Degrees and Curricula
Degrees and Curricula

The goal of Sacred Heart University is to provide an educational experience for the student that will result in his/her development as a whole person; a person who possesses the intellectual ability to know, judge, reason, analyze, synthesize, discern and appreciate; a person who is sensitive and responsible to the needs of society and accepts the responsibility to preserve the dignity of fellow human beings; a person who is aware of the laws that govern the physical world and who is alert to the preservation of the beauty of nature; a person who possesses a sense of moral responsibility to self, community and nation.

Baccalaureate Degrees

At the undergraduate level, Sacred Heart University offers two baccalaureate degrees: Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) depending upon the nature of the discipline of the major. The University offers 26 majors and 30 minors. The University also offers Associate in Arts (AA) and Associate in Science (AS) degrees.

All candidates for the baccalaureate degree must complete at least 120 credits, with a minimum of 30 credits taken at Sacred Heart University. A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 is required.

THE UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM

A central component of undergraduate study is the University’s Core Curriculum, which embodies the University’s commitment to academic excellence, social responsibility, and ethical awareness. Consistent with its Mission, Sacred Heart University provides its students with a liberal arts curriculum that is:

- fundamental to becoming a knowledgeable, educated, and ethically responsible person;
- foundational to studies in the major and to lifelong learning; and is
- essential preparation for personal and professional success in a global and ever-changing world.

STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM

The Core Curriculum is composed of three components:

I. Foundational Core (10 credits)
II. Common Core: The Human Journey (12 credits)
III. Elective Core (33–35 credits)

I. Foundational Core (10 credits)

The Foundational Core provides students with competency, at the college level, in the communications, mathematics, and information-literacy skills that are necessary for academic success and that are essential in a global and ever-changing world.

EN 110 Academic Writing (3 credits)
EN 111 Effective Speaking (3 credits)
IL 101 Information Literacy (1 credit)
MA TBD Mathematics (college level) (3 credits)

II. Elective Core (33–35 credits)

The Elective Core provides students with the body of knowledge, critical thinking abilities, and ethical and moral thinking that are needed for studies in
the major, for life-long learning, and for the education of the whole person.

The Elective Core is comprised of courses in the Humanities, the Social and Behavioral Sciences, the Natural Sciences/Mathematics/Computer Science, and Religious Studies and Philosophy. These courses introduce students to the perspectives and ways of knowing in these disciplines.

**Humanities (9 credits)**

The Humanities are the historical, aesthetic, language and literature disciplines that study the human condition and human experience using methods that are largely critical, creative, analytical, theoretical, interpretive, and speculative. To accomplish the Humanities area, students are required to complete 9 credits from at least two different disciplines of the following:

- Art
- Foreign Languages
- History
- Literature
- Music (excluding applied music courses)
- Media Studies

Students may take no more than 3 credits of English and no more than 3 credits of History to complete this area.

Students are strongly encouraged to take 6 credits of the same Foreign Language in consecutive semesters as part of their Humanities requirement in this area.

For students majoring in Nursing or Athletic Training, 6 credits in two departments completes this area.

**Social and Behavioral Sciences (9 credits)**

The Social and Behavioral Sciences use the scientific method and analytical approach to study human behavior, and the social nature of human beings, and to examine the social and political structures that result from human interaction and that shape human behavior.

To accomplish the Social and Behavioral Sciences area, students are required to complete 9 credits from at least two different disciplines of the following:

- Anthropology
- Economics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology

**Natural Sciences/Mathematics/Computer Science (6–8 credits)**

The Natural Sciences use the empirical or scientific method to study the laws that govern nature and the natural world. Mathematics and Computer Science use rigorous logic as their primary methodology.

To accomplish the Natural Sciences/Mathematics/Computer Science area, students are required to complete 6-8 credits, and one of the courses must be Biology, Chemistry, or Physics.

