

# WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

## 2015-2016

The following requirements and rules apply to most Weinberg College students. Additional information can be found in Northwestern University's *Undergraduate Catalog* and in the undergraduate section of the Weinberg College website, [www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/](http://www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/).

### 1. FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

If you enter Weinberg College as a first-year student, you must complete two First-Year Seminars, typically one in fall of your first year and one in winter or spring. P/N registration is not allowed in these seminars.

### 2. DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

As part of your liberal arts education, you will take courses in a wide range of academic disciplines. You must take two approved courses in each of these areas:

- |                                    |                             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I Natural Sciences                 | IV Historical Studies       |
| II Formal Studies                  | V Ethics and Values         |
| III Social and Behavioral Sciences | VI Literature and Fine Arts |

Courses from many departments and programs count toward each distribution requirement area. The Registrar's website provides information on courses approved for each quarter. Lists of all approved courses for each academic year are posted at [www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/handbook/degree/distribution-requirements/approved-courses.html](http://www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/handbook/degree/distribution-requirements/approved-courses.html). Some "interdisciplinary studies" courses are approved for more than one distribution area. If you take such a course, you can choose in which one eligible area to count it. Courses taken P/N do not count for Distribution Requirement credit.

A maximum of two AP or IB credits may be counted toward these requirements; credits must be in two different areas. You can find detailed information on scores conferring Distribution Requirement credit at [www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/handbook/first-year/placement-and-credit/ap-and-ib-exams/](http://www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/handbook/first-year/placement-and-credit/ap-and-ib-exams/).

You may not satisfy Distribution Requirements through coursework from other universities. If you are a transfer student or take courses through an affiliated study abroad program, special exceptions may apply.

### 3. WRITING PROFICIENCY

You must demonstrate proficiency in writing to earn a degree from Weinberg College. Most students do this through work in First-Year Seminars. Detailed information on the requirement is available from the Writing Program, 555 Clark St., Room 201, 847-491-7414, [www.writingprogram.northwestern.edu](http://www.writingprogram.northwestern.edu).

### 4. FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

You must demonstrate proficiency equivalent to two years of college-level instruction in a classical or modern foreign language. Some students satisfy this requirement prior to entering Northwestern, some continue with a language studied in high school, and some choose to begin a new language. You may not use the P/N option in courses taken toward meeting this requirement, and you must earn at least a C- in the final course. Detailed information on different options for completing the foreign language proficiency requirement is at [www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/handbook/degree/foreign-language-proficiency/](http://www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/handbook/degree/foreign-language-proficiency/).

### 5. MAJOR

You must explore at least one academic discipline in depth by completing a Weinberg College major, including any required prerequisites, department or program courses, and related courses; details on major requirements are in Northwestern's *Undergraduate Catalog*. You must declare your major by the beginning of your junior year. All courses for the major must be completed with grades of C- or better.

Weinberg College students may choose to complete a minor, but this is not required. A student's total number of majors plus minors may not typically exceed three; exceptions require permission from the Weinberg College Office of Academic Advising.

This document lists majors and minors offered by Weinberg College. Minors and certificates in some other schools at Northwestern are also open to Weinberg College students. Several rules restrict the counting of any course toward more than one major or minor. Details can be found on the Weinberg website at [www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/handbook/degree/double-counting-faq.html](http://www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/handbook/degree/double-counting-faq.html).

### 6. NUMBER OF COURSES AND QUARTERS

To receive a BA from Weinberg College, you must earn at least 45 units of credit. (Most courses are worth one unit.) At most 11 of the 45 units can come from courses offered by other schools of the University; other restrictions apply. You must be a student in Weinberg College for your last three quarters. All Weinberg College students are also subject to Northwestern University's Undergraduate Registration Requirement (URR), which specifies for how many quarters a student must be registered at Northwestern and how much credit must be earned at Northwestern in order to receive a Northwestern degree. URR details are on the Registrar's website.

