

Mission

The mission of the General Education program at the American University of Ras Al Khaimah is intrinsically connected with the vision and mission of the University. Graduates of AURAK will possess the essential skills, conceptual knowledge, sensitivity to diversity, ethical and civic responsiveness, and the spirit of entrepreneurship that will enable them to negotiate with, and adapt to a challenging and dynamic environment.

The General Education Program develops self-directed individuals who

1. Are engaged and committed citizens aware of the global effect of social, political, and economic change.
2. Understand the nature of tradition and world cultures, understand the impact of the past on the present, and respond sensitively in culturally diverse environments.
3. Are aware of ethical issues and think critically to make informed and responsible decisions.
4. Use empirical and logical reasoning to assess evidence, evaluate data, make decisions, and solve problems.
5. Understand scientific principles and contemporary developments in science and technology and their impact on human life and the environment.
6. Communicate clearly and effectively in writing and speech and understand the rhetorical and stylistic strategies that impact diverse audiences for various purposes.
7. Can locate, access, critically evaluate, and use information ethically and efficiently for a variety of purposes, and engage in independent investigations and research.
8. Can interpret the meaning of different forms of artistic expression within historical and theoretical contexts and respond to works of art.

Upon graduation students are able

1. To demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills and use current technology to create a final written or oral product.
2. To recognize, analyze, and evaluate ethical issues and defend their positions through reasoned argument.
3. To use logical and mathematical reasoning to analyze quantitative data and solve problems for personal and professional purposes.
4. To use appropriate tools to access information, evaluate sources, and conduct independent research.
5. To understand multicultural diversity and the interdependence of nations and cultures.
6. To appreciate creativity and the variety of artistic forms.
7. To employ the basic concepts of ethics or one of the social sciences to analyze a contemporary issue.
8. To approach scientific problems analytically and with an understanding of the scientific method.

9. To use computers for academic purposes, to incorporate technology into academic content, and to access information efficiently.

Total No. of credits: 31-34 (including UNIV 100 and MEST 100)

To achieve these outcomes, the General Education Program requires students to take 31-34 credits in the following skills development and knowledge areas:

Core Competencies:

1. Communication skills
2. Quantitative literacy
3. Information technology
4. Critical thinking
5. Information literacy
6. University life

Knowledge Areas:

1. Effective communication
2. Creative and aesthetic understanding
3. Cross-cultural and ethical understanding
4. Social and global perspectives
5. Science of the natural and physical worlds
6. Empirical and mathematical reasoning

Core Courses (22-24 credits)

Students must complete 22-24 credits in this area. **UNIV 100**, University Freshman Transition is mandatory in the first semester.

1. ENGL 101, Composition (3)
2. ENGL 102, Public Speaking (3)
3. ENGL 200, Advanced Composition (3)
4. PHIL 100, Critical Thinking and Reasoning (3)
5. One of the following MATH courses
 - a. MATH 101, Numbers and Data Interpretation (3)
 - b. STAT 100, Statistics (3)

- c. MATH 108, Business Calculus (3)
 - d. MATH 111, Calculus for Life Sciences (4)
 - e. MATH 113, Calculus I (4)
6. ITEC 103, Fundamentals of Information Technology (3) or CSCI 112, 113, Introduction to Computer Programming (4)
 7. MEST 100, Introduction to Islam in World Culture (3)
 8. UNIV 100, University Freshman Transition (1)

Knowledge Domains (9-10 credits)

Students must complete 9-10 credits in this area, with one course taken from each of the following three categories: Arts and Humanities (3 credits), Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 credits) and the Natural Sciences (3-4 credits).

Arts and Humanities (3 credits)

1. Creative and Aesthetic Understanding
 - a. ARTT 100, Introduction to Visual Arts (3)
 - b. ARAB 110, Introduction to Arabic Literature (3)
 - c. COMM 102, Reading Image and Film (3)
 - d. COMM 104, Photography and Communication (3)
 - e. ENGL 201, Literature across Cultures (3)
2. Cross-cultural and Ethical Understanding
 - a. HIST 100, Contemporary Middle Eastern History (3)
 - b. HIST 101, Ancient History of the Arabian Peninsula (3)
 - c. PHIL 101, Ethics in Today's World (3)
 - d. PHIL 102, World Philosophies (3)

Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 credits)

1. Social and Global Perspectives
 - a. PSYC 100, Introduction to Psychology (3)
 - b. SOCI 101, Contemporary Social Issues (3)
 - c. ECON 103, Principles of Microeconomics (3)
 - d. POLI 100, Contemporary Global Issues (3)
 - e. POLI 101, Politics of Scarcity (3)
 - f. POLI 102, State and Society in the UAE (3)
 - g. GEOG 100, World Regional Geography (3)

- h. COMM 101, Interpersonal Communication and Group interaction (3)

The Natural Sciences (3-4 credits)

- 1. Science of the Natural and Physical Worlds
 - a. BIOL 100, Humankind in a Biological World (3)
 - b. CHEM 100, 101, Chemistry in Everyday Life (4)
 - c. ENVS 100, 101, Energy and Environmental Science (4)
 - d. ENVS 102, Sustainability and Human-Environment Relations (3)
 - e. CHEM 211, General Chemistry (3)

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