

Compass Curriculum Policies, Guidelines & Procedures

Spring 2015

I. Policy

The Compass Curriculum is the campus-wide general education program at UCCS. Students who matriculate at UCCS starting in Fall 2014 are included in this program.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to explain the policies and procedures of the Compass Curriculum Program. The goal is to give Student Success, faculty, and students clear definitions of the Compass Curriculum, as well as its policies.

III. Definitions

Explore- Explore courses introduce students to a breadth of disciplinary perspectives and methods providing a broad level of understanding within a particular discipline.

Flags and Flagged Courses- A designation category for a course that is used to track a course as Inclusiveness, Sustainability, or Writing Intensive. Sustainability, Inclusiveness, and Writing Intensive courses are integrated components of the Compass Curriculum that can stand alone courses from others, or flagged onto other courses. This means that an Explore, Navigate, or Summit course may also be flagged as Inclusiveness, for example, if it satisfies the criteria of that area.

Gateway Experience- Gateway Program Seminar is the Gateway Experience for freshman. Oral Communication and Responsibility are critical components of the Gateway Experience.

Inclusiveness (Global/Diversity) flagged courses- Inclusiveness courses prepare students for our diverse, global society where they will interact with people with different experiences, perspectives, and realities.

gtPathways-The guaranteed transfer (gtPathways) general education curriculum forms the core of many bachelor's degree programs in Colorado. This takes some of the guesswork out of transfer because gtPathways courses, in which the student earned a C- or higher, will always transfer and the credit will apply to gtPathways requirements in every Liberal Arts & Sciences bachelor's degree program at every public Colorado institution.

Navigate courses- Navigate courses are interdisciplinary courses focused on "Knowledge in Action," centering on how engagement in real world endeavors is informed by academic knowledge. These courses are taken outside of the major.

Summit Experience- Summit Experiences center on synthesizing skill and knowledge. Summit courses include a focus on communication skills as well as critical and/or creative thinking. Summit Experiences are offered within a major, and courses approved as Summit Experiences are Summit courses.

Sustainability flagged courses- Sustainability courses introduce the students to social equity, environmental protection, and economic development, among other sustainability topics.

Writing Intensive flagged Courses (WIC) - WIC courses emphasize writing as a process and assign at least 3000 words across assignments. This course could be integrated into students' majors, general electives, or other Compass Curriculum coursework.

IV. Compass Curriculum Policies

A. Compass Curriculum Implementation Policies

1. Students who matriculate at UCCS before fall 2014 are not required to enroll in the Compass Curriculum even if they change colleges in their continuous enrollment at UCCS.
2. Students who matriculate at UCCS before fall 2014 but then stop out for up to two years (and who do not enroll at another institution of higher learning within this time) are not required to enroll in the Compass Curriculum. If they have stopped out for longer than two years they are required to enroll in the Compass Curriculum.
3. Students who earn a bachelor's degree or higher from UCCS before fall 2014 and thereafter begin studies on an additional bachelor's degree are exempt from the Compass Curriculum.
4. Students who hold a bachelor's degree from another institution, but matriculate at UCCS during or after fall 2014, will be viewed as transfer students.
5. Students who are coded as transfer students by Admissions and have 13 or more transferrable credit hours will be exempt from the Compass Curriculum during the 2014-2015 academic year.
6. Students who are coded as freshman by Admissions and have transfer work are not exempt from the Compass Curriculum. Standard course waivers of lower division courses apply. Credit by exam is not included in the calculation for transfer credit for the Compass Curriculum. Credit by exam includes AP, IB, CLEP and DSST.
7. Credits from college coursework taken while in high school count as transfer credit in the Compass Curriculum. Students who matriculate with 30 or more credit hours are exempt from GPS 1010.

