work Integrative Seminar	3			

<sup>1</sup> These Connections may be double counted with a major, minor, or any other general education requirement.

<sup>2</sup> These Connections are three or four-credit experiences taken as part of the major and hence add no credits to those required for the major.

## Transfer of General Education Courses

A course, or courses, must fulfill the transfer criteria established by Plymouth State University. When discrepancies occur, the transfer and articulation specialist shall consult with the department chair for clarification on details of course description or the amount of credit to be honored. In cases where a clear decision is not apparent, or where students make a challenge of a decision, it shall become the responsibility of the academic affairs officer to make a decision.

Courses that are transferred into Plymouth State University receive General Education designation in one of the following ways:

- The appropriate department declares the course to be equivalent to a PSU course that carries the General Education designation.
- The transfer and articulation specialist assigns the designation as part of the initial evaluation of transfer credit or as part of the review of the Transfer Credit Approval form.
- The academic affairs officer approves a Student Request for such designation (this option provides a mechanism of appeal of the first two).

## The First-Year Experience

In each of the courses students take, professors will be looking for evidence of three skills: critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, and communication. Successful first-year students approach the First-Year Seminar, Mathematics Foundations, and English Composition with the special attention and effort they require and deserve. These courses are the foundation of the General Education program, the program which will instill in PSU students the hallmarks of a truly educated person.

Far from being merely introductory academic hurdles, the mastery of these three courses is a predictive barometer of students' ability to make the transition from high school-level thinking—characterized by the elementary skills of merely absorbing and regurgitating facts, to college-level thinking—characterized by the ability to analyze and synthesize opposing viewpoints, an eagerness to weigh skeptically the accuracy and relevance of an argument's logical and quantitative evidence, and an ability to communicate eloquently and convincingly a reasoned response. Only when students embrace and persevere in these skills will they have made the transition from high school to college; only then will they have taken the most important first steps toward becoming educated.

Plymouth State University places special emphasis on success in the first year. PSU is one of only 12 United States state institutions to hold the title of founding member of Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year™. To achieve this honor, the University participated in a two-year study in order to develop a model first-year experience to which it might aspire. Using this model, PSU continually makes efforts to improve the experience by refining its approach to the first-year philosophy, organization, recruitment methods, and faculty involvement. Additionally, Plymouth State University pays special attention to the individual needs of all students, student engagement, diversity, the roles and purposes of

education, and the systematic assessment of its progress in all of these areas. In 2004, the Policy Center on the First Year of College, located in Brevard, NC, formally commended Plymouth State University for exemplary service and for its contributions as a Founding Institution in the establishment of foundations of excellence in the First College Year.

## **Writing Across the Curriculum**

Plymouth State University has a Writing Across the Curriculum program that supports the Writing (WRCO) courses and other courses in which writing is assigned. The program is overseen by the Writing Across the Curriculum advisory board, whose members represent a variety of academic disciplines. The advisory board sponsors activities that are designed to encourage faculty to make more and better use of writing assignments in teaching. As students write to learn, they learn to write.