

# Course Planning Worksheet



# How to use this worksheet

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**Each fall, many spring admits decide to enroll in transferable classes to make progress toward their USC degrees.**

This worksheet will serve as a tool for you to learn more about USC's general education requirements, transfer credit policies and suggested plans for fall coursework. It is designed to be a thorough walkthrough of how you might plan your fall studies. However, we also understand that course planning is complex. If you would like additional support or guidance, you can attend a virtual course planning appointment, or email [sdpsed@usc.edu](mailto:sdpsed@usc.edu).

Course planning appointments take place mid-May through early July. To make a reservation, please visit your applicant portal.

If you choose not to participate in a course planning appointment, we strongly encourage you to send the last page of this worksheet to [sdpsed@usc.edu](mailto:sdpsed@usc.edu) for our review.



# USC General Education

USC's General Education program is designed to introduce you to the breadth of knowledge you will need to be a well-educated person in the 21st century. With a careful choice of classes, students can meet the following 10 requirements with eight courses.

- **Eight courses within the six Core Literacies:** One course each in The Arts, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Quantitative Reasoning; and two courses each in Humanistic Inquiry and Social Analysis.
- **Two courses in Global Perspectives:** One in Equity in a Diverse World and one in Traditions and Historical Foundations.
- Some Global Perspectives courses will satisfy requirements in the Core Literacies as well. A single course can satisfy one Global Perspectives and one Core Literacy requirement at most.

- **Students must complete at least two GE courses at USC Dornsife College from among the six Core Literacy categories.**
- Once enrolled at USC, students must complete all remaining Core Literacy requirements (A-F) at USC.
- To be eligible for GE credit, a course taken at another institution must earn at least three semester or four quarter units at that institution.

• Additional information about the General Education Program is available at [dornsife.usc.edu/2015ge](https://dornsife.usc.edu/2015ge).

