

A&S College Core

(approved May 2023)

THE NEW A&S COLLEGE CORE:

A general education curriculum that is inviting, inspiring, and integrated.

Core Courses introduce all students to the richness and power of an arts + science education.

Core Capacities develop key competencies across every academic division of the college.

Fulfilled with a minimum of 10 courses, the **A&S College Core** is less cumbersome but more intentional, flexible, and intuitive than AXLE—offering students common intellectual experiences, meaningful pathways through their education, and a compelling rationale for liberal arts study.

CORE CAPACITIES:

A. WRITTEN & CREATIVE EXPRESSION

cultivating expression that informs and inspires, whether on the page, stage, screen, or canvas

B. SYSTEMIC & STRUCTURAL THINKING

analyzing complex systems, whether molecules, formal theories, or societies

C. CULTURAL & INTERPRETIVE INVESTIGATION

deepening our understanding of cultures familiar and unfamiliar, past and present

D. DATA, INFORMATION & COMPUTATIONAL LITERACY

evaluating and employing varied kinds of evidence, from statistics to stories

E. ETHICAL & SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

examining power, justice, and responsibility, in settings ranging from the classroom to the planet

Students fulfill a total of 16 Core Capacity requirements:

- A. **Written & Creative Expression:** 4 tagged courses
- B. **Systemic & Structural Thinking:** 3 tagged courses
- C. **Cultural & Interpretive Investigation:** 3 tagged courses
- D. **Data, Information & Computational Literacy:** 3 tagged courses
- E. **Ethical & Social Engagement:** 3 tagged courses

Note: Courses may carry more than one Core Capacity tag.

FIRST-YEAR CORE

2 common writing seminars

Fulfilling 6 Core Capacities

FALL: CORE 1000 (class size: 15)
Meets Core Capacities A, C, and E

SPRING: CORE 1001 (class size: 15)
Meets Core Capacities A, B, and D

EXPLORATORY CORE

8 courses

Fulfilling 10 Core Capacities
(2 of each)

2 CORE 2000 courses after the first year,
tagged with 2 Core Capacities

6 courses tagged with Core Capacities,
including at least:

- 1 world language course at second-semester proficiency or above
- 1 humanities, 1 social science, and 1 natural science lecture course + lab*

*The lab requirement is a placeholder for a redesigned requirement to be in place by Fall 2025.

Students can fulfill the College Core with a minimum of 33 credit hours, which includes the First-Year Core (2 four-hour courses) and the Exploratory Core (8 three-hour courses + 1 one-hour lab). Students who need to take English Composition (ENG 1100) and/or a first-semester world language course (1101-level) would have a minimum requirement of 36 or 39 hours.