

## NU CORE

The NU Core is Northeastern University's set of institution-wide general education requirements for all students in all majors. The goal of the NU Core is to develop in our students the knowledge and skills to be lifelong learners with success in many careers, thoughtful global citizens, and fulfilled human beings. The NU Core is required for all freshmen who entered in fall 2007 and later. It does not apply to students already admitted with a different set of core requirements or to transfer students whose entry year was earlier than the fall of 2008.

### NU CORE REQUIREMENTS

The NU Core requirements are as follows:

- **First-Year Learning Communities**  
A first-year experience
- **Knowledge Domains**  
Four courses
- **Writing-Intensive Instruction**  
Four courses
- **Mathematical/Analytical Thinking**  
Two courses
- **Comparative Study of Cultures**  
One course
- **Integrated Experiential Learning**  
One course or approved activity
- **Capstone**  
One course

### Description of NU Core Requirements

The entry-level NU core courses (comparative cultures, level 1 knowledge domains, first-year writing, and level 1 mathematical/analytical thinking) and the experiential learning requirement involve exploring broad, new ways of thinking. To ensure the intended breadth, double counting of core requirements is not allowed among those domains. Some courses fit more than one of the entry-level categories, e.g., a knowledge domain category as well as the comparative study of cultures category. These courses are listed in both appropriate NU Core categories to give students more flexibility in how they select courses to meet requirements. However, a student cannot fulfill two of the entry-level NU Core requirements by taking a single course.

The intermediate and advanced NU Core requirements involve more focused, in-depth experiences that sometimes can be combined effectively in one course, e.g., many capstone courses also satisfy the writing-intensive requirement, some level 2 mathematical/analytical thinking courses also satisfy the writing-intensive requirement, some intermediate/advanced courses outside the major might also satisfy the comparative cultures requirement.

The following sections describe in greater detail the specific NU Core requirements:

### FIRST-YEAR LEARNING COMMUNITY

Freshmen are cohort-registered in a linked set of two or more courses in the same semester to provide integration of subject matter and an opportunity for students and faculty with similar interests to become acquainted.

### KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS

Complete an approved introductory-level course in each of three level 1 knowledge domains listed below and a level 2 intermediate or advanced course outside the major department. Generally, one of the introductory-level courses also satisfies a requirement for the major.

#### Arts/Humanities Level 1

Complete one approved course in arts level 1 *or* one approved course in humanities level 1. Visit [www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html](http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html) for a list of current offerings.

#### Social Science Level 1

Complete one approved course in social science level 1. Visit [www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html](http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html) for a list of current offerings.

#### Science/Technology Level 1

Complete one approved course in science/technology level 1. Visit [www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html](http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html) for a list of current offerings.

#### Level 2 Elective

Complete one intermediate or upper-level course (generally numbered 2000 or above) outside your major.

### COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CULTURES

Complete one approved course in comparative study of cultures or another approved approach, including traditional and short-term faculty-led study-abroad programs. Visit [www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html](http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html) for a list of current offerings, or see the "Global Experience" section on page 34 for further information on using study abroad to satisfy this requirement.

### MATHEMATICAL/ANALYTICAL THINKING

Complete an approved introductory-level course in mathematical thinking and its application to posing and solving problems and an approved intermediate-level course in modes of thought that allow abstraction, application, and synthesis of information.

#### Level 1

Complete one approved course in mathematical/analytical thinking level 1. Visit [www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html](http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html) for a list of current offerings.

#### Level 2

Complete one approved course in mathematical/analytical thinking level 2. Visit [www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html](http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html) for a list of current offerings.

### WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSES

Complete a first-year writing course and an advanced writing course provided by the Department of English and two approved writing-intensive courses in the major, as described in greater detail below. Usually, the capstone course serves as one of the major-specific writing courses.

### CAPSTONE

Complete one approved capstone course within your major in the final semesters. This course acts as a final integrator of the major, general education, and experiential aspects of the student's education. Generally, this course also includes writing-intensive work and research or creative activity, and, in most cases, the second writing-intensive-in-the-major requirement is satisfied by the capstone course. Visit [www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html](http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar/nucore.html) for a list of current offerings.

### EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Complete one approved experiential learning activity with a reflective component, as described in greater detail in the sections below ("Experiential Learning," "Cooperative Education," "Research and Creative Activity," "Service-Learning," and "Global Experience"). Experiential learning opportunities are disbursed throughout each student's undergraduate education to encourage the development of seeing connections between course work and experiential learning. Students should consult their college or their major department for advice on approved activities.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BA STUDENTS

In addition to successfully completing the University requirements of the NU Core (see above), students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree must fulfill the BA core requirements as outlined below.

### KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN REQUIREMENT FOR BA STUDENTS

In the NU Core Knowledge Domain category, students pursuing a BA will complete one approved course in arts level 1 and one approved course in humanities level 1 (for a total of two arts/humanities level 1 core courses).

### LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR BA STUDENTS

Each BA student must complete the language requirement by demonstrating proficiency at the elementary level and satisfying an intermediate-level requirement as described below.

#### *Elementary-Level Proficiency*

Satisfy one of the following requirements:

- Complete elementary-level two (course number 1102) of a language with grades of C or better in all course work (pass/fail grades cannot be used to satisfy this proficiency requirement).

- Earn a 4 or 5 score on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam in one of the languages offered or receive transfer credit for the equivalent of elementary-level two (course number 1102). Students who have AP or transfer credit must also receive a satisfactory rating in a language-specific interview administered by the World Languages Center upon matriculation.
- Receive a satisfactory score (as determined by the World Languages Center) on a standardized placement exam and a satisfactory rating in a language-specific interview administered by the World Languages Center upon matriculation.

#### *Intermediate-Level Requirement*

Satisfy one of the following requirements:

- Complete a course at the intermediate level (course number 2101 or higher) in the language taken at the elementary level.
- Complete a course in which the subject matter focuses on some aspect of the culture, history, or society of a part of the world where the language taken at the elementary level is spoken or used by a significant portion of the population. For a course list, please visit the myNEU Web Portal ([www.myneu.neu.edu](http://www.myneu.neu.edu)), click on the "Self-Service" tab, then on "My Degree Audit."
- Demonstrate conversational proficiency by successfully completing a proficiency interview (scheduled through the World Languages Center). This option is available only for heritage speakers of a language or for students who have completed the elementary-level language requirement through (b) advanced placement or (c) standardized placement exam as outlined above.

### WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSES

The faculty expects all students to become effective writers. To this end, students are given opportunities to improve their writing throughout their curriculum.

#### First-Year Writing Requirement

All first-year students must satisfy a first-year writing requirement in one of the following ways:

- ENGL 1111, College Writing
- ENGL 1110, Introductory College Writing *plus* ENGL 1111
- ENGL 1102, College Writing for Speakers of Other Languages
- ENGL 1101, Introductory Writing for Speakers of Other Languages *plus* ENGL 1102

Depending on performance in ENGL 1110 or ENGL 1101, the second half of the two-course sequence may be waived, as determined by the Department of English. Students must earn a C or better in the required writing course to satisfy the first-year writing requirement.

The First-Year Writing Program conducts a version of “guided self-placement” and requires students bring an essay to the first class meeting; see [www.english.neu.edu/writingprogram/for\\_students/college\\_writing/course\\_placement/](http://www.english.neu.edu/writingprogram/for_students/college_writing/course_placement/) for details.

For all other Writing Program information and policies, see [www.english.neu.edu/writingprogram](http://www.english.neu.edu/writingprogram).

*Note:* ENGL 1101 and ENGL 1110 are not credited toward graduation in the College of Engineering.

### Advanced Writing Requirement

Once students have earned a minimum of 48 semester hours of academic credit and satisfied their first-year writing requirement, they are expected to register for the second course of the University-wide requirement: Advanced Writing in the Disciplines (AWD). Students are encouraged to take AWD before they have accrued 96 semester hours. A variety of AWD courses are offered, and different courses satisfy the requirement for students in different colleges. In consultation with their advisor, students should choose the AWD course that best fits their needs from among the available options. (A limited number of online AWD sections as well as sections for non-native speakers of English and international students are available.) Transfer credit cannot be used to satisfy this requirement. Students must earn a C or better to satisfy the advanced writing requirement.

Please see the Writing Program Web site for more details: [www.english.neu.edu/writingprogram](http://www.english.neu.edu/writingprogram).

### Writing-Intensive Courses in the Major

Each major includes at least two additional writing-intensive courses. These courses are characterized by frequent and regular writing, assessment and revision of student work, and the opportunity for students to improve their work.

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

### [www.northeastern.edu/experiential-learning](http://www.northeastern.edu/experiential-learning)

Experiential learning offers the opportunity for an education that is richer and more meaningful, providing students with experiences that add depth to their classroom studies and enable them to explore and transform their lives. Experiential learning is tightly integrated with our course curriculum and is supported by advising in the majors as well as advising in the experiential learning group.

The primary ways in which the experiential learning requirement may be satisfied are:

- Cooperative education
- Research or creative activity
- Service-learning
- Global experience

Only one learning experience outside the classroom is required for the NU Core. However, students have many additional opportunities for further experiential learning.

Integration of course work and experiential learning occurs in the required capstone course, as well as in earlier guided opportunities linking concepts from major courses, NU Core courses, and experiential learning.