GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

ConnectED, VCU's general education curriculum, seeks to provide a diverse student body with a broad base of knowledge and the intellectual skills to participate actively in a changing world. To those ends, ConnectED challenges students to seek creative answers to complex problems, see connections between disciplines and between ideas, and develop an informed perspective on the varieties of human experience. Courses included in ConnectED are open to all VCU undergraduate students and therefore do not focus on those skills, techniques or procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession. The general education curriculum which follows consists of 30 credit hours divided into three sections: foundations, breadth of knowledge and areas of inquiry. While foundations courses are distinct from the rest of the general education curriculum, the courses contained within the breadth of knowledge and areas of inquiry sections overlap.

Note: In addition to the courses listed below, courses added to the ConnectEd categories in future bulletins will fulfill the same category for enrolled students during their tenure at VCU. Thus, categories present in the student's effective Bulletin can be fulfilled with any course that is approved for that category after matriculation and until the time that general education requirements are completed.

Foundations (12-13 credits)

To ensure that all students enrolled at VCU are provided with a firm foundation upon which to pursue their intellectual and professional goals, the general education curriculum requires that all students take the following courses.

Course	Title	Hours
UNIV 111 Play course video for Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication [1,2]	3
UNIV 112 Play course video for Focused Inquiry II	Focused Inquiry II [1,2]	3
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication [1,2]	3
Honors foundation options		
HONR 200	Research Writing	3
HONR 201	Research Writing II [1]	3
HONR 250	Writing in Cultural Conversation [3]	3
Quantitative foundations		
Select one of the following:		3-4
BUSN 212	Business Problem Solving and Analysis [1]	
MATH 131	Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics [1]	
MATH 139	College Algebra with Applications	
MATH 141	Algebra with Applications [1]	
MATH 151	Precalculus Mathematics	
MATH 170	The Language of Artificial Intelligence [1]	
MATH 200	Calculus with Analytic Geometry I	
STAT 208	Statistical Thinking [1]	
STAT 210	Basic Practice of Statistics [1]	
STAT 212	Concepts of Statistics	
Total Hours		**12-13**

[1]

This course is available in an online modality.

[2]

A minimum grade of C is required in UNIV 112 and UNIV 200. Transfer credits are not accepted for these three UNIV courses after a student is enrolled at the university.

[3]

HONR 250 can replace UNIV 111 and UNIV 112 for honors students.

Breadth of knowledge (SACSCOC) (nine credits) [4]

All students must earn at least three credits in each of the three breadth of knowledge areas listed below. All courses listed in the three sections below also count toward the 17-18 credit hour areas of inquiry requirement.

Course	Title	Hours
Humanities/fine arts		
This requirement is fulfilled by these courses included in the four areas of inquiry. Select one of the following.		3
AFAM 111 Play course video for Introduction to Africana Studies	Introduction to Africana Studies [1]	
ARTE 222	Rethinking Popular, Visual and Media Culture [1]	
ARTE 280	Justice and Equity in Visual Arts and Education	
ARTH 201	Banned! Art and Controversy	
CREA 201	The Creative Economy [1]	
DANC 230	Dance in Hollywood [1]	
ENGL 215	Reading Literature [1]	
ENGL 217	Reading New Literature	
ENGL 250 Play course video for Reading Film	Reading Film [1]	
HIST 201	The Art of Historical Detection: ____	
HIST 202	History Without Borders: ____	
IDES 261	What is Good Design? A Survey of 20th- and 21st-century Design [1]	
MHIS 251	American Popular Music [1]	
ITAL 230	Italy and the Modern World [1]	
MHIS 252	Soundscapes [1]	
NEXT 240	Reading Technology, Media and Culture [1]	
PHIL 201	Introduction to Ethics [1]	
PHIL 202	Ethics of Artificial Intelligence [1]	

PHIL 221	Critical Thinking	
RELS 108	Human Spirituality	
RUSS 230	Masterpieces of Russia:Science, Literature, Film and Beyond	
THEA 215	Live Theatre Now [1]	
UNIV 299	What's the Big Idea?	
WRLD 203	Cultural Texts and Contexts: ____ [1]	
WRLD 230 Play course video for Introduction to World Cinema	Introduction to World Cinema [1]	
WRLD 240	Representations of Race in Cinema [1]	

Natural sciences

This requirement is fulfilled by these courses included in the four areas of inquiry. Select one of the following.		3
BIOL 101	Biological Concepts [1]	
BIOL 103	Global Environmental Biology [1]	
BIOL 151	Introduction to Biological Sciences I	
BNFO 125	Disease and Human Ancestry	
CHEM 101	General Chemistry I	
CHEM 110	Chemistry and Society	
ENVS 201	Earth System Science	
FRSC 202	Crime and Science	
INSC 201	Energy! [1]	
PHYS 101	Foundations of Physics	
PHYS 103	Elementary Astronomy [1]	
PHYS 201	General Physics I	
PHYS 207	University Physics I	

