

## St. Andrews General Education (SAGE)

The St. Andrews faculty as a whole designed the St. Andrews General Education (SAGE) program for the St. Andrews student body as a whole. It includes course work that constitutes graduation requirements common to all students – those that carry the SAGE prefix as well as those that satisfy the writing and Liberal Learning requirements.

### Mission

The General Education curriculum shall be characterized by and seek to develop in students: an appreciation for intellectual rigor and honesty; an appreciation of the importance of both broad and deep learning; the inclination to inquire, and a knowledge of various methods of inquiry; the ability to question and assess one's own knowledge and abilities as well as those of others; and the ability to question, assess, and defend one's own core moral values. The General Education curriculum shall also address: contemporary global issues, the history of ideas in Western Civilization in their global context, acquisition of information technology skills, and the fundamental principles of various great religious traditions. Among areas of particular emphasis shall be written and oral communication, interdisciplinary study, critical thinking, synthesis and integration of ideas and information, and the ability to frame, support, and respond to arguments.

### Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate critical thinking and rhetorical skills through effective written and oral communication.
2. Students will engage a broad spectrum of ideas and information through the study of multiple disciplines in the liberal arts and sciences. This breadth of learning is designed to complement the depth of study in the students' individual disciplines.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to develop and pursue their own paths of inquiry.

### Structure of St. Andrews General Education

*The following curriculum is required of all new students entering St. Andrews in 2009-10. Courses that count toward these requirements will appear in the front section of the course schedule each semester.*

#### Required Common Experience Courses:

SAGE 230 Human Thought and Culture I: Ancient to Medieval	3 credits
SAGE 240 Human Thought and Culture II: Renaissance to Modern	3 credits
SAGE 381 Transitions	1 credit
SAGE 450 Global Issues and Ethical Response	3 credits
WRT 110 Composition I: Inquiry through Writing	3 credits
WRT 120 Composition II: Reasoning through Writing	3 credits

#### Liberal Learning Requirements

Language: demonstrated knowledge of a foreign language at the intermediate level	up to 9 credits
Mathematics: a course in mathematics that develops an understanding of the appropriate use and limitations of quantitative analysis	3 credits
Natural Sciences: one biological science course and one physical science course designed to enrich one's understanding of the natural world; one course must include a laboratory experience	7 credits
Foundations and Principles of American Society: At least two courses from multiple disciplines that study the framework of American society; these courses may include such disciplines as government, history, economics, religion, philosophy, and the arts	6 credits
Creative Arts: a course or courses selected from Art, Communication and Theatre Arts, Creative Writing, or Music requiring personal engagement in and critical reflection upon the creative process	3 credits

Literature and Literary Classics: at least one course in which students will examine one or more major literary traditions in cultural and historical context and consider how the texts speak to the contemporary reader 3 credits

## Course Descriptions for Common Experience Courses

### **WRT 110 Composition I: Inquiry through Writing** 3 credits

This course introduces students to academic writing. Through exposure to different genres in reading and writing, students develop an appreciation of the writing process, conventions and rhetorical approaches. The course emphasizes critical thinking and effective communication. Through writing, reading, and effective reasoning we challenge students to begin to develop habits of intellectual inquiry.

*Required of all students*

### **WRT 120 Composition II: Reasoning through Writing** 3 credits

This course continues the development of critical thinking and effective written communication. The course emphasizes argumentative writing, focusing on the ability to construct and defend a thesis using supporting evidence from properly documented academic research.

*Prerequisite: grade of C- or better in WRT 110; Required of all students*

### **SAGE 230 Human Thought and Culture I: Ancient to Medieval** 3 credits

This course begins an interdisciplinary survey of Western civilization in its global context. We will examine the variety of ways literate humans have grasped the human tasks of governance, moral obligation, artistic expression, and relationship to transcendence from our beginnings to the medieval period. Our purpose will be to appreciate the commonality and diversity among various cultures in their own terms and to respond critically to them. Communication and critical thinking skills continue to be emphasized: formal writing, research strategies, discussion, argumentation, and analysis.

