

BACHELOR OF LIBERAL ARTS

University Requirements

General Education

UMKC Essentials is the university-wide curriculum that all undergraduate students will complete. The 30-credit hour program includes a First Year Experience course; three critical thinking courses in the areas of Arts & Humanities, Natural & Physical Sciences, and Social & Behavioral Sciences; a Culture and Diversity course; a Civic & Urban Engagement course; two courses in Written Composition and one course in Oral Communication; and a Math Pathway course. Transfer students entering UMKC will elect from the UMKC Essentials General Education Program or the Missouri Core 42 General Education Curriculum. Academic advisors will meet with incoming transfer students to determine which option best serves the student's educational needs. More information about General Education may be found here: <https://catalog.umkc.edu/undergraduate-academic-regulations-information/general-education-requirements/> (<http://catalog.umkc.edu/undergraduate-academic-regulations-information/general-education-requirements/>)

Constitution Course

Every undergraduate student must take a course covering the United States Constitution and the Missouri State Constitution before graduation. Course options are included in the program requirements section below.

Exit Examinations

Information on exit examinations is available in the Undergraduate Academic Regulations and Information (<http://catalog.umkc.edu/undergraduate-academic-regulations-information/graduation/exitexams/>) section of the catalog.

Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement Examination

In accordance with Missouri Senate Bill 807 (section 170.013.1), 'any student entering a public institution of higher education for the first time after July 2019 who is pursuing an associate's or bachelor's degree from such institution shall successfully pass an examination on the provisions and principles of American civics with a score of seventy percent or greater as a condition of graduation from such institution'. To satisfy this requirement at UMKC, students access the exam through the Canvas site. This requirement will be listed in the degree audit system as, 'Take State Mandated Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement Examination', and listed on the transcript as 'Missouri Civics Examination'.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from this program will:

- Be able to identify and articulate scholarly questions based on evidence and approaches from more than one disciplinary area.
- Be able to demonstrate the ability to gather and organize scholarly literature and raw data needed to answer scholarly questions.
- Examine the factors defining cultural identities from multiple perspectives.

Program Description

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences offers the bachelor of liberal arts (B.L.A.) degree for individuals who seek scientific literacy, an understanding of the social sciences and an appreciation of the humanities. The B.L.A. is an alternative to the B.A./B.S. degree programs and is for individuals who do not wish to commit themselves to a specialty, whose aspirations are not served by a traditional major, and who desire maximum flexibility in course selection.

Students who have found the B.L.A. degree particularly beneficial are those who have matriculated into the six-year medical program and pursue the combined B.L.A./M.D. degrees and those students wishing to apply to the UMKC School of Law through the 90+ Program or Six-Year Law Scholars.

Potential for Graduate Study

Students completing the B.L.A. degree have the potential to pursue graduate study in many areas. Students completing the B.L.A. degree who wish to continue their education at the graduate level are strongly encouraged to seek counsel from a graduate advisor in that discipline early in their undergraduate career.

Program Requirements

UMKC Essentials

Code	Title	Credits
First Semester Experience Course (GEFSE)		3
Written Communication:		
ENGLISH 110	Introduction to Academic Prose	3
ENGLISH 225	English II: Intermediate Academic Prose	3

Oral Communication (choose one of the following):		3
COMM-ST 110	Fundamentals of Effective Speaking and Listening	
COMM-ST 140	Introduction to Communication	
COMM-ST 212	Argumentation And Debate (offered via dual credit only)	
COMM-ST 277	Interpersonal Communication	
Math Pathway (choose one of the following):		3
MATH 116	Mathematics For Liberal Arts	
STAT 115	Statistical Reasoning	
MATH 110	Precalculus Algebra	
MATH 120	Precalculus	
Any 200-level MATH or STAT course		
ACT Math Subscore of 28 or higher; or SAT Math Subscore of 660 or higher		
Critical Thinking in Arts & Humanities (GECRT-AH): Satisfied in program requirements below.		
Critical Thinking in Natural & Physical Sciences (GECRT-SC)		3
Critical Thinking in Social & Behavioral Sciences (GECRT-SS): Satisfied in program requirements below.		
Culture & Diversity Course (GECDV): Satisfied in requirements below.		
Civic & Urban Engagement Course (GECUE)		3
Total Credits		21