Social/behavioral sciences

This requirement is fulfilled by these courses included in the four areas of inquiry. Select one of the following.		3
ADMS 157	Educational Leadership Civil Rights in [1]	
ADMS 255	Student and Community Centered Education Policy [1]	
ADMS 256	Human Dimensions of Leadership: Empathy, Trust and Care in Organizations [1]	
ADMS 258	Community-based Participatory Action Research [1]	
ANTH 103	Introduction to Anthropology [1]	
ANTH 105/ INTL 104	Introduction to Archaeology [1]	
CLED 200	The Science of Resilience and Holistic Health [1]	
CLED 220	Diversity Issues in Counseling and Helping Professions [1]	
ECON 202	Inequality in America	
ECON 203	Introduction to Economics [1]	
ECON 205	The Economics of Product Development and Markets	
ECON 210	Principles of Microeconomics [1]	
EDUS 203	Pop-cultural Foundations of Education: Film/TV, Music, Literature and Schooling in the U.S.	

GSWS 201	Introduction to Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies	
GVPA 200	Race and Racism in U.S. Government and Public Affairs [1]	
HADM 215	Introduction to Health Care Through a Policy Lens	
IDDS 200	Disability History and Culture	
IDDS 201	Disability, Diversity and Human Rights [1]	
INTL 101	Human Societies and Globalization [1]	
INTL 201	Rethinking the Middle East	
INTL 295	Media Literacy and Globalization	
MASC/INTL 151	Global Communications [1]	
MKTG 222	Marketing and Society [1]	
POLI 103	U.S. Government and Politics [1]	
POLI/INTL 105	International Relations [1]	
PSYC 101 Play course video for Introduction to Psychology	Introduction to Psychology [1]	
SCTS 200	Science in Society: Values, Ethics and Politics	
SEDP 202	Preparing Diverse Learners From Multicultural and Global Perspectives [1]	
SLWK 200	Building a Just Society [1]	
SOCS 340	Human Sexuality [1]	
SOCY 101 Play course video for Introduction to Sociology	Introduction to Sociology [1]	
SOCY 222	Sociology of Sport [1]	
SOCY/INTL 250	Confronting Climate Crisis	
STAT 350	Data Science for the Arts, Media and Political Science [1]	
STAT 355	Data Science for AI [1]	
TEDU 207	Urban Awareness and Urban Education	
TEDU 210	Debunking Classroom Myths: How and Why Do We Learn Ideas Incorrectly? [1]	
Total Hours		**9**

[1]

This course is available in an online modality.

[4]

Courses taken to fulfill the three breadth of knowledge requirements categories also count toward the general education curriculum's four areas of inquiry.

Areas of inquiry (17-18 credits total, including the nine credits from breadth of knowledge)

The remaining course work in the general education curriculum must be divided among the four areas of inquiry below, with at least three, and no more than nine, credits from each of the four areas. In fulfilling these requirements, students may apply no more than six credits with the same four-letter prefix (ex. RELS, MGMT) to the 17-18 credit total requirement, regardless of the area of inquiry under which they are listed. Courses

taken to complete the breadth of knowledge requirements also fulfill area of inquiry requirements.

