

GENERAL EDUCATION



The Chatham University experience is designed to enable graduates to make a positive impact on their lives and the lives of those in the world around them. To develop students' personal, professional, and leadership skills to their fullest potential, students are taught to learn, investigate, analyze, and make reasonable and ethical choices.

We've designed our General Education program to provide undergraduate students the skills they need to gather additional information; find and evaluate that information; assimilate the information within the context of a problem or situation; combine the information with other knowledge and perspectives; and act upon it in ways that are ethical and beneficial to the whole – all essential tools when students continue their schooling career or join the workforce.

The General Education curriculum and coursework is carefully woven around the three primary themes of the University's mission: Global Understanding, Environmental Responsibility, and Women's Issues.

Students are required to take a series of courses at Chatham that integrate knowledge in these areas and build critical, invaluable lifelong skills.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT COURSES

The first-year student sequence is a common intellectual experience that serves to introduce students to the College community and its culture. These courses provide students with the analytical and communication skills essential for successful college performance.

- **FIRST-YEAR WRITING SEMINAR:** ENG 105 seminars provide students with practice in critical reading, analytical thinking, and academic writing within a participatory, challenging First-Year Seminar setting. Seminars on discipline-based topics selected by individual Chatham faculty focus on acquiring skills in writing, information literacy, and oral presentation through frequent practices and regular coursework.
- **STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO COLLEGE:** SDE 101 courses provide first-year students with strategies necessary to transition successfully to the college environment. The course will introduce students to the Chatham community, its culture, and its traditions. Additional topics relevant to the first-year experience are also considered.
- **GENDER AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES: CRITICAL ANALYSIS:** IND 108 seminars provide students with instruction in critical analysis of gender and contemporary social issues within a participatory, challenging First-Year

Seminar setting. Seminars on discipline-based topics selected by individual Chatham faculty will focus on acquiring skills in critical thinking and analysis. Students will be challenged to think critically about issues of diversity, the construction of gender, and intersections with other areas of identity (e.g., race and social class). Particular attention will be paid to how the issues under study impact girls and women, and, in turn, to how women have contributed to our understanding of current social issues.

MISSION COURSES

The three primary themes of the University mission are Global Understanding, Environmental Responsibility, and Women's Issues. The General Education program is designed to develop the skills and knowledge of these aspects of the mission. Students take seven separate courses, two each in two of the focus areas and three in another.

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Quantitative reasoning courses are intended to help students develop their ability to understand information presented in mathematical terms and to use quantitative methods to answer questions and solve problems. Students must complete a course on college algebra, statistics, or a course stipulated by the major.

ONLINE COURSE

It is important for students to be familiar with the online learning environment as more graduate programs and professions require students to complete coursework and continuing education units online. For these reasons, students must complete one online course at Chatham.

EXPERIENTIAL REQUIREMENT

At Chatham, the process of career development and preparation for the future is integrated into all facets of the university experience. Students are required to complete at least one experiential component – internship, volunteer experience, shadowing, research project – appropriate to the student's program of study.

BREADTH COURSES

Through major courses, mission-based general education courses, and elective courses, students must take one course in four disciplinary areas: Art, Humanities, Social Science, and Science course with lab

WELLNESS

From a holistic perspective, wellness courses include those involving physical activity, courses on healthy lifestyles, or courses on gaining a sense of personal fulfillment (i.e., spiritual fulfillment, meaningful life, or purposeful life). Students are required to fulfill a total of four credits, and a minimum of two credits must be physical education courses.

WRITING INTENSIVE COURSES

Building off of the foundation established in the first-year sequence, writing intensive courses will provide instruction on writing in the discipline in order to prepare students for the tutorial. Students must complete six credits of writing intensive coursework in their major. These courses feature a discussion of writing concurrent with its regular practice through coursework.