Constitution Course Requirement

Section 170.011.1 of the Missouri Revised Statutes, 2015, states that all candidates for a degree issued by a college or university in the state of Missouri must have "satisfactorily passed an examination on the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Missouri, and in American history and American institutions."

Courses at UMKC that satisfy this state requirement are:

Code	Title	Credits
Choose one of the following:		3
CJC 364	The Supreme Court And The Criminal Process	
HISTORY 101	U.S. History to 1877	
HISTORY 102	U.S. History Since 1877	
HONORS 230	Honors American Government	
POL-SCI 210	American Government	
Total Credits		3

There are a few other ways this requirement can be satisfied for students transferring to UMKC:

- Take an equivalent course from the list above at a regionally accredited institution.
- Earn credit for one of the above courses through AP, IB, or CLEP.
- Take a course that directly satisfies the Missouri Constitution Requirement at another Missouri institution.
- Have a previous bachelors degree (or higher) from a regionally accredited institution.
- Have an Associate of Arts degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- Complete the 42 Hour Core at a Missouri institution and have it listed on the official transcript.

School of Humanities and Social Sciences Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Writing Intensive Course (300-level or above):		3
Total Credits		3

BLA Requirements

Hour Requirements and Eligibility

A 2.0 GPA is required to declare intent to pursue the B.L.A. and a 2.0 overall GPA is required by the University of Missouri for graduation.

The credit/non-credit option is not available for students pursuing this degree.

Code	Title	Credits
GECDV 206	Exploring Intersectionality: Understanding Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality	3
One course selected from the following:		3
REGS 300	Theoretical Foundations of Race, Ethnic, and Gender Studies	
REGS 302	Racial and Ethnic Inequality and Inclusion in a Changing Society	
REGS 304	Introduction to Feminist Theory	
REGS 314	Introduction to Queer Theory	
MEDICINE 9120	Fundamentals of Medical Practice II	
CJC 335	Blackness as Threat	
SOCIOL 313R	Sociology Of Gender	
SOCIOL 380	Technology and Society	
SOCIOL 411	Sociology Of Human Sexuality	
Coursework in the Humanities Area		6
Coursework in the Social Sciences Area		6
Any minor offered at UMKC with no overlap with major coursework (including at least 6 hours taken at UMKC)		18
Total Credits		36

A minimum of 12 hours at the 300-level or above must be taken at UMKC and can include the minor coursework above.

Coursework must be taken from at least two subject codes in each division. Students should consult with an advisor in selecting coursework to ensure that they receive proper credit in the various divisions required for the degree.

In addition to fulfilling general education requirements, UMKC Essential courses may be applied to the B.L.A. as follows:

- GECRT-AH may be applied to the Humanities Area
- GECRT-SS may be applied to the Social Sciences Area

General Electives

Students must take elective credit hours to meet the minimum credit hour requirement for their degree, including at least 36 credit hours of coursework at the 300-level or above. The minimum required by the university is 120 credit hours, of which at least 30 credit hours must be taken at UMKC, but some degree programs require more.

Code	Title	Credits
General Electives		57

Minimum GPA: 2.0

Total Credit Hours: 120

Tools for Planning and Fulfilling Academic Requirements

UMKC's Major Maps are detailed, semester by semester plans that lead a student to complete all degree requirements within four years. Plans include benchmarks and critical courses by term that assist a student's evaluation of progress and major "fit". In order to ensure that the appropriate courses are taken, students are encouraged to consult with the undergraduate advisor for this major. Please see the tab above to view the major map for this program.

