

Quick Guide to the UCA Lower Division Core*

**This guide is intended to provide general advice for advisors as they assist students in navigating the Lower Division Core (LD Core) requirements at UCA. If at any time you have questions please contact Dr. Jacob M. Held, Director of the UCA Core (jmhheld@uca.edu; 450-3634)*

1) All students must complete the 38 credit requirement in the LD Core before they may graduate. Consult the LD Core check sheet located at: <http://uca.edu/ubulletin/ldcore/>. In addition, there is a summary sheet of core requirements on the same page. As a student progresses through the LD Core, here are some things to consider:

- All students must take a First Year Seminar (FYS). This should be completed in the students first year at UCA.
- All students need to take a course designated fine arts (FA), and a course designated humanities (HUM), regardless of what core area the course satisfies.
- In addition to the Social Science area requirement all students must take ***an additional social science course (SS)*** from either the diversity in world cultures or responsible living category.
- ***Verify Degreeworks!*** If Degreeworks is indicating that an area of the LD Core is unmet, double check the student's "fall through courses" and cross reference these with the LD Core check sheet to make sure Degreeworks hasn't failed to count a course that does, in fact, count.
- NB: LD Core courses can also satisfy major or minor degree requirements. They can do double duty.

2) Transfers: If a student is transferring in credits from another university and they are wondering if they will count as satisfying a core requirement:

- Ask them if they want the course to transfer in as a specific UCA course. E.g, do they want that Music course from Hendrix to count as our MUS 2300: Music Appreciation? If so, send them to the chair of the Music department. Chairs evaluate courses and make these determinations.
- If the student doesn't care what the course comes in as, they just want to know: Will it meet my Diversity in Creative Works Core requirement, send them to the Director of the UCA Core, the Director evaluates courses in this regard and makes a determination.

3) **Help Your Students!!!** For many students, given the demands of their specific degree programs the LD Core may be the only chance they have in college to explore content not directly related to their chosen field of study or training, so help them explore, help expose them to new, exciting intellectual experiences. Students only get an opportunity to be undergrads once, help them make the most of it. This isn't about getting them out quickly into a field with "decent" job prospects. This is about helping them discover who they are, and who they want to be.