

What is the UCA Core?

The UCA Core is an academic program of study designed to help students develop the knowledge and skills necessary for critical inquiry, effective communication, and responsible living in a diverse and changing world.

The overarching goal of the program is to facilitate the development of thoughtful, knowledgeable, articulate, and ethical citizens.

The UCA Core is carried throughout the entire course of the student's undergraduate education and develops and reinforces core competencies around four knowledge and skill areas:

- **critical inquiry** - the ability to analyze new problems and situations to formulate informed opinions and conclusions;
- **effective communication** - the ability to develop and present ideas logically and effectively to enhance communication and collaboration with diverse individuals and groups;
- **responsible living** - the ability to address real-world problems and find ethical solutions for individuals and society;
- **diversity** - the ability to analyze familiar cultural assumptions in the context of the world's diverse values, traditions, and belief systems as well as to analyze the major ideas, techniques, and processes that inform creative works within different cultural and historical contexts.

What is the Value of the UCA Core?

*"Everything we do not have at our birth and which we need when we are grown is given us by education."
Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

At UCA we believe that the purpose of an education is the development of the whole student. Learning is about more than vocational or career specific training. Although it is crucial that students develop the skills necessary for the demands of the modern workplace, an education is about something greater.

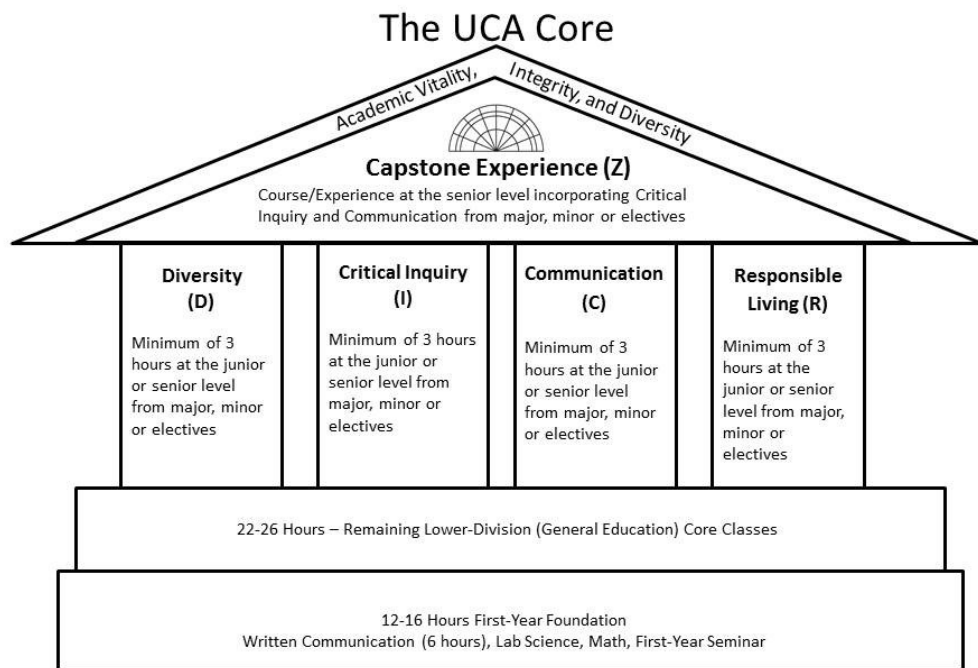
The hallmark of an educated person is the ability to critically and analytically engage and integrate knowledge from a variety of disciplines. An educated person is prepared for the workplace AND the demands of engaged citizenship. We have designed the UCA Core to reflect this expectation.

The UCA Core is designed to help students develop a vital character rooted in integrity, respectful of diversity, and adaptive to change. In order to achieve this, the UCA Core provides a wide variety of learning experiences across a variety of disciplines.

But education is also about exploration. The Core provides many educational opportunities, so take chances, adventure into unknown territories, and discover yourself through the wealth of resources we have available. What is the value of the Core? Ask yourself, instead, "What type of person do I want to be?" The Core will help you get there.

First Year Seminar (FYS)

All students are required to take a first year seminar in their first year at UCA. The purpose of the first-year seminar is to provide a small-class learning environment to facilitate engagement in academic study at the collegiate level, make a connection to the university, and reinforce the importance of written communication skills. First year seminars are as unique as the professors offering them, and afford the student a unique introductory experience to UCA.



Upper Division Core: At the upper-division, additional courses within the four core knowledge and skills areas promote the development and application of knowledge and skills learned at the lower division. In addition, a capstone experience will provide the integration of critical inquiry and effective communication. Some courses may satisfy more than 1, but no more than 2, of the knowledge and skill areas. See the undergraduate bulletin (<http://uca.edu/ubulletin2014>) for details on specific courses. Also consult your major advisor for your best program of study.

Core Requirements:

Lower Division Core: the lower-division core requires 38 semester credit hours, as outlined here.

1 Critical Inquiry (20 hours)

- 1.1 Quantitative (3 hours)
- 1.2 Natural Sciences (8 hours)
 - 1.2.1 Physical Science (4 hours)
 - 1.2.2 Life Science (4 hours)
- 1.3 Inquiry and Analysis (9 hours)
 - 1.3.1 American History and Government (3 hours)
 - 1.3.2 Social Science (3 hours)
 - 1.3.3 Fine Arts / Humanities (3 hours)

2 Communication (9 hours)

- 2.1 Writing Foundation (3 hours)
- 2.2 Research and Writing (3 hours)
- 2.3 Oral Communication (3 hours)

3 Diversity (6 hours)

- 3.1 Diversity in Creative Works (3 hours)
- 3.2 Diversity in World Cultures (3 hours)

4 Responsible Living (3 hours)

For a more detailed summary and specific course offerings see <http://uca.edu/ubulletin/ldcore/>