## CORE LITERACIES

GE-A	The Arts	GE-B	Humanistic Inquiry (2 courses)	GE-C	Social Analysis (2 Courses)	GE-D	The Life Sciences	GE-E	The Physical Sciences	GE-F	Quantitative Reasoning
	<p>Courses that meet this requirement enable students to engage with the arts by teaching them to create and analyze works of art, as well as understand the context of their creations and their connections to cultural issues.</p> <p><b>Examples of acceptable courses:</b> Art History (must include cultural context), Intro to Film, Art Appreciation (Great Works), History of Architecture (must include cultural context), History of Music, History of Dance, History of Photography, Intro to Theatre, Modern Art, Contemporary Art, Music Appreciation, History of Jazz, History of Rock and Roll, Dramatic Literature (plays from all eras)</p> <p><b>Not Acceptable:</b> Studio, performance, theory or pre-professional courses</p> <hr/> <p><b>Course or Exam</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed   <input type="checkbox"/> At USC <input type="checkbox"/> In progress   <input type="checkbox"/> Non-USC</p>		<p>Courses that meet this requirement cultivate a critical appreciation for various forms of human expression by teaching students to evaluate works of literature, philosophy and the arts and to think critically and formulate informed opinions about ideas and values.</p> <p><b>Examples of acceptable courses:</b> Western Civilization, World Civilization, Intro to Philosophy, American Literature, English Literature, U.S. History, Intro to Religions, Eastern Religion, Western Religion, World Religions, Old Testament, New Testament, Mythology (Greek/Roman/World)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Course</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed   <input type="checkbox"/> At USC <input type="checkbox"/> In progress   <input type="checkbox"/> Non-USC</p> <hr/> <p><b>Course</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed   <input type="checkbox"/> At USC <input type="checkbox"/> In progress   <input type="checkbox"/> Non-USC</p>		<p>Courses that meet this requirement explore the causes and consequences of social phenomena by teaching students to apply the quantitative and qualitative methods of the social sciences to understand how people behave and influence the world through institutions and other cultural forms.</p> <p><b>Examples of acceptable courses:</b> Cultural Anthropology, Intro to Environmental Studies (people and policy focused), Intro to Sociology, Intro to Political Science, Intro to Gender Studies, Intro to Women's Studies, Intro to LGBT Studies, Intro to International Relations, Intro to Peace and Conflict Studies, Language and Society, Ethnic-American Histories</p> <hr/> <p><b>Course</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed   <input type="checkbox"/> At USC <input type="checkbox"/> In progress   <input type="checkbox"/> Non-USC</p> <hr/> <p><b>Course</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed   <input type="checkbox"/> At USC <input type="checkbox"/> In progress   <input type="checkbox"/> Non-USC</p>		<p>Courses that meet this requirement provide a scientific understanding of a full range of living systems from molecules to ecosystems by teaching students to understand how data is generated, presented and interpreted and how scientific discovery spurs technological growth and impacts society.</p> <p><b>Examples of acceptable courses:</b> General Biology, Physical Anthropology, Environmental Biology, Marine Biology</p> <p>Courses must include an in-person lab component. Online or hybrid labs are not acceptable.</p> <p><b>Not Acceptable:</b> Botany, Zoology, Intro to Psychology</p> <hr/> <p><b>Course or Exam</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed   <input type="checkbox"/> At USC <input type="checkbox"/> In progress   <input type="checkbox"/> Non-USC</p>		<p>Courses that meet this requirement analyze natural phenomena through quantitative description and synthesis, teaching students to solve scientific problems and to understand the processes by which scientific knowledge is obtained, evaluated and placed in the context of societal relevance.</p> <p><b>Examples of acceptable courses:</b> General Chemistry, Chemistry for Allied Health, General Physics, Oceanography, Elementary Astronomy, Physical Geography, Historical Geology, Physical Geology</p> <p>Courses must include an in-person lab component. Online or hybrid labs are not acceptable.</p> <p><b>Not Acceptable:</b> Preparatory Chemistry</p> <hr/> <p><b>Course or Exam</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed   <input type="checkbox"/> At USC <input type="checkbox"/> In progress   <input type="checkbox"/> Non-USC</p>		<p>Courses that meet this requirement teach students to use a set of formal tools, such as logical or statistical inference, probability, or mathematical analysis to pose and evaluate hypotheses, claims, questions, or problems within a formal mode of thought.</p> <p><b>Examples of acceptable courses:</b> Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Pre-Calculus, College Algebra, Statistics, Finite Math, Calculus, Math for Liberal Arts, Calculus for Business</p> <p><b>Meeting this requirement with math placement test scores:</b> Students may meet their General Education requirement in Quantitative Reasoning with a score of 22 on the USC Mathematics Placement Exam, if that score is earned under certain conditions. Please visit <a href="https://dornsife.usc.edu/2015ge/ge-f">dornsife.usc.edu/2015ge/ge-f</a> for complete information.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Course or Exam</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed   <input type="checkbox"/> At USC <input type="checkbox"/> In progress   <input type="checkbox"/> Non-USC</p>

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

GE-G	Equity in a Diverse World	GE-H	Traditions and Historical Foundations
	<p>Courses that meet this requirement enhance understanding of citizenship and moral agency in today's increasingly global society by teaching students to identify social, political, economic, and cultural forces that bear on human experience in the U.S. and around the world.</p> <p><b>Examples of acceptable courses:</b> Intro to International Relations, Intro to Peace and Conflict Studies, Contemporary Moral Issues</p> <p><b>Not Acceptable:</b> Courses that consider these issues in the context of a single country, such as the U.S.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Course or Exam</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed   <input type="checkbox"/> At USC <input type="checkbox"/> In progress   <input type="checkbox"/> Non-USC</p>		<p>Courses that meet this requirement examine the historical and cultural foundations of contemporary societies over a substantial period of time by teaching students to understand the enduring influence of literary, political, economic, philosophical, legal, ethical and religious traditions.</p> <p><b>Examples of acceptable courses:</b> Art History (must include cultural context), History of Architecture (must include cultural context), Music History, History of Religion, History of [a particular region], History of Theatre, Western Civilization, World Civilization, U.S. History, Old Testament, New Testament, Mythology (Greek/Roman/World)</p> <p><b>Not Acceptable:</b> Intro to Religion (general), modern or contemporary history courses focused on the 20th century or later</p> <hr/> <p><b>Course or Exam</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed   <input type="checkbox"/> At USC <input type="checkbox"/> In progress   <input type="checkbox"/> Non-USC</p>

