

Quick Guide to the UCA Upper Division Core*

**This guide is intended to provide general advice for advisors as they assist students in navigating the Upper Division Core (UD 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 UD Core before they may graduate. The UD Core consists of four area requirements as well as a Capstone requirement. In order to satisfy the UD Core requirements students must take upper division courses designated: Communication (C), Critical Inquiry (I), Diversity (D), and Responsible Living (R), as well as the Capstone (Z).

- Upper Division courses may satisfy up to two (2) UD Core area requirements. So, for example, a single UD Core course may satisfy Communication and Critical Inquiry (C and I) or Diversity and Responsible Living (D and R), etc. If a student takes a course that satisfies both, then both are met for this student through this single course. Capstones, however, can only be designated (Z). Thus a student may satisfy the UD Core with as few as 3 courses, or as many as 5.
- Not all majors offer a full array of UD Core courses. Some students will have to go outside of their majors to satisfy the UD Core. This is a good thing. We need to get out of our silos and get a breadth of experiences in order to be well developed humans. For a list of UD Core courses that do not have pre-requisites at all or outside of the UD Core please visit: <http://uca.edu/academicbulletins/upper-division-uca-core/>.
- Even if a major does provide a full array of UD Core courses, if these are not all required for the major, the student may meet her major requirements and still not have satisfied the UD Core. If your department is like this, please make sure you are helping your student select courses so they meet the UD Core, not just your departmental major requirements.
- **Verify Degreeworks!**
- NB: UD 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 UD core requirement:

- Ask them if they want the course to transfer in as a specific UCA course. E.g, do they want that Philosophy course from Hendrix to count as our PHIL 3320: Ethics and so also satisfy their UD Core Critical Inquiry (I) and Responsible Living (R) requirements. If so, send them to the chair of the Philosophy and Religion 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 any of my UD Core requirements, send them to the Director of the UCA Core, the Director evaluates courses in this regard and makes a determination.