General Education Requirements

AUB is committed to offering its students a broad undergraduate liberal arts education that enables them to acquire the analytical skills and habits of life-long learning that they will need to compete successfully in the twenty-first century. The General Education distribution requirements are intended to expose students to a range of intellectual experiences during their time at AUB. We want to give our students the opportunity to make choices and to question and test what they believe are their career goals and their intellectual interests.

In addition to courses in their academic majors and the opportunity to take minor concentrations in specific fields, all AUB students must take a minimum of 33-36 credits of general education requirements distributed in the following fields:

- 3-6 credits in English Communication Skills through ENGL 204 (ENGL 206 in FEA).
- 3 credits in Arabic Communication Skills (except those formally exempted)
- 12 credits in Humanities.
- 6 credits in Social Science.
- 6 credits in Natural Science.
- 3 credits in Quantitative Thought.

All new undergraduate students at AUB are required to take English Communication Skills Courses. New undergraduate students are placed in one of the English Communication Skills Courses on the basis of their scores on the TOEFL, the AUB-EN, the SAT Writing, or any equivalent standardized test. The Department of English offers a sequence of two core courses, ENGL 203 and ENGL 204, to all AUB undergraduates, and two specialized courses: ENGL 206 to FEA students and ENGL 208 to OSB students.

A new undergraduate student is placed in one of the core courses in the sequence upon matriculation and has to complete the sequence in successive semesters. FEA students take ENGL 206 instead of ENGL 204. OSB students take ENGL 208 after the successful completion of ENGL 204.

In addition, all undergraduate students are required to take a 3-credits Writing in the Discipline course which is normally offered in the major.

Students who are exempted from Arabic are required to take a Humanities or a Language course instead, unless their Faculty requires otherwise. Students who cannot fulfill the Arabic Communications Skills requirement will be asked to sit for an Arabic Placement Test. According to the result, they may take ARAB201A in replacement of the Arabic Communications Skills requirement.

We believe that a student who has chosen to follow a course of study at AUB leading to a degree in a professional field such as engineering should be exposed to the humanities and social sciences. By the same token, a student who plans to major in history should have the opportunity to take science courses and to work in a lab.

While being exposed to various fields of knowledge, we also want our students to have the opportunity to experience different modes of learning (lectures, seminars, labs, and independent research projects). Different modes of analysis are designed to enhance students’ verbal and interactive skills (seminars), writing and analytic skills (research projects), and hands-on experimental skills (laboratories).
These distribution requirements may be met by either required or elective courses.

Humanities and Social Sciences courses are divided into two lists: List I and List II within each domain. Students are required to select their courses as follows:

- Two Humanities courses from Humanities List I. (FAS Students are required to select CVSP courses)
- Two Humanities courses from either Humanities lists I and II.
- One Social Science course from Social Sciences List I.
- One Social Science course from either Social Sciences lists.

In addition, no more than two courses from the student’s major may fulfill the Humanities requirement, no more than one course from the student’s major may fulfill the Social Science requirement, and no more than one course from the student’s major may fulfill the Natural Science requirement.

FAS requires that a minimum of six credits in Humanities to be taken from CVSP courses 201-208. FAS Students must complete one course from each of the two CVSP sequences; that is, one course from Sequence I followed by one course from Sequence II.