

9.3.c

**General Education Requirements: Breadth of Knowledge**

The institution requires the successful completion of a general education component at the undergraduate level that:

- c. ensures breadth of knowledge. These credit hours include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics. These courses do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession.

**Judgment**

Compliant    Non-Compliant    Not Applicable

**Narrative**

The general education requirements for the University of South Carolina Columbia and the regional Palmetto College campuses are the same and referred to as the [Carolina Core](#). The Carolina Core curriculum provides the common core of knowledge, skill, and academic experience for all Carolina undergraduates. The Carolina Core begins with foundational courses covering broad areas of knowledge and giving students the opportunity to develop general skills in interpretation of different kinds of information, communicate information and use different methods of analysis and continues with an integrative course in the major that combines one or more Carolina Core learning objectives with specialized knowledge in the major.

Code	Carolina Core Components	Caroline Core Learning Outcomes	Credit Hours
	<b>I. Lower Division: Core Courses</b>	Learning Outcomes to be met at foundational level of mastery	<b>28-34 hours</b>
<b>CMW</b>	Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Written Component	Identify and analyze issues, develop logical and persuasive arguments, and communicate ideas clearly for a variety of audiences and purposes through writing and speaking.	<b>6</b> Written component
<b>ARP</b>	Analytical Reasoning and Problem-Solving	Apply the methods of mathematical, statistical, or analytical reasoning to critically evaluate data, solve problems, and effectively communicate findings verbally and graphically.	<b>6</b>
<b>SCI</b>	Scientific Literacy	Apply the principles and language of the natural sciences and associated technologies to historical and contemporary issues.	<b>7</b>
<b>GFL</b>	Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Foreign Language	Communicate effectively in more than one language.	<b>0-6</b> (depending on placement test)
<b>GHS</b>	Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Historical Thinking	Use the principles of historical thinking to understand past human societies.	<b>3</b>

<b>GSS</b>	Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Social Sciences	Use the principles of the social sciences to explore diverse cultural identities and to analyze political and environmental issues.	<b>3</b>
<b>AIU</b>	Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding	Create or interpret literary, visual or performing arts	<b>3</b>
	<b>II. Lower Division: Stand-Alone or Overlay-Eligible Courses</b>	Up to two of these three <i>Core</i> requirements may be met in overlay courses that combine learning outcomes from two <i>Core</i> courses.	<b>3-9 hours</b> (depending on whether these three outcomes are met with stand-alone or up to two overlay courses)
<b>CMS</b>	Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Spoken Component	Identify and analyze issues, develop logical and persuasive arguments, and communicate ideas clearly for a variety of audiences and purposes through writing and speaking.	<b>0-3</b> Spoken component
<b>INF</b>	Information Literacy	Collect, manage and evaluate information using technology, and communicate findings.	<b>0-3</b>
<b>VSR</b>	Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility	Examine different kinds of social and personal values, analyzing the ways in which these are manifested in communities as well as individual lives.	<b>0-3</b>
<b>Integrative</b>	<b>III. Upper Division: Integrative Course in the Major</b>	Upper division course in the major program of study includes learning outcomes from the <i>Carolina Core</i> . Students should refer to their program major for more information.	<b>N / A</b>
	<b>TOTAL Hours in Carolina Core</b>		<b>31-43 hours</b> (depending on language placement tests and use of at most two overlay courses)

As presented in the chart above and published in the Bulletins ([Columbia](#) | [Lancaster](#) | [Salkehatchie](#) | [Sumter](#) | [Union](#)), Carolina Core courses present a breadth of knowledge, not focusing on skills, techniques, and procedures specific to the student's occupation or profession, and are drawn from specific academic areas. The Carolina Core has 10 Core components, each with learning outcomes and credit hour requirements. The Core begins with foundational courses early in the undergraduate experience, followed by one or more integrative courses near the end in which selected Core learning outcomes are integrated into the chosen major. Each of the ten Core components must be met with a Core-approved course. While most Core-approved courses fulfill a single Core component, a few courses, called overlay-eligible courses, have been approved to fulfill two Core components. Every student is required to complete a minimum of 31 credit hours of Core-approved courses. There are [ten Carolina Core Learning Outcomes](#) in the areas of Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding, Analytical Reasoning and Problem-Solving, Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Written, Effective, Engaged and Persuasive Communication: Oral, Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding (Historical Thinking, Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Social Sciences, Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Foreign Language, Information Literacy, Scientific Literacy and Values, Ethics and Social Responsibility).

Transfer students who enter the University of South Carolina Columbia or the regional Palmetto College campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, or Union) are subject to the Carolina Core requirements. Any transfer courses that equate to Carolina Core courses will equate to both content and all outcomes associated with the University of South Carolina

Course.

An [interactive list of Faculty Senate-approved courses](#) meeting the Carolina Core requirements is available online. Using the interactive list students can see which foundational courses fulfill each requirement, search the table by college or keyword. A wide variety of Carolina Core courses are available with new options being added every year. Students select foundational Carolina Core courses that span at least one course from, but not limited to: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics.

### **Carolina Core Completion**

Four of the ten Carolina Core Components require two courses to meet the credit hour requirements. Therefore the maximum number of courses needed to complete the Carolina Core is 14 courses. Students who take the minimum 10 courses will earn a minimum 31 credit hours; that is 10 courses at 3 hours plus an one hour science lab. Students who take the maximum 14 hours will earn a minimum of 43 credit hours; that is 14 courses at 3 hours plus an one hour science lab.

### **Sources**

-  [Carolina Core](#)
-  [Carolina Core Requirements](#)
-  [Interactive List of Carolina Core Courses](#)
-  [Lancaster Bulletin - Academic Programs](#)
-  [Salkehatchie Bulletin - Academic Programs](#)
-  [Sumter Bulletin - Academic Programs](#)
-  [USC Columbia Bulletin](#)
-  [Union Bulletin - Academic Programs](#)