B. Compass Curriculum General Policies

1. The minimum passing grade for courses taken at UCCS that shall count for credit for a Compass Curriculum course is a D-. Departmental and college rules apply for courses within a student's major.
2. Students who take two approved core writing program courses (e.g. ENGL 1310/1401 etc.) at UCCS, regardless of the approved course, have completed the core writing requirements of the Compass Curriculum. College/School's may have additional writing course requirements; therefore decisions on additional requirements will be at the discretion of the College/School. Note that this requirement is separate from the Writing Intensive course requirements.
3. Students, faculty, and Student Success need a reliable way to identify Compass Curriculum Navigate courses. In addition, it is the intention of the Compass Curriculum to compensate faculty for teaching these courses, pending yearly budget approval. In order to identify Navigate

sections of courses, and to compensate faculty, a NAVI course subject designation will be used to identify courses and their sections. This designation also indicates that this course is part of the Navigate component of the Compass Curriculum.

C. Compass Curriculum Policy for Transfer Students

1. Students who earn an associate's degree concurrent with high school studies shall be considered transfer students in terms of the Compass Curriculum.
2. Students who are coded as freshman by Admissions and have transfer work are not exempt from the Compass Curriculum.
3. The Compass Curriculum makes every effort to comply with the Colorado Department of Education's gtPathways.
4. Students who have fulfilled all lower-division general education requirements at any public institution in Colorado, including gtPathways, have fulfilled the Gateway and Explore requirements from the Compass Curriculum. These students shall be required to complete the Navigate course and their major's Summit Experience, as well as the upper-division Writing Intensive course. They may also need to fulfill the Inclusiveness and Sustainability requirements if they do not have comparable courses in transfer.
5. Students who transfer to UCCS with 30 credit hours or more are exempt from the Gateway Experience.
6. Students are required to take GPS 1010 to graduate. If a student earns an F in GPS 1010 they are required to take GPS 1110-Academic Fitness the following semester.
7. The RN to BSN program is exempt from the Compass Curriculum.
8. The Accelerated Nursing Program is exempt from the Compass Curriculum.
9. Students enrolled in the dual-degree program in the College of Business from the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management are exempt from the Gateway Experience, Explore category of Arts, Humanities and Cultures, as well as lower division writing intensive course.
10. Students in the PPCC Engineering Concurrent program will be treated as transfer students.
11. The Military Transfer Credit Policy outlines course transfer for veteran and military service members. This may include credit for up to three hours of generic social science and generic humanities courses in the Explore category of the Compass Curriculum. Please see the Military Transfer Credit Policy for details.

D. Compass Curriculum Committee Policies

1. Course approval into the Compass Curriculum occurs through submission to the Compass Curriculum Committee.

2. The Compass Curriculum Committee reviews and approves all submitted courses. This committee is comprised of faculty from all colleges at UCCS, as well as a nonvoting member of Student Success.
3. The Compass Curriculum Committee will meet monthly during the academic year.
4. Appeals of Compass Curriculum Committee decisions will be made in writing to the Faculty Director of the Compass Curriculum within one month of the faculty's notification of the decision. The Faculty Director will respond within one month of the notification, and can overturn Compass Curriculum Committee decisions under special circumstances.
5. The Compass Curriculum Committee will review courses for assessment purposes as appropriate.
6. The Compass Curriculum Committee will review all approved courses every five years to determine if they are still appropriate for inclusion into the program.
7. The Compass Curriculum Committee will work with the Degree Audit/Transfer Credit unit to review all courses for transfer into the Compass Curriculum.

V. Compass Curriculum Content Area Guidelines

A. Core Writing Courses

1. Students shall take two core writing courses.
2. ENGL 1310 is the first core writing course across the university.
3. ENGL 1410, ENGL 2080, ENGL 2090, or INOV 2100 are the second core writing course options across the university.
4. Students who have tested out of ENGL 1310 have completed the Compass Curriculum requirement for that course.

B. Explore Courses

1. Students shall take three Explore courses of at least three credit hours each to graduate.
2. Departments can list no more than **twelve** courses per Explore area on the Explore list of courses. Cross-listed courses on the Explore list shall count towards the 12 course limit in the Explore list only to the home department submitting the course.
3. The three areas of Explore courses are as follows:
 - a. The Physical and Natural World
 - b. Arts, Humanities and Cultures
 - c. Society, Health and Behavior
4. Explore courses must be taken outside of the major. This means that the course may not have the major designator in its subject designation (e.g. CHEM for chemistry or biochemistry majors). If a student takes an Explore course from a department and then changes their major to one which

includes that course in the major requirements, then an additional Explore course must be taken outside of the major.

