

Magis CCAS Core Curriculum Overview for Students

The Magis CCAS Core Curriculum involves 18 components and 52 credit hours; specifically, it involves all of the 13 components (35 credit hours) of the Magis Common Core Curriculum and 5 additional components (17 credit hours) that are specific to the Creighton College of Arts & Sciences. Each component has a justification that is rooted in the Catholic and Jesuit intellectual tradition. In addition to the traditional areas of study – philosophy, theology, and the other liberal arts and sciences – the curriculum includes two courses where students encounter and will be asked to grapple intellectually with questions of diversity, social justice, and values. A table summarizing the framework is shown below. (The number in parentheses is the number of credit hours required by each component.)

Foundations	Explorations	Integrations
Contemporary Composition (3)	Ethics (3)	Doing Natural Science (4)
Critical Issues in Human Inquiry (3)	Fine Arts (3)	Doing Social Science (3)
Oral Communication (1)	Foreign Language (4)	Intersections (3)
Mathematical Reasoning (2)	Global Perspectives in History (3)	Ultimate Questions (3)
Philosophical Ideas (3)	Literature (3)	
The Christian Tradition (3)	Understanding Natural Science (2)	
	Understanding Social Science (3)	
	The Biblical Tradition (3)	

In addition, all students will be asked to demonstrate that they can apply the skills of ethical reasoning, oral and written communication, statistical reasoning, and technology in the context of a particular field, major, or program, by completing upper-level courses within the program that place particular emphasis on these skills.

Each component of the Magis CCAS Core Curriculum is based on learning objectives so every component can (in principle) have multiple courses that would fulfill the component. This will provide flexibility for students. Students can choose courses that fit their interests. Transfer courses will be evaluated based on criteria that are broader than simply course-by-course matching. This should make it possible for students to use college credit earned through Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, transfer credit courses, and dual-credit courses to satisfy specific requirements of the Magis CCAS Core Curriculum.

The curriculum should be attractive to students and potential employers alike. For students, the flexibility and choice within components will allow students to select courses that they are interested in and be able to design an educational program that fits their needs while still satisfying the college learning outcomes. The learning objectives emphasize skill development rather than content mastery. Oral and written communication is required at every level. Critical thinking skills are developed throughout the core.

Any good college or university will provide a program of general education that will help students to acquire intellectual skills of critical thinking, effective communication, and problem-solving. Jesuit and Catholic colleges and universities tend to distinguish themselves from other institutions of higher learning in one of two ways. Some follow the 400-year-old tradition of Jesuit higher education by emphasizing engagement with ultimate questions about transcendent values that are raised in the fields of philosophy and theology. Others take inspiration from the Jesuits' turn toward social ministries since the 1970s by emphasizing engagement with issues of social justice and diversity. Creighton University intends to be the Jesuit and Catholic university that does both: both engagement with ultimate questions about transcendent values and engagement with issues of social justice and diversity. This is the Magis (greater, more, better) of Creighton University. This is how we give students more.