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

<p>Many degree programs require the third-level course of a foreign language.</p> <p>Once at USC, students needing further studies in foreign language must complete a placement exam before being allowed to register for courses.</p> <p>A score of 4 or higher on an AP foreign language exam (other than Latin) can fulfill this requirement.</p> <p>Language courses taken fully or partially online do not satisfy this requirement.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Course or Exam</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed   <input type="checkbox"/> At USC <input type="checkbox"/> In progress   <input type="checkbox"/> Non-USC</p>
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# AP, IB and A-Level Exam Credit

## Exams That Satisfy General Education Requirements

COURSE	EXAM
<b>GE-A</b> <b>The Arts</b>	AP Art History, IB Dance, IB Film, IB Music, IB Theatre, IB Visual Arts, AL Art & Design, AL Music
<b>GE-B</b> <b>Humanistic Inquiry</b>	No exams satisfy this category.
<b>GE-C</b> <b>Social Analysis</b>	No exams satisfy this category.
<b>GE-D</b> <b>The Life Sciences</b>	AP Biology, IB Biology, AL Biology, AL Marine Science
<b>GE-E</b> <b>The Physical Sciences</b>	AP Chemistry, AP Physics 1, AP Physics 2, AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, IB Chemistry, IB Physics, AL Chemistry, AL Physics
<b>GE-F</b> <b>Quantitative Reasoning</b>	AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics, AP Statistics, IB Economics, IB Mathematics, IB Further Mathematics, AL Economics, AL Mathematics, AL Further Mathematics
<b>GE-G</b> <b>Equity in a Diverse World</b>	IB Global Politics
<b>GE-H</b> <b>Traditions and Historical Foundations</b>	AP European History, AP U.S. History, AP World History, IB History with any HL option (Africa and the Middle East, Americas, Asia and Oceania, or Europe), AL Classical Studies, AL Divinity, AL Islamic Studies

## Minimum Scores

Students must earn the scores listed below to earn credit or to satisfy other course or major requirements.

<b>AP</b>	4 or 5
<b>IB Higher Level</b>	5, 6, or 7 up to a maximum of four exams
<b>A-Level</b>	B or better

## Foreign Language

Scores of 4 or 5 on the following AP exams will satisfy the third-level foreign language requirement, but do not earn USC course equivalence.

- Chinese Language and Culture
- Italian Language and Culture
- Japanese Language and Culture
- French Language
- French Literature
- German Language
- Spanish Language
- Spanish Literature

Students wishing to take a fourth-level foreign language course must take a placement exam.

# Suggested Fall Semester Course Plan

Below are sample fall course plans based on various degree programs. This is simply a guide, and some students may be advised to make adjustments based on AP/IB scores, institution, and/or specific major within an academic unit. Students should always consult the Student Development Programs team when creating a course schedule.

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<b>GENERAL COURSE PLAN</b>	Equivalent of USC's WRIT 130/150 (if possible) Foreign Language Level III (if you place into level three and your major has a foreign language requirement) 2-3 classes for GE credit
<b>BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION COURSE PLAN</b>	Equivalent of USC's MATH 118 or 125 (unless you earned a 4 or 5 in AP Calculus) Equivalent of USC's WRIT 130/150 (if possible) 2-3 classes for GE credit, excluding GE-F
<b>PRE-MED OR ENGINEERING COURSE PLAN</b>	Equivalent of USC's MATH 125, 126, or 226 Equivalent of USC's CHEM 105a (unless a computer science/computer engineering major) Equivalent of USC's WRIT 130/150 (if possible) 1-2 classes for GE credit, excluding GE-D, E and F
<b>PUBLIC POLICY OR ECONOMICS COURSE PLAN</b>	Equivalent of USC's ECON 203 (unless you earned a 4 or 5 in AP Microeconomics) Equivalent of USC's WRIT 130/150 (if possible) 2-3 classes for GE credit, excluding GE-F
<b>BFA PROGRAMS COURSE PLAN</b>	Equivalent of USC's WRIT 130/150 (if possible) 3-4 classes for GE credit, excluding GE-A

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## Additional Notes:

Writing courses must be equivalent to USC's Writing 130/150.

Most programs require the study of a foreign language. If you attend a college on the quarter system, note that a third-level requirement takes five quarters to complete. If you attend a college on the semester system and either of the first two language courses in the sequence is fewer than four units, the third-level requirement will take four semesters to complete.