5. Explore courses can be lower or upper division.
6. Explore courses shall be open to students from all colleges.
7. Students can count one Explore course towards satisfying the requirements of a minor.
8. Students who double major can count one Explore course towards satisfying the requirements of these majors.
9. Students who earn a dual-degree can count one Explore course towards satisfying the requirements of one of those degree programs.

C. Integrated Components

1. Students shall take one Sustainability flagged course, one Inclusiveness flagged course, and two Writing Intensive flagged courses to graduate unless they have transfer credit to satisfy this requirement. Please see transfer student policies for information about transfer credit.
2. Courses that are integrated components (Sustainability, Inclusiveness, Writing Intensive flagged) may be upper or lower division.
3. Integrated components may be flagged onto Explore, Quantitative Reasoning, Navigate, and/or Summit Experiences as well as flagged onto other Integrated components.
4. Courses in the categories of Gateway, Explore, Navigate, and Summit may not be flagged onto each other. For example, a Gateway Experience may not be an Explore course.

D. Multi-flagged courses

1. Explore, Summit, Quantitative Reasoning, and Navigate courses can be flagged as Inclusiveness, Sustainability, and/or Writing Intensive courses with either individual flags or a combination of flags.
2. Only Inclusiveness, Sustainability, and Writing Intensive courses can be flagged onto other courses.
3. Courses may be simultaneously flagged as Inclusiveness, Writing Intensive, and Sustainability, or a combination thereof.

E. Multiple Sections of Courses

1. Courses approved into the Compass Curriculum include all sections of the course regardless of instructor or year, and are required to adhere to the standards of the Compass Curriculum for that component area.

F. Inclusiveness Flagged Courses

1. Students shall take one course flagged as Inclusiveness (Global/Diversity).

2. Inclusiveness flagged courses may be taken in a student's disciplinary area of study.
3. Courses on the LAS Diversity and Global list are not automatically approved as Compass Curriculum Inclusiveness flagged courses without submission and review by the Compass Curriculum for the Inclusiveness flag.
4. There shall be two areas of Inclusiveness (Global/Diversity) courses. Courses shall focus on one area, or both areas of Inclusiveness. Inclusiveness areas include:
 - a. Focus on the necessary understanding and/or competencies for effectively working with people across cultural and/or social differences, and/or
 - b. International/global/diverse perspectives and explicitly address dynamics and consequences of exclusion and inclusion. This focus could address social, cultural, political, economic, geographic, spiritual, or other diverse perspectives.

G. Navigate Courses

1. Students shall take one Navigate course to graduate, and are encouraged to take this course in their junior year.
2. Navigate courses are Advanced Core courses as voted on by the faculty in 2012.
3. Students shall fulfill the Navigate requirement outside their major (and minor) degree prefix with a multidisciplinary course that is approved by the Compass Curriculum. This means that for Navigate credit students shall take a Navigate course that does not have their major subject designation (e.g. HIST or ECE).
4. Signature Navigate courses will be listed with the NAVI subject description in the acalog, and students will sign up for that section for credit.
5. Navigate courses shall be 3000 level or higher.
6. Navigate courses must highlight multidisciplinary approaches and include the concept of "knowledge in action" through experiential learning. "Knowledge in action" gives students an understanding of how academic knowledge and skills are applied and developed through real world endeavors. This requires that faculty work beyond narrow disciplinary boundaries and is based on "best practices" of experiential learning.
7. Navigate courses shall be open to students from all disciplines with minimal prerequisites.
8. Students may choose from any Navigate course across the campus.
9. Under the condition where a student takes a cross-listed course (e.g. WEST and HUM) either section will count assuming that it was approved as a Navigate.
10. The NAVI course designation will be housed in the Academic Organization "Cross College Programs".
11. Colleges and college departments retain full control of academic content, and FTE will go towards the faculty members who teach the courses within departments.