Course	Title	Hours
Creativity, innovation and aesthetic inquiry		
Courses in this area encourage students to examine the circumstances that produce creative work; investigate the criteria used to judge creative work; and consider the role of imagination in expressing the human condition.		3-9
ALHP 202	Creative Expressions of Healing and Resilience	
ARTE 222	Rethinking Popular, Visual and Media Culture [1]	
ARTE 280	Justice and Equity in Visual Arts and Education	
ARTH 201	Banned! Art and Controversy	
CREA 201	The Creative Economy [1]	
DANC 230	Dance in Hollywood [1]	
EDUS 203	Pop-cultural Foundations of Education: Film/TV, Music, Literature and Schooling in the U.S.	
EGMN 111	Great Inventions: How They Work and Their Impact on Society	
ENGL 215	Reading Literature [1]	
ENGL 217	Reading New Literature	
ENGL 250 Play course video for Reading Film	Reading Film [1]	
ENGR 125	Practical Artificial Intelligence	
IDES 261	What is Good Design? A Survey of 20th- and 21st-century Design [1]	
INNO 210	The Innovation Intersection: Industry and Entrepreneurship	
MHIS 251	American Popular Music [1]	
MHIS 252	Soundscapes [1]	
MKTG 222	Marketing and Society [1]	
NEXT 240	Reading Technology, Media and Culture [1]	
SPCH 221	Oral Communication and Presentation	
TEDU 212	Creating Digital Art and Music Through Computer Coding	
THEA 215	Live Theatre Now [1]	
WRLD 203	Cultural Texts and Contexts: ___ [1]	
WRLD 230 Play course video for Introduction to World Cinema	Introduction to World Cinema [1]	
Diversities in the human experience		
These courses will introduce students to the modes of inquiry used in the study of social institutions and human behavior. Students enrolled in these courses will seek to investigate the relationship between the individual and society and the varieties of human psychology and development.		3-9
ADMS 157	Educational Leadership Civil Rights in [1]	
ADMS 255	Student and Community Centered Education Policy [1]	
ADMS 256	Human Dimensions of Leadership: Empathy, Trust and Care in Organizations [1]	
ADMS 258	Community-based Participatory Action Research [1]	
AMST 216	Reading Race	
ANTH 105/ INTL 104	Introduction to Archaeology [1]	
CLED 200	The Science of Resilience and Holistic Health [1]	
CLED 220	Diversity Issues in Counseling and Helping Professions [1]	
CSIJ 200	Introduction to Race and Racism in the United States [1]	
DMCY 200	U.S. Democracy United/Divided	
ECON 202	Inequality in America	
FASH 130	The Meaning of Dress [1]	
GRTY 200	Disrupting Ageism: An Exploration of Diversity and Aging [1]	
GSWS 201	Introduction to Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies	
GVPA 200	Race and Racism in U.S. Government and Public Affairs [1]	
HADM 215	Introduction to Health Care Through a Policy Lens	
HIST 201	The Art of Historical Detection: ___	
HSEP 101	Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	
IDDS 200	Disability History and Culture	
IDDS 201	Disability, Diversity and Human Rights [1]	
NURS 103	Culture, Diversity and Communication in Health Care Settings	
NURS 104	Conceptualizing Mental Illness in Modern Culture	
PHIL 201	Introduction to Ethics [1]	
POLI 103	U.S. Government and Politics [1]	
PSYC 101 Play course video for Introduction to Psychology	Introduction to Psychology [1]	
RELS 108	Human Spirituality	
SEDP 202	Preparing Diverse Learners From Multicultural and Global Perspectives [1]	
SLWK 200	Building a Just Society [1]	
SOCS 340	Human Sexuality [1]	
SOCY 101 Play course video for Introduction to Sociology	Introduction to Sociology [1]	
SOCY 222	Sociology of Sport [1]	
TEDU 207	Urban Awareness and Urban Education	
TEDU 211	Censored in School: Banned Books	
UNIV 299	What's the Big Idea?	
WRLD 240	Representations of Race in Cinema [1]	
Global perspectives		

Through these courses students will encounter and comprehend cultures and contexts outside the U.S.; develop an understanding of how the world is interconnected; and consider alternative viewpoints among disciplines, histories and cultures. — 3-9

AFAM 111 Play course video for Introduction to Africana Studies	Introduction to Africana Studies [1]
ANTH 103	Introduction to Anthropology [1]
ARBC 101	Beginning Arabic I
BUSN 205	Introduction to the World of Business [1]
CHIN 101	Beginning Chinese I
ECON 203	Introduction to Economics [1]
ECON 205	The Economics of Product Development and Markets
ECON 210	Principles of Microeconomics [1]
FREN 101	Beginning French I [1]
GRMN 101	Beginning German I
HIST 202	History Without Borders: ___
INTL 101	Human Societies and Globalization [1]
INTL 201	Rethinking the Middle East
INTL 295	Media Literacy and Globalization
ITAL 101	Beginning Italian I
ITAL 230	Italy and the Modern World [1]
MASC/INTL 151	Global Communications [1]
POLI/INTL 105	International Relations [1]
RUSS 101	Beginning Russian I
RUSS 230	Masterpieces of Russia:Science, Literature, Film and Beyond
SEDP 202	Preparing Diverse Learners From Multicultural and Global Perspectives [1]
SOCY/INTL 250	Confronting Climate Crisis
SPAN 101	Beginning Spanish I [1]
URSP 350/ INTL 345/FRLG 345	Great Cities of the World

Scientific and logical reasoning

These courses examine how logical and empirical methods can be used to form and revise beliefs; use scientific concepts to describe the world and formulate questions; and model phenomena through the use of mathematics, computer programs and physical representations. — 3-9