UMKC's Transfer Guides (<https://www.umkc.edu/admissions/transfer-guides.html>) provide detailed guidance on recommended transfer coursework, plans of study, transfer timelines, and transfer contact information. To ensure a seamless transfer experience, students are encouraged to work with both their community college advisor and a UMKC advisor when planning their coursework.

UMKC's PlanMyDegree 'Audit' (<https://www.umkc.edu/registrar/academic-programs/plan-my-degree.html>) degree audit system provides an individual evaluation of all degree requirements (General Education, Degree Specific, Major Specific, etc.) for students' officially recorded (Office of the Registrar) and "what if" exploratory plans of study. This evaluation is used to certify all graduation requirements.

UMKC's PlanMyDegree 'Plans' (<https://www.umkc.edu/registrar/academic-programs/plan-my-degree.html>) degree planning tool enables students to develop a personalized semester by semester plan of study towards completion of degree requirements for student's officially recorded (Office of the Registrar) and "what if" exploratory plans of study. Update and edit your full plan to degree completion each term and confirm accuracy each semester with your Academic Advisor(s).

Major Map

Four Year Graduation Plan - Courses & Critical Benchmarks for First Time College Students:

UMKC's Major Maps are detailed, undergraduate four-year course outlines that inform students on the classes they should take and when to take them. Outlines are updated yearly. Graduate students should visit their program's individual school for program outlines.

The following is a sample course of study. Your path to graduation may vary based on factors such as college credit you earned while in high school, transfer work from other institutions of higher learning, and placement in Mathematics. You are responsible for checking prerequisites to any courses. It is the Student's responsibility to ensure that all program requirements are met. This guide is not a substitute for academic advisement.

First Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
GEFSE 101		3 ENGLISH 225	3
ENGLISH 110		3 COMM-ST 110 or 277	3
GECRT-SS 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, or 111		3 GECRT-SC 101 or 102	3
GECRT-AH 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112, or 113		3 HISTORY 101, 102, or POL-SCI 210	3
MATH 116 or STAT 115		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Second Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
GECUE 201, 203, 204, 205, or 272		3 Course for required Minor	3
Course for required Minor		3 Course for required Minor	3
Arts/Humanities BLA Area course		3 GECDV 206 (Required for BLA)	3
Social/Behavioral Science BLA Area course		3 General Elective	3
Course for required Minor		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Third Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
Course for required Minor		3 3XX/4XX Course for required Minor	3
3XX/4XX Course for required Minor		3 Course for required Minor	3
General Elective		3 Arts/Humanities BLA Area course recommended	3
General Elective		3 Social/Behavioral Science BLA Area course recommended	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Fourth Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
3XX/4XX Course for required Minor		3 General Elective	3
3XX/4XX Arts/Humanities BLA Area course		3 General Elective	3
3XX/4XX Social/Behavioral Science BLA Area course		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 3XX/4XX General Elective	3

3XX/4XX General Elective (WI Course if not already completed)	3 3XX/4XX General Elective	3
	15	15

Total Credits: 120

Recommendations to Maintain Progress toward 4-Year Degree Completion

- Completion of the First Semester Experience (FSE) course in first term.
- Early completion of Written Communication, Oral Communication, and Math Pathway requirements.
- Maintain the minimum GPA required for academic Good Standing for your degree program.
- Completion at least 15 credit hours toward degree each regular semester. *(Students may use the summer to ensure completion of 30 hours per academic year or to lighten Fall and Spring course loads.)*
- Enrollment in Critical Courses as listed on the Major Map is recommended in order to maintain timely progress and completion of prerequisite coursework.
- Early and continuous enrollment in Foreign Language through completion of level required for degree program is recommended. *(The Foreign Language placement exam is highly recommended to ensure placement in the correct course level.)*
- Regular consultation with Academic Advisor(s) for program(s) of study is strongly recommended and may be required for some degree programs..

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