12. There are two categories of Navigate courses with the following names:
 - a. Navigate- Departments are requested to work with the Compass Curriculum to set aside 10 seats in these courses for Navigate students. The ten seats may be in a new course section cross-listed as a NAVI course subject designation for Navigate courses.
 - b. Signature Navigate- These courses are Navigate courses that are team taught from faculty across colleges. They also have at least one additional Compass Curriculum flag (Inclusiveness, Writing Intensive or Sustainability). These courses will be designated with a NAVI course subject prefix.

H. Quantitative Reasoning

1. Courses approved at the college level for Quantitative Reasoning are approved for that component for the Compass Curriculum.

I. Sustainability Flagged Courses

1. Students shall take one course flagged as Sustainability in the Compass Curriculum.
2. Sustainability is defined as understanding the interaction between human development and the natural environment. Key principles of sustainability including social equity, environmental protection, and economic development, among others. Sustainability courses shall focus on one or more of these areas. Courses flagged as Sustainability in the Compass Curriculum must help students cultivate self-awareness and understanding of their impact locally, nationally, and globally.
3. Courses that are in the Sustainability minor are not automatically approved for the Compass Curriculum Sustainability component.
4. Sustainability flagged courses may be taken within the student's disciplinary area.

J. Summit Experience Policies

1. Students shall take one Summit Experience in order to graduate.
2. Students who double-major shall take a Summit Experience in each major.
3. Students who earn a dual degree (between colleges) shall take a Summit Experience in both degrees.
4. College department chairs retain the right to waive the Summit Experience for students who double or dual major (or who have additional majors or degree areas beyond two).

K. Writing Intensive (WIC) Flagged Courses

1. Students shall take two Writing Intensive flagged courses beyond the two core writing courses (ENGL 1310 and ENGL 1410, ENGL 2080, ENGL 2090, or INOV 2100).
2. Students shall take either one lower division and one upper division Writing Intensive flagged course or two upper division Writing Intensive flagged courses.
3. Writing Intensive courses may be within a student's disciplinary area of study.

4. Courses flagged as Writing Intensive require assigned writing of at least 3000 words (including multiple submissions), class discussion of writing as a process, include feedback to students regarding their writing, and require writing assignments to be a minimum of 25% of the course grade.

L. Writing Portfolio

1. The Writing Portfolio is a University-wide graduation requirement.
2. To fulfill this requirement students shall submit two papers, four or more pages each, from any course (besides ENGL 1310/1410 or their equivalents).
3. Students who opt not to submit a writing portfolio, as well as those who do not pass the writing portfolio, are required to take ENGL 3010 (or ENGL 3080).
4. The Writing Portfolio will be submitted prior to a student's final semester, and after earning 60 credit hours.

VI. Procedures for Student Appeals to the Compass Curriculum

1. Student appeals to the Compass Curriculum Appeals Committee shall be submitted to the Student Success Center.

The Student Success Center shall then submit all appeals to the Compass Curriculum Appeals Committee.

2. Appeals of credit or waiver for courses will be reviewed under the following conditions:
 - a. Appeals for credit or waiver of an Explore, Navigate, Quantitative Reasoning, or Writing Program course shall be sent to the Compass Curriculum Appeals Committee.
 - b. Appeal of credit for a course to be counted as an Integrated component shall be sent to the chair of the Integrated Component area.
 - c. If a student wishes to appeal the decision of the Integrated component chair, the appeal shall be submitted to the Compass Curriculum Appeals Committee.
 - d. The Director of the Compass Curriculum can overturn Compass Curriculum Appeals Committee recommendations under special circumstances.
3. Students shall submit supporting documentation for their appeal to Student Success.
4. The Compass Curriculum Appeals Committee shall be comprised of one faculty member from all colleges at UCCS.
5. The Compass Curriculum Appeals Committee will meet monthly during the academic year.