

College-Wide Programs

Liberal Learning

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The Liberal Learning program at The College of New Jersey has three major goals:

I. Intellectual and Scholarly Growth

• **First Seminar (FSP)** **1 course unit**

Co-requisite: IDS 102

All first-year TCNJ students take a seminar in their fall semester introducing them to serious scholarship and the life of the mind. A list of seminars for academic year 2004-2005 can be found online at <http://www.tcnj.edu/~Liberal/firstselection.html>. Although a seminar cannot count toward fulfilling the major, it can satisfy a Broad Sectors of Human Inquiry (Option C) requirement (see below). In some cases, it also can satisfy a Civic Responsibilities requirement.

• **Academic Writing (WRI 102)** **1 course unit**

Academic Writing offers students the opportunity to develop, advance, and practice skills in the production of academic prose. Within a framework of sophisticated readings, highly coordinated writing workshops, and instructor feedback, students practice the modes of writing necessary to succeed in college. Students read critically, cultivate habits of effective and ethical research, practice conventions of documentation, and use information technologies. Topical readings may vary among sections.

Students who score 580 or above on the SAT Verbal and also on the SAT Quantitative test are exempted from WRI 102. The College requires a student who scores below 580 on either or both the SAT Verbal and the SAT Quantitative to take a placement test. The results of the placement test determine whether students must enroll in WRI 102. Consult the *AP policy* for exemption from WRI 102 based on AP score.

• **Second Language Proficiency**

Proficiency at the third-semester level in a second language is required for all programs in the School of Culture and Society and in selected programs in the School of Art, Media, and Music and the School of Business. Proficiency at either the second-or third-semester level (depending on program) is required in the School of Science. Consult an advisor for information about specific program requirements.

- **Information literacy** is achieved through completion of an online co-requisite to the First Seminar.

II. Civic Responsibilities

The four areas of civic responsibility are:

- understanding the nature of race and ethnicity
- understanding the nature and impact of gender
- achieving global awareness
- community-engaged learning

The fulfillment of the goal is achieved by completing designated courses in the major or liberal learning, or through approved programs or equivalent sustained experiences. No single course, program, or sustained experience may satisfy more than two of the four civic responsibility categories. A list of courses meeting the Civic Responsibilities requirement can be found online at:
<http://www.tcnj.edu/~recreg/documents/liberallearningforpdf032604.pdf>

III. Broad Sectors of Human Inquiry

(Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Science, and Quantitative Reasoning)
There are three possible paths to meeting this goal.

- **Option A: Designated Interdisciplinary Concentrations or Second Majors**
Interdisciplinary Concentrations consist of a minimum six courses addressing a common theme. Courses comprising a concentration must include at least two of the three broad sectors of human inquiry. Students must take six or seven courses, of which no more than four may be in the same broad sector. When an interdisciplinary concentration does not include two courses from each broad sector, additional courses, as necessary, from the appropriate sectors must be completed. In addition: every student must complete at least one course each in quantitative reasoning and natural science with laboratory. When two additional courses are required from the same sector, students must select courses with different prefixes. Interdisciplinary majors and second majors also may serve as interdisciplinary concentrations, provided they meet the standards described above. A list of approved interdisciplinary concentrations can be found at :
www.tcnj.edu/~liberal

- **Option B: Self-designed Interdisciplinary Concentrations**
Students are invited to create their own concentrations. A student must have the sponsorship of at least two faculty members who teach in disciplines included in the proposed concentration and submit a formal proposal and plan of studies. Proposals need to include provisions for advising, assessment, and scholarly resources, as well as coursework. All other provisions related to sector requirements as described in Option A, above, apply. Proposals for a self-designed interdisciplinary concentration must be submitted to the Director of Liberal Learning.

- **Option C: Breadth Distribution**
Each of the three broad sectors of human inquiry is sub-divided into two domains as follows:
 1. Arts and Humanities
 - a. Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts
 - b. World Views and Ways of Knowing
 2. Social Sciences and History
 - a. Behavioral, Social, or Cultural Perspectives
 - b. Social Change in Historical Perspective
 3. Natural Science and Quantitative Reasoning

a. Natural Science

b. Quantitative Reasoning

Students must take at least one laboratory science course. When two Natural Science courses are taken, they may be in one or two disciplines (unless otherwise specified by major requirements).

Courses taken for major or minor requirements may be used to fulfill Option C. Also, courses taken to meet the Broad Sectors of Human Inquiry requirements, including First Seminar, may also fulfill Civic Responsibilities requirements. A list of courses meeting the Breadth Distribution requirement can be found online at:
<http://www.tcnj.edu/~recreg/documents/liberallearningforpdf032604.pdf>

See also section on Interdisciplinary Courses (IDS)

For additional information, consult the Liberal Learning homepage:
www.tcnj.edu/~liberal