

Section 1: Transition between General Education and Common Curriculum.

Starting in the summer 2025 **all** new First Year and readmitted students at the University will be following the Common Curriculum for Leadership and Global Citizenship, often called “Common Curriculum.” The Common Curriculum will be replacing the current general education requirement's content areas. The goal of Common Curriculum requirements is to expose UConn students to a breadth of academic coursework across the curriculum, and to prepare them for **leadership** and **global citizenship**. Students will make choices in their studies, make connections between different disciplines and ideas, and explore their creativity by taking courses that fall into a number of different areas—often outside their majors—in order to balance their academics. Common Curriculum requirements must be met in order to graduate from UConn.

How does this impact current UConn students or students who were planning to transfer to UConn?

- Continuing students at the University who are completing the current General Education requirements will have the opportunity to choose between completing either the existing general education requirements or moving to the new Common Curriculum. To determine which is the best route to meet their academic goals, students should use available resources and/or connect with their school/college advising center to learn more.
- Students who are admitted as transfer students in Summer 2025 or Fall 2025 will have the option to choose the existing General Education requirements or the new Common Curriculum. Students will learn about each option at Orientation when meeting with advisors to register for Fall 2025.

One of the main differences between the two systems is that the Common Curriculum requires students to complete courses across six Topics of Inquiry (TOIs), as opposed to the Content Areas (CAs) of the previous system. Both options also require students to complete First Year Writing (FYW) courses and Competencies in **Writing**, **Quantitative** reasoning, and Second Language acquisition.

Beginning in Summer 2025, students who have the option to select between the existing General Education requirements or the new Common Curriculum requirements may do so without changing the catalog year associated with the major curriculum requirements. Please consult your school/college advising center to determine the best pathway as each student circumstance is different.

Section 2: Common Curriculum Overview: TOIs

The Common Curriculum includes two types of requirements, Topics of Inquiry (TOIs) and Competencies. Broadly, the Common Curriculum requirements are the same for all students, but students will have a lot of choices in the courses they can take to fulfill those requirements.

Starting with the Topics of Inquiry, students will take **at least 21 credits across six Topics of Inquiry**: TOI 1 Creativity: Design, Expression, Innovation (Laura: pause for 2 seconds after each one); TOI 2 Cultural Dimensions of Human Experiences; TOI 3 Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice; TOI 4 Environmental Literacy; TOI – 5 Individual Values and Social Institutions; and TOI 6 Scientific and Empirical Inquiry.

For a full list of all Topics of Inquiry (TOI) courses, available for students to explore, visit the UConn Undergraduate Catalog.

Students are expected to complete at least 21 total credits of TOI coursework, representing at least 6 different subject areas, with a minimum of 3 credits in each TOI. Specifically,

- 3 credits in TOI 1:
- 3 credits in TOI 2:
- 3 credits in TOI 3:
- 3 credits in TOI 4:
- 3 credits in TOI 5:
- and 3 credits in TOI 6:

What else do students need to know about the TOI requirement?

- All students must complete one Laboratory Science course identified as a TOI 6L. These are easy to find in Student Admin and the catalog because they are noted with an “L”.
- The courses fulfilling the TOI’s must come from at least 6 unique course subjects. If a student takes a cross-listed course, any of the cross-listed subjects not already counting for that student will be used to fulfill one of their six subject areas for this requirement.
- The 3 credits in each TOI do not need to be unique to that TOI, meaning many classes are approved to count for two different TOIs. So, as long as students are ensuring that they have 21 credits of TOI coursework, across 6 subject areas, with at least 3 credits represented in each of the TOIs, there are no restrictions on double dipping.
- Within the 21 credits of TOI coursework, students must complete at least 9 credits in a Focus Area or Theme as approved in the University catalog.

- A Focus Area is fulfilled by 9 credits within one TOI. For example, a Focus Area could include multiple STEM courses in TOI 6, or the School of Business critical courses in TOI 5.
- While a Theme, which also consists of 9 credits, can come from courses across multiple TOIs. A Theme is a faculty-designed course group that fosters deeper engagement and all fit together to tell a larger story across disciplines.

Deciding on specific courses to complete TOIs can be difficult, but students have a lot of time through their semesters at UConn to complete this. Advisors will work with students to determine ways to complete TOIs with college/school and major requirements.

Section 3: Common Curriculum Overview Competencies

There are five fundamental areas that the faculty at UConn value highly for undergraduate students to demonstrate competency. These include writing, quantitative reasoning, and second language acquisition, as previously required under General Education. Additionally, students will establish competency in information, digital, and media literacy and in dialogue by completing their Topic of Inquiry courses. These last two competencies are imbedded into the Topics of Inquiry courses and do not have any additional requirements.

To graduate, all students must complete

- First-year writing (ENGL 1007, 1010 or 1011), in addition to two writing-intensive courses, which are designated in the catalog with a W notation. At least one writing (W) course must be 2000-level or above and within the student's major.
- They must also complete two Quantitative (Q) courses, with at least one from math or statistics.
- Finally, students must satisfy the second language competency by completing three years of a single foreign language in high school or a second semester language course in college.

A student's academic advisor is a great resource for helping them further understand these requirements and options.

Overall, students must take a minimum of 40 credits of coursework in the Common Curriculum.

It is important to remember that some schools and colleges may have additional requirements in these and other areas, so students should review the requirements for their current or future specific school or college to ensure they are completing all the courses needed for graduation.

Section 4: Resources to Refer Students

There are several websites and resources available to assist students in navigating the Common Curriculum and answering any questions they may have. Students should work with their assigned academic advisor and/or advising center.

- Common Curriculum Student FAQ page: s.uconn.edu/ccstudentfaq
- Course Catalog and list of all approved Common Curriculum Courses: s.uconn.edu/cc.catalog
- Viewing your advisement report: s.uconn.edu/viewingyouradvisementreport

Section 5: Summary/Wrap-Up: Essential things to know

- Common Curriculum Officially launches in Summer 2025
 - First-Year students and those readmitted will follow the requirements of the new Common Curriculum
 - Continuing students, transfer students admitted for Summer and Fall 2025, and students who have taken an approved leave of absence and return within three semesters can determine whether they want to follow General Education requirements or Common Curriculum requirements
- Students should always use the resources to support their choices.
 - Academic advisors and advising centers
 - Advisement reports in Student Admin
 - Student FAQs on Common Curriculum Website