BIOL 101	Biological Concepts [1]
BIOL 103	Global Environmental Biology [1]
BIOL 151	Introduction to Biological Sciences I
BNFO 125	Disease and Human Ancestry
CHEM 101	General Chemistry I
CHEM 110	Chemistry and Society
CLLS 202	Introduction to Infectious Disease and Societal Impacts [1]
CMSC 210	Computers and Programming [1]
CMSC 225	Essentials of Artificial Intelligence [1]
EGRB 102	Introduction to Biomedical Engineering
EGRB 105	Successes and Failures in Biomedical Technologies
ENVS 201	Earth System Science
FIRE 201	Personal Financial Planning [1]
FRSC 202	Crime and Science
HPEX 310	Fitness and Health [1]
INSC 201	Energy! [1]
MATH 120	Seeing, Playing, Deciding – This is Math?
PHIL 202	Ethics of Artificial Intelligence [1]
PHIL 221	Critical Thinking
PHYS 101	Foundations of Physics
PHYS 103	Elementary Astronomy [1]
PHYS 201	General Physics I
PHYS 207	University Physics I
SCTS 200	Science in Society: Values, Ethics and Politics
STAT 350	Data Science for the Arts, Media and Political Science [1]
STAT 355	Data Science for AI [1]
TEDU 210	Debunking Classroom Myths: How and Why Do We Learn Ideas Incorrectly? [1]

Total Hours	**17-18**

[1]

This course is available in an online modality.

VCU's general education learning goals, definitions and outcomes

Communicative fluency

Communicative fluency is understanding and creating shared meaning with effective use of language and communicative practices, intentional engagement of audience, cogent and coherent iteration and negotiation with others, and skillful translation across multiple expressive formulations and modes.

1. Effective organization, structure and coherence
   a. Organize ideas clearly, following disciplinary conventions/rules, in a unified way that flows logically.
2. Effective use of supporting materials
   a. Use of evidence, examples and materials (e.g. digital files, visuals, analogies, etc.) to support the key points.
3. Conveys message with awareness of audience, context and purpose
   a. Delivery demonstrates awareness of the audience, the situation and the goal.
4. Control of mechanics, language and syntax
   a. Uses correct discipline/audience-appropriate grammar and sentence structure.

Ethical reasoning

Ethical reasoning includes judgments of right and wrong, good and bad, related to human conduct especially concerning matters of justice, fairness, equity and social responsibility. Value systems, both culturally inherited and different from students' own experiences, inform the

deliberations regarding the quality of life and social goods necessary to employ ethical decision-making.

1. Recognize ethical issues

2. Identify and reflect on culturally inherited beliefs

3. Understand different ethical perspectives and concepts across diverse communities and cultures

4. Apply beliefs and ethical perspectives to problems

5. Demonstrate understanding of the impact of ethical decision making on civic contexts and structures

Global and cultural responsiveness and agility

Global and cultural responsiveness and agility requires (1) suspension of judgment in valuing interactions with culturally different others and (2) empathic and flexible responsiveness to unfamiliar ways of being, recognizing that all actions have correlative intercultural effects. This competency's primary goal, achievable only after several courses with this competency, is for students to advance equity and justice on local and global levels, well-informed by historical and political contexts.

1. Demonstrate understanding of relevant historical, cultural and political contexts

2. Compare and contrast practical and ideological differences among cultures

3. Show appropriate contexts and methods for suspending value judgments

4. Demonstrate capacity for empathy

5. Demonstrate sensibility to actions' consequent reciprocal reactions

Information literacy

Information literacy is a set of integrated abilities to solve problems and generate new knowledge that encompasses recognizing an information need; critically identifying, locating and evaluating appropriate resources; and responsibly and effectively synthesizing, applying and sharing information.

1. Recognize an information need and determine extent and type of information needed

2. Identify and locate appropriate sources

3. Critically evaluate information and its sources

4. Effectively synthesize, apply and share information to accomplish a specific purpose

5. Demonstrate understanding of relevant legal and ethical issues for information use

Problem solving (critical and creative)

Problem solving is the process of designing, evaluating and implementing approaches to open-ended questions in order to achieve a desired outcome or goal, based on both (1) the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion and (2) the synthesis of ideas, images or expertise,

and imaginative thinking characterized by innovation, divergent thinking and risk-taking.

1. Define complex problems, issues or questions

2. Identify and seek out methods, information, skills, and relevant sources.

3. Develop and propose multiple solutions (demonstrating intellectual risk-taking and tolerance for ambiguity)

4. Evaluate potential solutions with awareness of contradictions, competing assumptions and consideration of context

5. Analyze the implications, consequences and outcomes of solutions

Quantitative literacy

Quantitative literacy is the knowledge of mathematical/statistical operations and graphical representations of numerical data; the knowledge of how to represent real-world objects, events, information and problems as symbolic data sets; the ability to recognize which mathematical/statistical operations are applicable to given data sets; and the ability to analyze, interpret and explain the output of mathematical/statistical operations performed by the student or presented in the published literature.

1. Convert information into mathematical/symbolic forms

2. Recognize the appropriate mathematical/statistical operations for the analysis of given information/data sets

3. Perform mathematical/statistical operations

4. Extract the meaning of a quantitative analysis, draw inferences and produce appropriate conclusions

5. Express the rationale for the application of specific operations to specific data sets and the validity of conclusions derived from analyses