Understanding the Core Assignment

One of the goals First Year Seminar is to help you understand the educational principles that compose the UCA Core. You will complete a two-part assignment to reach this goal. The first part will ask you to create a plan of study based on the requirements for the UCA Core. The second part will ask you to write a 2-3 page essay in which you describe how the goals of the UCA Core will provide you with valuable skills for life after your Bachelor’s degree.

**Part 1:** Create a plan of study to complete the requirements for the UCA Lower-Division Core. To aid in this, you will need to visit the following websites to view the requirements of the UCA Core: [http://uca.edu/ubulletin2014/general-policies-information/uca-core/](http://uca.edu/ubulletin2014/general-policies-information/uca-core/) and [http://uca.edu/gened/files/2014/01/uca-core-lr-requirements.pdf](http://uca.edu/gened/files/2014/01/uca-core-lr-requirements.pdf). Notice on the checklist there are several options for each category. This allows students to meet the goals of the UCA Core by choosing classes that are meaningful and interesting to them. For this assignment, I want you to indicate which courses you have or plan to take for each category and why. This may be based on personal interest and/or major requirements. The following website has program completion plans for various majors that can assist in knowing which Core courses are required for different majors: [http://uca.edu/pcps/](http://uca.edu/pcps/). For descriptions of each course go to: [http://uca.edu/ubulletin2014/courses/](http://uca.edu/ubulletin2014/courses/). NOTE: You are not required to actually follow this plan exactly. The purpose of this activity is for you to understand the requirements of the UCA Core and ensure your plan allows you to meet all requirements.

**Part 2:** Write a 2-3 page essay in which you describe how the goals of the UCA Core will provide you with valuable skills for life after your Bachelor’s degree. In your essay, you should address the following: 1) why is general education important?, 2) what are the benefits of UCA’s approach to general education?, 3) why are the four goals (and associated outcomes) of the UCA Core personally meaningful to you?, and 4) how will reaching these goals affect various areas of your life (e.g., professionally, personally) after you complete your degree? This essay should be written from YOUR point of view. You must tell me why these goals are important to you and your life, and this will be unique for each person. To complete this essay, first read the information on the following website to familiarize yourself with the goals of the UCA Core: [http://uca.edu/ubulletin2014/general-policies-information/uca-core/](http://uca.edu/ubulletin2014/general-policies-information/uca-core/). Additionally, at the bottom of the page are several web articles that discuss the benefits of general education. Reading these should assist you in understanding why the UCA Core is an important part of your education. You are required to use at least three sources for this essay, one of which MUST be the UCA Core website. The other two may be the web articles listed below, or other sources you discover on your own. You MUST cite the sources and give credit to where the words or ideas are coming from. Without citation, this is plagiarism, which is a serious violation of academic integrity. Essay should be 2-3 pages in length, in Times New Roman, 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced, and citations in APA style.

Web Articles about General Education: