

# FOUNDATIONS CURRICULUM

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Every day, we are exposed to differences – differences of style, differences of opinions, differences of language and of upbringing, and more. We are asked to take in these differences and to engage with the world around us. Increasingly, graduates are expected to work with others on complex problems or issues that require the integration of knowledge, skills and ideas from multiple disciplines. In order to ensure our students are prepared to contribute to the greater conversation, we have carefully constructed the Foundations Curriculum, a collection of courses and experiences that every Berry student must pursue. Our Foundations Curriculum will allow you to explore your interests and to experience differences by asking you to step outside of your comfort zone. Grounded in the tradition of a liberal arts education and designed for the professional environment of the 21st century, this curriculum will help you achieve four important learning goals:

## **I. Foundations of Knowledge (31 hours)**

The disciplines below anchor our liberal arts tradition and provide students the ability to read critically, to synthesize information from multiple contexts, and to connect experiences by evaluating evidence and applying knowledge from different realms.

- a. Humanities (three courses: 9 hours)
- b. Social and Behavior Sciences (three courses: 9 hours)
- c. Natural Sciences (two courses with lab: 8 hours)
- d. Arts (one course: 3 hours)
- e. Physical Wellness (2 hours)

## **II. Effective Communication (6-7 hours)**

Even the most well-educated person is limited without the ability to communicate ideas. Graduates who communicate effectively using oral, spoken and visual means will develop an argument, identify evidence from a variety of sources and articulate their idea clearly.

## **III. Mathematical Inquiry (3-4 hours)**

Problem-solving and analytical thinking are critical skills for the professionals of the future. Berry graduates will be able to identify patterns and relationships in observed data so they can draw conclusions based on the information at hand.

## **IV. Intercultural Learning (one course: 3-4 hours\*)**

As the world becomes more connected, we believe our students need to be exposed to different cultures and perspectives to better understand their own cultural patterns. Through intercultural learning, students will be able to compare and contrast their perspectives with others so they may facilitate thoughtful and respectful conversations.

***\* Beyond the coursework, our students are asked to attend 24 cultural events during their collegiate years. These events, which range from concerts to lectures and discussion panels, allow students to begin applying the skills developed in the Foundations Curriculum and expose them to conversations and ideas that happen through the academic areas.***

You will work as peers with students, faculty and staff, forming teams that encourage many voices. Through asking yourself and those around you the challenging questions our society faces, you will learn to adapt and to approach problems from a different point of view. You will develop more questions and cultivate tools to find answers. You will create programs and work on projects that serve our community in Rome and the communities you will embrace when you graduate.

Berry students are proud to think with their hearts and to work with their hands. For more information, please visit our website at **[BERRY.EDU/ACADEMICS](http://BERRY.EDU/ACADEMICS)** or reach out to your admissions counselor.