

FOUNDATIONS	DESCRIPTION
First Year Seminar	One course designated as a first year seminar.
Written Communication	Three courses designated Writing Intensive.
Oral Communication	One course designated Speaking Intensive.
Language	Intermediate competency in a second language, defined as the completion of any 201 language course . (Other options for satisfying this requirement can be found below this chart.)

METHODS OF INVESTIGATION	DESCRIPTION
Arts and Literature	One course focusing on visual art, performing art, and/or literature.
Humanities	One course in the humanities (including history).
Natural Science	One course in the natural sciences that includes a laboratory.
Quantitative Reasoning	One course focusing on quantitative information.
Social Science	One course in the social sciences.
	Two additional courses from two different Methods of Investigation.

CONNECTIONS	DESCRIPTION
Digital Intensive	One across-the-curriculum course designated Digital Intensive.
Diverse and Global Perspectives	One across-the curriculum course focusing on diverse and/or global communities.
Beyond the Classroom	One faculty supervised experience involving a significant experiential learning component designed to challenge students to go outside of the bounds of the typical classroom.
After Mary Washington	One experience focused on translating the liberal arts experience for life after Mary Washington.

Note: Although not formally part of the general education requirements, you must also complete one course designated Writing Intensive and one course designated Speaking Intensive in your major program(s). These must be courses that count toward the major(s) as either requirements or electives.

Intermediate competency in a second language may be demonstrated by: (1) completion of 201 or higher in a language including ASL; (2) completion of a Level IV course in high school as verified by high school transcript; (3) a score of 620 or higher on any language SAT II subject test; (4) a score of 4 or higher on the AP Latin exam, a score of 3 or higher on any modern language AP Exam, or a score of 3 or higher on any modern Language and Literature AP Exam; (5) a score of 5 or higher on any group 2 (second language) higher-level IB Exam [Additional scores on HL and SL IB exams may also satisfy the requirement. Check the [equivalency chart](#) carefully.]; (6) a passing score on the University of Mary Washington language competency exam; (7) a rating of “Intermediate” on the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI); (8) the submission of pertinent documents which verify that a student has had a high school education conducted in a language other than English or has lived extensively in and become fluent in the language of a non-English speaking country; or (9) a rating equivalent to “Intermediate-Low Competency” on the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) scale on an approved third-party exam. Students are responsible for the payment of all required testing fees.

General Education FAQs for all BA/BS Students

Who is eligible to switch to the new General Education Program?

Any student may switch to the new program.

Should I switch to the new General Education Program?

All students will need to make this decision (in conjunction with your advisor) depending on your progress in completing the current General Education Program and your ability to complete the new General Education requirements in a timely manner for graduation.

Will there be resources that will help me decide if switching is a good option for me?

Prior to pre-registration advising in the spring, the Office of the Registrar will generate a “what-if” evaluation for the new general education curriculum for each student that will be stored in Degree Works. Students will be able to compare their progress in the two different programs to determine whether they should switch.

Will any courses from the old general education designations count toward the new program?

Previously taken courses that were designated Writing Intensive, Speaking Intensive, FSEM, Experiential Learning or Community Engagement (which will now be Beyond the Classroom) at the time they were taken will count in the new General Education Program. All Language courses at the 201 or higher level will count toward the new program.

Previously taken courses that were designated in the current general education program as Arts, Literature, and Performance; Human Experience and Society; Natural Science; or Quantitative Reasoning will count toward the new program **if** they are approved for designation as Arts and Literature; Humanities; Social Science; Natural Science; or Quantitative Reasoning in the new General Education Program. For example, if you took STAT 180 in Fall 2019 and STAT 180 is approved as a Quantitative Reasoning course in the new curriculum, you will have completed the Quantitative Reasoning requirement of the new General Education Program. The list of courses approved in these categories will be available at the end of the semester.

What new requirements must I fulfill if I elect to switch?

The Digital Intensive, Diverse and Global Perspectives, and After Mary Washington requirements are all new; you will have to satisfy these requirements by taking a new course/experience if you switch to the new General Education program. Any previously taken courses that end up with one of these designations will not be counted in the new program because they were not approved general education courses at the time they were taken. The list of courses approved in these categories will be available at the end of the semester.

When must I declare my intent to switch to the new General Education Program?

Students electing to switch to the new General Education Program must make this request by Friday, April 3, 2020. This is a one-time opportunity, and there will be no opportunity to switch in the future.

Prior to pre-registration advising in the spring, more information will be provided regarding how students can declare their intent to switch and the processes involved in doing so.

If I elect to switch, will I be able to switch back?

No. Once you switch, you must complete all of the new requirements in order to receive your degree.

May I take advantage of the new components of the new General Education Program even if I do not switch?

Yes! Any student can take any course for which they are eligible. All students are welcome to take advantage of the new components of the program, including courses/experiences which satisfy Digital Intensive, Diverse and Global Perspectives, and After Mary Washington. The new courses in these categories could be very useful electives.

If I don't switch, will courses still be available for me to complete the current General Education Program?

Yes. Courses which count for the current General Education Program will continue to be offered and will satisfy the requirements of the current program.

I would like to stay in the old General Education Program but do not wish to complete the language requirement to the 202 level. Can I stop at 201 or have my four years of high school satisfy the requirement?

No. It is not possible to pick and choose elements of the old and new General Education Programs. Either program must be completed in its entirety.

Does this new program apply to the BLS or BSN Program?

These degrees have separate General Education requirements, and students should consult with the directors of these respective programs for additional information and guidance.

Does this new program apply to the new B.S. Ed. in Elementary Education?

Any student who will be entering the B.S. Ed. Program, which begins in Fall 2020, must follow the new general education requirements.