## MAJORS OFFERED BY WEINBERG COLLEGE

Many departments and programs offer several options within the major. In addition, with approval of the Curricular Review Committee, a student may complete an ad hoc major.

African American Studies  
African Studies <sup>2</sup>  
American Studies <sup>1</sup>  
Anthropology  
Art History  
Art Theory and Practice  
Asian Languages and Cultures  
Asian Studies  
Biological Sciences  
Chemistry  
Classics  
Cognitive Science  
Comparative Literary Studies  
Computer Science  
Earth and Planetary Sciences  
Economics  
English  
Environmental Sciences  
French  
Gender and Sexuality Studies  
Geography <sup>2</sup>  
German  
History  
Integrated Science <sup>1</sup>  
International Studies <sup>2</sup>  
Italian  
Jewish Studies  
Latina and Latino Studies  
Legal Studies <sup>1, 2</sup>  
Linguistics  
Materials Science  
Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences <sup>1, 2</sup>  
Mathematics  
Middle East and North African Studies  
Neuroscience  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Political Science  
Psychology  
Religious Studies  
Science in Human Culture <sup>2</sup>  
Slavic Languages and Literatures  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Statistics

<sup>1</sup> Special admission requirements

<sup>2</sup> Adjunct major; must be completed with another major that is *not* an adjunct major

## MINORS OFFERED BY WEINBERG COLLEGE

Many departments and programs offer several options within the minor. Completion of a minor is not a degree requirement.

African American Studies  
African Studies  
Anthropology  
Art History  
Asian American Studies  
Asian Humanities  
Asian Languages  
Asian Studies  
Business Institutions  
Catholic Studies  
Chemistry  
Classics  
Cognitive Science  
Computer Science  
Critical Theory  
Earth and Planetary Sciences  
Economics  
English  
Environmental Policy and Culture  
French  
Gender and Sexuality Studies  
Geography  
German  
Global Health Studies  
Hebrew Studies  
History  
Humanities  
International Studies  
Italian  
Jewish Studies  
Latin American and Caribbean Studies  
Latina and Latino Studies  
Legal Studies  
Linguistics  
Materials Science  
Mathematics  
Middle East and North African Studies  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Political Science  
Portuguese Language and Lusophone Cultures  
Psychology  
Religious Studies  
Science in Human Culture  
Slavic Languages and Literatures  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Statistics  
World Literature



**WEINBERG  
COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & SCIENCES**

### **WEINBERG COLLEGE CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office of Undergraduate Studies and Advising  
1922 Sheridan Road, phone: 847-491-7560

Office of Academic Advising  
1908 Sheridan Road and 619 Emerson Street  
phone: 847-491-8916

Advising by e-mail: [wcas-adviser@northwestern.edu](mailto:wcas-adviser@northwestern.edu)

Northwestern University reserves the right to change without notice any statement in this document concerning, but not limited to, rules, policies, curricula, and courses.

## Weinberg College Distribution Requirements

All Weinberg College students must complete distribution requirements--two courses in each of six areas of inquiry. This provides the breadth of knowledge and intellectual flexibility that are hallmarks of a liberal arts and sciences education. Almost any course can count toward the distribution requirements, including those providing a broad introduction to a field of study (as in many 100-level and 200-level courses) and those that focus on more narrow and/or advanced topics (more characteristic of 300-level courses). The Curricular Review Committee approves courses for fulfilling distribution requirements.

Descriptions of the six distribution areas are in the Weinberg College Undergraduate Student Handbook; see <http://www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/handbook/degree/distribution-requirements/index.html>. Area descriptions are copied below. The Handbook also provides guidance on selecting courses to take and lists of all currently approved courses in each area.

### Area I – Natural Sciences

This area introduces you to methods of inquiry and fundamental concepts in the natural sciences. Courses consider the theoretical and empirical bases of generally applicable statements about the natural world.

