

University Core

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Fairleigh Dickinson University requires all students to complete a common University Core curriculum. The four courses making up the University Core program serve to fulfill the promise of the University's global learning mission: to prepare students for responsible citizenship in the global community and for professional success in the global economy. In most cases, students will complete the University core sequence during their first and second years at FDU, providing a foundation for more advanced studies.

UNIV1001

1 Credit

Transitioning to University Life

The first course in the University Core program provides support for the transition to university life. Students are introduced to the global mission of the University as well as to the competencies of information and technological literacy. Students participate in formal and informal learning experiences that facilitate their personal and academic growth, enabling them to become more thoughtful and engaged citizens of the world. Respect for individual and cultural differences is fostered throughout the course, as is the generation of positive attitudes towards lifelong learning.

UNIV1002

1 Credit

Preparing for Professional Life

The second course in the University Core program helps promote the transition from classroom learning to experiential learning as well as the transition from academic life to professional life. Students are introduced to methods of self-awareness and engaged learning, and are encouraged to develop an academic plan, with formal and informal components, that supports their ultimate career goals. Respect for individual and cultural differences is fostered throughout the course, as is the importance of an international perspective for professional success. Prerequisite: UNIV1001 Transitioning to University Life.

UNIV2001

3 Credits

Cross-cultural Perspectives

In the third course in the University Core program, students learn to describe and analyze cultural phenomena in their own lives, to grapple with cultural differences and to understand cultural conflicts. Through a study of samples across a variety of cultures, students examine the fluidity and multiplicity of cultural identities and borders. Ways in which cultures change, how cultures shape and are shaped by individuals, how misunderstandings and conflicts arise within and between cultures and how those differences evolve are central to the course. Critical-thinking skills are developed and brought to bear on these topics. Prerequisites: UNIV1002 Preparing for Professional Life and ENGW1101 College Writing Workshop or ENGL1105 English Masters or ENWR1101 Academic Writing.

UNIV2002

3 Credits

Global Issues

In the fourth course in the University Core program, students develop essential aspects of critical thinking and apply those skills in evaluating international systems, environmental issues and human-rights questions. Not only will this course demonstrate the global dimensions of crucial contemporary issues, it will also develop the relational thinking that students will be expected to exercise in other academic contexts and throughout the rest of their personal and professional lives. In other words, this course is as much about how to study and think about global problems and relationships as it is a course about specific global issues. Prerequisites: UNIV2001 Cross-cultural Perspectives and ENGW1101 College Writing Workshop or ENGL1105 English Masters or ENWR1101 Academic Writing.