UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (UNIV)

UNIV 101. Introduction to the University. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Designed to orient new
students to the traditions, purposes and expectations of a university
education. Students will assess their expectations and evaluate their
academic strengths and goals. Through lectures, guest speakers and
individual projects, students will learn of VCU resources designed to
help them solve problems and to achieve a rewarding and successful
academic program. This course is required for students admitted
conditionally to VCU; it is recommended for all first-year students.

UNIV 102. Investigations in Learning. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to
first-year students who want to improve college success skills. The
student will create an individualized action plan to improve academic
performance.

UNIV 103. Education and Career Planning. 1–3 Hours.
Semester course; 1–3 lecture hours. 1–3 credits. May be repeated for
a total of 3 credits. An education- and career-planning course focusing
on the process of researching and selecting a major. Through course
work, research, guest speakers and informational interviewing, students
will discover various educational and career options. Topics will include
interest, abilities and work-values assessments, decision-making models
and career development theories. One- and two-credit versions of the
course are offered with correspondingly reduced meeting schedules.

UNIV 111. Focused Inquiry I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Utilizes contemporary
themes to give students opportunities and practice in writing, critical
thinking, oral presentation, collaborative learning, information retrieval
and evaluation, and social and civic responsibilities. Incorporates
common reading materials and course activities across all sections.

UNIV 112. Focused Inquiry II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 111 or
equivalent. Builds on skills introduced in UNIV 111 by providing practice
in expository essays, argument and contextual analysis. Focuses on
practice in writing in a variety of genres, framing writing according to
both purpose and audience and identifying academically valid sources.
This course is writing intensive.

UNIV 151. Focused Learning Workshop in BIOL 151. 1–2 Hours.
Semester course; 3 workshop hours. 1–2 credits. Corequisite: BIOL 151.
Designed to assist students in improving their understanding of complex
biology material. Will supplement the BIOL 151 class lecture. Course
assists students with integrating how-to-learn with what-to-learn for
BIOL 151. Includes both discussion and study-skills strategies. Students
required to complete homework assignments and to demonstrate
mastery of specific study techniques. In addition to the semester-long
2-credit offering, a 1-credit course is open to students after the first
BIOL 151 exam.

UNIV 152. Focused Learning Workshop in BIOL 152. 1–2 Hours.
Semester course; 3 workshop hours. 1–2 credits. Corequisite: BIOL 152.
Designed to assist students in improving their understanding of complex
biology material. Will supplement the BIOL 152 class lecture. Course
assists students with integrating how-to-learn with what-to-learn for
BIOL 152. Includes both discussion and study-skills strategies. Students
required to complete homework assignments and to demonstrate
mastery of specific study techniques. In addition to the semester-long
2-credit offering, a 1-credit course is open to students after the first
BIOL 152 exam.

UNIV 200. Inquiry and the Craft of Argument. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 112
with a minimum grade of C. A research and writing process course
that emphasizes critical analysis, elements of argument, inquiry-based
research skills, writing conventions of academic argument and the
presentation of argument and research into new mediums.

UNIV 211. Food for Thought. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An interdisciplinary
exploration of food using analytical lenses from sociology, anthropology,
philosophy, art, literature, history, political science, psychology,
economics and religious studies.

UNIV 213. The Truth About Lying. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will engage in
collaborative inquiry to critically consider their own beliefs, common
notions of ethical behaviors and practical standards through exploring
the nature and function of lying. Students will work together to build a
foundation of knowledge on the subject of lying and investigate a broad
range of disciplines through the lie to question, abandon and embrace
value judgments imperative to their daily lives.

UNIV 217. Finding Your Voice in Contemporary Society. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: UNIV 111
and 112 or both ENGL 295 and HONR 200. Focuses on strategies for
expression in contemporary society. This course examines the messages
that are conveyed in our society and how people decode and understand
those messages. Course will focus on popular culture themes and
practical problem-solving.

