

DRAFT Graduation Requirements

1. One hundred twenty (120) credit hours are required for the degree, including at least one course from four of the five divisions. A student must achieve a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average and a minimum grade of C- in each course that is counted toward fulfilling the requirements of the major. Credit hours at Goucher are defined on a semester basis, as distinct from a trimester or quarter basis. Candidates for the degree must complete a minimum of 60 credit hours at Goucher College.

2. Connections. Connections is a required first-semester course that continues the orientation process and helps students as they draw connections between what goes on inside the classroom and experiences in life outside of class. First-year students are introduced to people and resources throughout the Goucher community that can be used as navigational tools as they get acquainted with the college. They also begin to form a learning community in which participants come to know one another, develop a sense of respect for different viewpoints, and learn the value of individual responsibility and accountability. All incoming first-year students must pass this course to be eligible for graduation with the exception of Goucher II students, who are exempt from this requirement.

3. Goucher students, including those who transfer to the college, are required to complete one physical education activity course by the end of the junior year. Students who successfully complete a season on a varsity team, a dance performance through the Dance Department, some (but not all) dance courses, or a riding course may use that experience to satisfy the requirement. Goucher does not recognize audits or unsupervised activity as a substitute for course work in physical education. Students with a gap of five years or more in their continuous education, or those over the age of 25, are exempt from the physical education requirements but are encouraged to enroll in or audit any physical education course.

Ways of Knowing & Understanding the World

Goucher College is dedicated to a liberal arts education that prepares students within a broad, humane perspective for a life of inquiry, creativity, and critical and analytical thinking. Students develop an international outlook, extending liberal arts education beyond Western cultures to encompass the perspectives and achievements of other members of the world community. To achieve this education, students must explore different ways of knowing and understanding the world by completing at least one course in each of the following areas.

Foundations: In the foundational courses, students learn critical thinking, reading, writing, and foreign language skills that will enable them to understand and engage an ever more complex world.

Frontiers introduces new students to the liberal arts and sciences and invites them to become active participants in Goucher's rich intellectual community. They are encouraged to examine their assumptions and values as they explore those of others. The seminars also emphasize the value to the academic environment of collaborative learning and information technologies and foster independent thought, intellectual curiosity, and the joy of learning. Goucher II students who enter as first-year students are required to enroll in *Frontiers*. ISP 110 and 110Y taken in the fall semester fulfill the *Frontiers* requirement. All incoming first-year students are required to pass *Frontiers* or ISP 110 or ISP 110Y to be eligible for graduation.

Academic writing/Writing proficiency. Students must demonstrate proficiency in written communication. (For a more detailed description of this requirement, refer to the College Writing Proficiency section of this catalogue.) This will be satisfied by demonstrating proficiency within the English composition sequence of courses or through a portfolio. Courses that may be used to demonstrate writing proficiency include ENG 104, ENG 105, ENG 106, and a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) course.

Foreign Language. Students must demonstrate proficiency in foreign language through intermediate level. Study of a foreign language imparts to students practical linguistic skills and deep understanding of the cultural codes of other societies. Foreign language proficiency grants privileged access to the nuances of fundamental texts in fields such as literature, philosophy, and social and political theory, and to foreign media and other accounts of current events. (See page xyz of the Catalogue for further information about this graduation requirement.)

Perspectives: In a complex changing world, students need to be prepared to understand and evaluate issues from a variety of perspectives using the approaches of different disciplines. Students must complete at least one course addressing each of the following ways of knowing and understanding the world.

Human behavior and institutions. Students must demonstrate an understanding of relationships between individuals and social structures, as they pertain to the distribution of limited cultural, political, natural, and/or economic resources. This will be achieved by introducing students to the methods used by social scientists to analyze how societies and social institutions behave, at a point in time as well as over time. Courses in the social sciences and selected courses in other departments can be used to satisfy this requirement.

Exploration and analysis through laboratory science/experimental method. Students must demonstrate an ability to interpret and present information about the natural world through studying the methods of scientific discovery and their relationship to the fundamental concepts and contents of a natural sciences discipline. Introductory laboratory courses in the natural sciences and selected other laboratory courses may be used to fulfill this requirement.

Mathematical Reasoning. Students must demonstrate an understanding of the elegance of abstract structure and be able to reason logically. This requirement will be satisfied by a course in mathematics, computer science or logic whose content may take the form of symbolic proofs (logical or mathematical), statistical or graphical analysis of numerical data, problem solving using mathematical methods, or implementation of computer algorithms. Designated courses from across the curriculum may be taken to satisfy this requirement.

Artistic/creative expression. Students must demonstrate an understanding of artistic expression and the creative process through practical engagement in a fine, performing, or literary art. Courses in the arts and selected courses in other departments may be used to satisfy this requirement.

Textual analysis and critical perspectives. Students must demonstrate, using primary sources, an understanding of the formal qualities of the text, and/or the thematic content and the context (i.e., cultural, economic, historical, literary, philosophical, political, societal, and/or religious) in which those sources were created. Courses in the humanities and selected courses in other departments may be used to satisfy this requirement.

Understanding Diverse Perspectives. Students must demonstrate an understanding of the range of human experiences and perspectives across social categories, such as gender, class, race, ethnicity, religious background, able-bodiedness, or sexual orientation. Designated courses across the curriculum that emphasize one or more of these categories fulfill this requirement.

Study Abroad. Students must demonstrate practical understanding of global citizenship and gain intercultural awareness through a study-abroad experience. By studying abroad students will explore different ways of thinking, communicating, working, learning and living.

Environmental Sustainability. Students must demonstrate a knowledge of scientific, policy, social, cultural, and/or historical dimensions of human relationship to the environment. This should include themes of sustainability and the nature of the environment systems, their change, and threats to their continued function as a result of human activity. Designated courses across the curriculum will satisfy this requirement.

One course may not be used to satisfy more than two requirements.