

University of Montevallo

Degree Requirements General Education

All students seeking an undergraduate degree at Montevallo must complete a core curriculum, which includes courses in oral and written communication; literature, humanities and fine arts; the natural sciences and mathematics; history and social and behavioral sciences; and personal development.

Purpose and Goals of General Education

The core curriculum is the most complete embodiment of the University's mission as Alabama's publicly funded liberal arts college. In this curriculum, the University bears continually in mind the special meaning of freedom embodied in the term "liberal arts": the arts that free or enable students to explore the perennial questions that confront every thoughtful human being—questions about nature, human nature and society, and metaphysics. The University provides opportunities to explore these questions through liberal studies in the sciences, literature, the fine arts, history, behavioral and social sciences, and philosophy. The University is committed to liberal inquiry, not only in its core curriculum, but also in its professional and pre-professional programs. In all of these, the University aims to graduate students who can bring to their vocations, their private lives, and their civic participation the habits of lifelong learning and energetic, informed reflection.

Liberal education is possible only if the student has acquired some degree of mastery and understanding of the instruments or skills through which the human mind can absorb information about the world, come to a deepened understanding of that information, and transmit that understanding to others. Accordingly, the University dedicates a substantial portion of the core curriculum to acquiring the skills and symbol systems that, because they make it possible for the mind to grasp what is not apparent to the senses, enable genuine learning.

The University of Montevallo has adopted the Essential Learning Outcomes presented below that have been developed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) through consultation with hundreds of colleges and universities across the nation.

AAC&U Essential Learning Outcomes

Students should prepare for 21st-century challenges by gaining:

- **Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World**
—through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, and the arts
Focused by engagement with big questions, both contemporary and enduring
- **Intellectual and Practical Skills, including**
—Inquiry and analysis
—Critical and creative thinking

- Written and oral communication
- Quantitative literacy
- Information literacy
- Teamwork and problem solving

Practiced extensively, across the curriculum, in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards for performance

- **Personal and Social Responsibility, including**

- Civic knowledge and engagement—local and global
- Intercultural knowledge and competence
- Ethical reasoning and action
- Foundations and skills for lifelong learning

Anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges

- **Integrative and Applied Learning, including**

- Synthesis and advanced accomplishments across general and specialized studies

Demonstrated through the application of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to new settings and complex problems.