UNIV 222. Pseudoscience. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Course critically evaluates
controversial fringes of scientific inquiry, such as those related to
paranormal investigations and quack medicine. By engaging with topics
chosen from astronomy, anthropology, biology, mathematics, medicine,
philosophy and psychology, students will apply critical thinking skills to a
variety of strange and provocative ideas.

UNIV 250. Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Program. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. May be repeated for up to
2 credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 112 with a minimum grade of B. Utilizes
classroom practice to further the core skills developed in UNIV 111 and
112 (writing, critical thinking, oral presentation, collaborative learning,
information retrieval and evaluation, and social and civic responsibilities)
as well as exposing students to the practice, possibilities, rewards and
responsibilities of the act of teaching.

UNIV 251. Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Program. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 credit. May be repeated for up to 2 credits.
Prerequisites: instructor permission; successful completion of UNIV 200
or HONR 200 with minimum grade of B. Utilizes classroom practice to
further the core skills developed in UNIV 200 (including writing, critical
thinking, collaborative learning, information retrieval and evaluation)
as well as exposing students to the practice, possibilities, rewards and
responsibilities of the act of teaching.

UNIV 270. Introduction to Leadership Studies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Open only to students
participating in the Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program or enrolled
in VCU LEAD. Introductory study of leadership theory, group dynamics
and human relationships used in volunteer organizations and leisure
delivery systems. Foundations of leadership/follower behavior, advanced
facilitation techniques and techniques of decision-making, problem-
solving, conflict management and program evaluation will be examined.
UNIV 291. University Special Topics. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated with different content. Specialized topics in subject and competency areas related to the core curriculum program not provided by an existing course or program. May be multidisciplinary. Graded as pass/fail or normal letter grading at the option of the instructor.

UNIV 299. What's the Big Idea?. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Each section in this interdisciplinary course will focus on a particular "big question" that has intrigued thinkers throughout time and across cultures. As students move from personal to global — and from theoretical to practical — investigations of the question, they will come to understand inquiry as a complex cycle of questioning, gathering, examining, interpreting, comparing, analyzing and evaluating, with important application to decision-making and problem-solving in the "real world.

UNIV 301. Foundations of Interdisciplinarity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course will familiarize students with the history, theory and practice of interdisciplinarity. It is a core component of the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies curriculum and provides an overview of the integrative intellectual pursuit that is interdisciplinary studies. This course immerses students in the breadth of interdisciplinary synthesis and integration of research methods appropriate to their area of interdisciplinary study.

UNIV 350. Peer Leadership Program. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. May be repeated for up to 6 credits. Prerequisite: 2 credits of UNIV 250 with a minimum grade of B. Building on skills introduced in UNIV 250, this course gives students hands-on experience in the practice of creating and maintaining student engagement.

UNIV 391. University Special Topics. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated with different content. Specialized topics in subject and competency areas related to the core curriculum program not provided by an existing course or program. May be multidisciplinary. Graded as pass/fail or normal letter grading at the option of the instructor.

UNIV 492. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 independent study hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for credit. This course is designed to provide upper-level B.I.S. students the opportunity to explore and investigate a complex interdisciplinary problem or area of research beyond available curricular offerings. Students must discuss their specific interest with the B.I.S. faculty adviser, secure an approved faculty mentor and complete the independent study proposal form (with their faculty mentor) prior to receiving an override for course registration.

UNIV 493. Internship. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 field experience hours. 1-3 credits (50 field site contact hours per credit). May be repeated for credit with different internships for a maximum of 9 credits. Restricted to students who have completed 24 credits in their focus areas, earned junior or senior status and obtained approval of placement site from their faculty adviser. The B.I.S. internship is designed to help students have a real-world learning experience that will help move them in the direction of their desired future career. It is intended to provide opportunities for the student to apply classroom knowledge and acquire professional skills. The internship site(s) selected must be compatible with one or more of the focus areas of the student’s major and should help to build skills toward a future professional or academic path of interest to them.

UNIV 499. BIS Senior Capstone. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: senior standing and 18 hours in focus area. Students will synthesize and evaluate the theoretical, methodological and substantive issues discovered during course work in the focus area.