



## The Passion

What makes an education practical? Do accountants need to quote Plato? Should engineers read Ibsen or artists calculate logarithms? Of course! As a Jesuit, Catholic, and humanistic university, Gonzaga believes that a comprehensive education is the best way to hone the problem-solving and decision-making skills necessary for individuals to thrive in today's rapidly changing society.

Gonzaga's deep commitment to educating the whole person is embodied in its University Core Curriculum. Completed by all students regardless of major, the Core has three purposes.

First and foremost, the Core refines students' abilities to critically evaluate the validity of ideas and arguments. While honing their evaluative abilities, students learn to articulate their opinions clearly and concisely. These skills are essential to intellectual inquiry and are also highly valued in the "real world" outside of college life.

Second, the Core widens student perspectives. Gonzaga believes that to understand the world, students must see it from many angles. Gonzaga students take classes outside of their major, which explore a variety of subjects and themes. This exposure to diverse ideas and viewpoints broadens students' understanding of their majors while also enhancing their general knowledge base.

Third, the University Core Curriculum ultimately challenges students to integrate their studies and actions into a systematic and comprehensive philosophy of living. While completing the Core, Gonzaga students inevitably encounter perennial questions about cause-and-effect, ethics, truth, and personal responsibility. In response, they develop intellectual frameworks that help give meaning to events around them and guidance through difficult situations. Thus, the Core prepares Gonzaga students for a lifetime of thoughtful reflection and decisive action.

## The Program

The following courses constitute the Core's integrated Thought and Expression Block. These classes refine writing, thinking, and speaking skills and provide interactive environments conducive to discussion.

- English 101: English Composition
- Philosophy 101: Critical Thinking
- Speech 101: Introduction to Speech

The remainder of the University Core Curriculum is comprised of the following courses. Note that electives allow students to choose from numerous courses within a given subject area, many of which are designed to suit particular majors.

- Philosophy 201: Philosophy of Human Nature
- Philosophy 301: Ethics
- Philosophy 400: Philosophy Elective (e.g. Social Ethics, Philosophy of Science, Business Ethics, Philosophy of Art, etc.)

- Religious Studies 100: Scriptural Study Elective (e.g. Matthew, Mark and Luke, Old Testament; New Testament, etc.)
- Religious Studies 200: Christian Doctrine Elective (e.g. Contemporary Church, History and Teachings of Christianity, Religion and Human Experience, etc.)
- Religious Studies 300: Applied Theology Elective (e.g. Christian Leadership, Liturgy, Vietnam War and Christian Morality, etc.)
- English 102: Literary Genres
- Math 100: Mathematics Elective (e.g. Calculus, Statistics, etc.)



The Core Curriculum's religious studies courses balance empirical inquiry with an investigation of what people believe and why they believe it. Any meaningful dialogue about the human condition must include questions about values and spirituality. Familiarity with the basic principles of Christianity is essential to understanding Western history, politics, and society. Gonzaga students are not required to embrace a certain belief system, but the Core does engage them in an exploration of life's spiritual dimension.

Except for the Thought and Expression Block, which is taken during the freshman year, the Core Curriculum can be completed at each student's own pace. Those undecided about a major usually finish the Core early and use it as a foundation for future academic endeavors. Those eager to begin their major during their freshman and sophomore years generally distribute the Core over four years. There is no "correct" way to complete these courses, and Gonzaga encourages students to finish the Core in a manner best suited to their personal, intellectual, spiritual, and ethical development.

### **The People**

Gonzaga's Core Curriculum courses are taught by many of the most talented and experienced professors in the University. Gonzaga alumni rank the Core among the most influential and beneficial elements of their Gonzaga education and consistently cite exceptional teaching as the primary reason.

Finally, the Core is a unique venue for students from different majors to interact in the classroom, bringing together the experience of all departments in enlivened discussion. The Core is the intellectual bond that unites Gonzaga University and makes it a true academic community.

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