#### **Why study the natural sciences?**

Because the natural world so directly affects our lives, it is important to learn about the problems that concern natural scientists and the methods they use to confront them. The properties and structures of atoms and molecules, the principles of cognition, the structure and resources of the earth—all are examples of scientific concerns that underlie issues of fundamental importance to modern society. Understanding the foundations of modern science will enable you to make intelligent judgments about current issues and prepare you to understand those that cannot yet be anticipated.

### Area II-Formal Studies

The area of formal studies introduces you to concepts, methods, and the use of formal rules of inference. Courses show how objects of thought and experience—and their relationships—can be analyzed in formal terms. They differ in the data studied. For example, mathematics and statistics courses focus on numbers, while linguistics courses focus on structures and patterns in natural languages.

#### **Why take courses in formal studies?**

Becoming familiar with abstract languages or formal rules of inference, whether based on quantitative or symbolic methods, will enhance your ability to analyze and interpret masses of information intelligently, perceive patterns and order amid seeming confusion, and derive sound conclusions from explicit assumptions. It will also help you to communicate your reasoning and conclusions to others clearly and effectively.

### Area III-Social and Behavioral Sciences

The area of social and behavioral sciences introduces you to theories, methods, and empirical research findings focusing on human behavior and its relation to social, cultural, economic, and political groups and institutions. Courses examine the evidence for generally applicable statements about individual and group behavior, as well as social actions, policies, and institutions.

#### **Why study social and behavioral sciences?**

It is vital to understand your social and institutional environment. What are the relationships between money supply, interest rates, and government spending on the one hand and unemployment, inflation, and

balance-of-payment deficits on the other? What are the impacts of race, class, and gender on the social system? What factors influence human behavior and development? In confronting questions such as these, you learn how social and behavioral scientists form hypotheses, construct models, and test their validity. You will then be able to make more reasoned judgments about complex problems of modern society.

#### Area IV-Historical Studies

The area of historical studies introduces the chronological development of cultural, social, political, economic, and military affairs, and their historical relationships, in a broad temporal perspective. Courses in historical studies offer a wide choice of cultures and eras. Some deal with major national or continental civilizations, some focus on smaller geographic areas, and some look at cultures that transcend traditional geopolitical boundaries.

##### **Why take courses in historical studies?**

Current issues and institutions, ideas and social relations, and problems and policies all have their origins in the past. By learning about the past, you become able to make better judgments about the present. By studying what motivated people in the past, you can broaden your experience, gain a deeper understanding of human behavior, and bring a more mature assessment to your own life and the society in which you live.

#### Area V-Ethics and Values

This area introduces you to the analysis of values, to ways of addressing ethical problems and choices, and to systems of thought or religion that affect value judgments. Courses examine the foundations upon which such systems are constructed and the processes through which judgments are made. They examine ethical questions in different contexts (religious, biomedical, environmental, etc), and/or value systems, both secular and religious, that guide human behavior. Courses may also address the dynamics of ethical change in a society (e.g., why the separation of races may be acceptable to one generation but problematic to another). They may be organized historically or analytically, but all place problems in a context that has a widespread cultural impact.

##### **Why take course on ethics and values?**

Courses in ethics and values do not teach morality; however, they do teach how societies express morals and norms. They introduce students to the most significant types of human value systems and/or ethical decision making and examine ways in which such systems develop, spread, and change. Given the centrality of moral and ethical values to human conduct, a deeper understanding of their bases and potential consequences is critical.

#### Area VI-Literature and Fine Arts

Literature and fine arts courses help you understand how the attitudes, ideas, and values of individuals, groups, societies, or cultures are represented in their literature, arts, and other creative activities. This area includes surveys of broad topics, courses that focus on significant eras, and courses that focus on a significant writer or artist. Some courses involve the study of a specific literary or artistic genre, and others involve more analytical and abstract approaches to the arts.

##### **Why study literature and fine arts?**

Many people consider the art and literature of a culture a measure of that culture's highest achievements. Creative activities also represent a culture's identity—to itself and to others—providing unique access to its history, institutions, preoccupations, and aspirations. Studying literature and fine arts can help you better understand other cultures and your own.