

Preliminary Conceptual Model A

Framing Worldviews in a Global Environment

The core curriculum prepares students to live well, work, and contribute in a complex global environment. For this, it is essential that students understand and evaluate competing frameworks to arrive at a more complex and reasoned global perspective. Each area of the core represents a broad area of focus that encourages interdisciplinary approaches and collaborative problem solving among faculty and students. Since the open-ended problems encountered in the core curriculum often transcend disciplinary and cultural frameworks, developing sustainable responses to them requires a willingness to embrace diverse perspectives. An essential skill for solving problems in a global environment is the ability to collaborate and to function as an effective member of a team with others who may have conflicting viewpoints.

Courses from a variety of disciplines (natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities, mathematics, etc.) can be used to fulfill each area of the core and choices are not limited to a particular disciplinary cluster or perspective. For example, courses in Area E can be interdisciplinary or can represent the perspectives of the arts and humanities, social sciences, or other disciplinary clusters. Similarly, courses in Area B can be interdisciplinary or can represent a wide array of disciplinary perspectives and methods, including the natural sciences, quantitative disciplines, the arts and the humanities, social sciences, or other disciplinary clusters.

Areas

Area A: WOVEN Communications and Literacy in a Global Age

The focus of this area is the development of cross-cultural communication skills using **w**ritten, **o**ral, **v**isual, **e**lectronic, and **n**on-verbal communication (WOVEN communication) and quantitative methods.

Area B: Knowledge and Practice of Methods of Inquiry

This area focuses on understanding of and hands-on experience with the methods of inquiry of disciplines that explore the natural, physical, social, and cultural realms.

Area C: Addressing Global Issues with Sustainable Responses

This area focuses on developing long and short-term solutions to significant global issues (e.g., political, environmental, social, economic, cultural, and ideological).

Area D: Understanding Continuity and Change in a Global Environment

The focus of this area is the movements, ideas, and forces (technological, economic, social, political, cross-cultural and/or scientific) that have impacted individuals, groups, societies, and cultures over time.

Area E: Understanding Self, Others, and Societies

This area focuses on the attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, artifacts, and environmental and cultural contexts that affect human interactions and our understandings of the world.

Threads

Not every course in the core can or must address every thread but, ideally, courses in the various areas of the core should incorporate as many threads as possible.

- Integrative Thinking
- Analytical and Quantitative Thinking
- WOVEN communication skills (**w**ritten, **o**ral, **v**isual, **e**lectronic, and **n**on-verbal communication)
- Ethical thinking
- Teamwork/Collaboration