*Prerequisite: Sophomore standing; Required of all students*

### **SAGE 240 Human Thought and Culture II: Renaissance to Modern** 3 credits

This course continues the interdisciplinary survey of Western civilization in its global context. We will examine shifts in science and technology, governance, aesthetics, and concepts of authority from the Renaissance period through modernity. Our objective will be to understand the intellectual, social, and religious foundations of modern Western civilization. Rhetorical skills continue to be developed, including the ability to analyze and evaluate arguments rationally and to frame thoughtful and persuasive responses.

*Prerequisite: Sophomore standing; Required of all students*

### **SAGE 381 Transitions** 1 credit

This course is designed to help the student with issues relating to transitioning into the world of work, graduate school, or professional school. It will involve weekly workshops and seminars. All students are required to complete this course or one within their major that has been approved.

### **SAGE 450 Global Issues and Ethical Response** 3 credits

This course challenges class members to investigate a topic of global significance and develop a response as servant leaders. Topics or issues will vary depending upon class composition and interest. Guided by a faculty convener, students will work to understand historical and ideological roots of this issue, to collect cross-disciplinary data, to explore political and social dimensions, and to formulate an ethically sensitive response. The path of inquiry will be particularly informed by the students' disciplinary studies. The class will work collaboratively on a culminating project and presentation. Students will write substantial essays that synthesize their learning in the context of the seminar and their broader academic experience.

*Prerequisite: Senior standing; Required of all students*

## Students Matriculated Prior to 2008

For students entering St. Andrews prior to Fall 2008 and for Fall 2008 transfer students entering St. Andrews with more than 27 credits, the following general education curriculum is required. Courses that count toward these requirements will appear in the front section of the course schedule each semester:

## SAGE Courses and Requirements

1. Exploration for Life
  - SAGE 100 Quest I: The Search for Meaning 3 credits
  - SAGE 200 Quest II: Vital Stories, Ancient to Early Modern 3 credits
  - SAGE 381 Transitions 1 credit
  - SAGE 400 Quest III: Contemporary Global Issues 3 credits
  
2. Communication for Life
  - WRT 110 Composition I (or SAGE 110 Writing Workshop I) 3 credits
  - WRT 120 Composition II (or SAGE 111 Writing Workshop II) 3 credits
  - Effective Communication and Research: Experiences in the Major:
    - Research
    - Oral Communication
    - Writing Intensive Experience
  
3. Perspectives for Life
  - Creative Arts 3-4 credits
  - Foreign Languages (see information below) 6 credits
  - Historical Perspectives 3 credits
  - Humanities 3 credits
  - International Perspectives 3 credits
  - Natural Sciences 3-4 credits
  - Quantitative Reasoning 3-4 credits
  - Social and Behavioral Sciences 3 credits

### Perspectives for Life

The Perspectives for Life component is designed to impart a broad foundational knowledge of the liberal arts. A list of courses that satisfy the requirements will be included in each semester's schedule of classes.

### Foreign Languages

Students entering St. Andrews prior to Fall 2008 and Fall 2008 transfer students entering St. Andrews with more than 27 credits who have successfully completed two years of one foreign language at the high school level or two semesters of college level language study are exempt from the foreign language requirement. Students who are native speakers of a language other than English, and who have achieved a score of 500 or above on the Test of English as a Foreign Language also are exempt from the foreign language requirement.

Other students must select one of the options below to fulfill the foreign language requirement:

- Complete two semesters (six credits) of college level language study (normally the 151-152 level language courses).
- Complete an approved semester long residential course abroad chosen from Beijing, Brunnenburg, or Ecuador in which foreign language study is a component of the program.
- Complete a semester long overseas exchange program in a non-English speaking country which includes formal foreign language study as a component of the program. (Requires department approval).
- Receive a grade of at least 50 percentile on the CLEP examination in a foreign language as verified by the Registrar.

Students with a documented condition which interferes with the ability to learn a foreign language as attested by a score on the Modern Language Aptitude Test (MLAT) and/or other instruments deemed suitable by the Coordinator of Disability Services should consult the Academic Support Services section of this catalog for information regarding options for this requirement.