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Physics

**Religious Studies and Philosophy (9 credits)**

Religious Studies uses reason and critical and analytical thought to study religions, religious beliefs and practices, and to examine the relationship between the human and the Divine as well as to explore questions of truth, justice, ethics, and the moral dimensions of existence. Philosophy uses logic, analysis, and reason to examine fundamental questions about existence, meaning and knowledge, and ethics.
To accomplish the Religious Studies and Philosophy area, students are required to complete 9 credits from the two different disciplines:

Philosophy
Religious Studies

III. Common Core: The Human Journey

Sacred Heart University’s academic signature centerpiece, The Human Journey, is a coherent, integrated, and multidisciplinary study of the liberal arts and sciences and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. The courses of The Human Journey are framed and unified by the following four fundamental and enduring questions of human meaning and value:

1. What does it mean to be human?
2. What does it mean to live a life of meaning and purpose?
3. What does it mean to understand and appreciate the natural world?
4. What does it mean to forge a more just society for the common good?

The Human Journey introduces students to some of the most significant thinkers, artists, writers and scientists from Western, Catholic, and non-Western traditions who have wrestled with these central and complex questions about human life.

The Common Core courses which comprise The Human Journey are:

HICC 101 The Human Journey: Historical Paths to Civilization
ENCC 102 Literary Expressions of The Human Journey
CC 103 A The Human Community: The Individual and Society (Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, Psychology) OR CC 103 B The Human Community and Scientific Discovery (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

CC 104 The Human Search for Truth, Justice, and the Common Good

Students will take one of the CC 103 A or CC 103 B options.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HICC 101 The Human Journey: Historical Paths to Civilization 3 CR
HICC 101 is part of Sacred Heart University’s Common Core, The Human Journey. Framed by the Common Core’s four fundamental questions of human meaning and value, this course is designed to provide first-year college students with an understanding of the elements of Western Civilization from the ancient world to the end of the Renaissance, including the Catholic intellectual tradition. HICC101 will also provide students with sufficient knowledge of the history and culture of a non-western civilization (China) to allow for meaningful comparison of the two cultures. Primary texts will be used to bring students into close contact with the main thinkers of the period and to show how historians use written records to interpret the past.

ENCC 102 Literary Expressions of The Human Journey 3 CR
ENCC 102 is part of Sacred Heart University’s common core sequence The Human Journey. This course will address the four fundamental questions of human meaning and value that serve as the unifying frame for all the courses in The Common Core. In ENCC102 we will read and examine significant works of literature. We read serious literature because it presents us with images of, dramatizes for us, or tells us stories about ourselves, our human experience throughout time, and the way we live. This course engages students in conversations about these literary stories, images, and dramatizations. We will critically and analytically read and examine works
of literature from different cultures – western and non-western, including Catholic, and from different time periods – classical to contemporary, with an aim toward understanding and appreciating how these very different works give us insight in the four core questions.

**ANCC 103 The Human Community: The Individual and Society 3 CR**
This is the third of four courses in The Human Journey, Sacred Heart University’s Common Core Curriculum. As part of the University’s Common Core, The Human Journey, ANCC103 addresses the four core questions from the anthropological perspective. With an emphasis on the unity, diversity and development of human biology and culture, the anthropological perspective offers a unique opportunity to engage the Catholic intellectual tradition and examine the enduring questions of human existence.

**POCC 103 The Human Community: The Individual and Society 3 CR**
This is the third of four courses in The Human Journey, the Common Core Curriculum at Sacred Heart University. The course explores questions regarding human meaning and value by specifically focusing on the social and political dimensions of the Core Questions. This course will include an analysis of the major political philosophers and their perspectives on the following: What does it mean to be human? What does it mean to live a life of meaning and purpose? What does it mean to forge a more just society for the common good? What does it mean to appreciate and understand the natural world? The course will also incorporate key thinkers from the Catholic Intellectual tradition as they approach the core questions.

**SOCC 103 The Human Community: The Individual and Society 3 CR**
This is the third of four courses in The Human Journey, Sacred Heart University’s Common Core Curriculum. As part of the University’s Common Core: The Human Journey, this course takes up the enduring questions of human existence: 1) What does it mean to be human? 2) What does it mean to live a life of meaning and purpose? 3) What does it mean to appreciate and understand the natural world? 4) What does it mean to forge a more just society for the common good? Investigations are primarily guided by insights from sociology about the social nature of human beings and the structure of societies while also including the contributions from the natural sciences and the Catholic intellectual tradition.

**BICC 103 The Human Community and Scientific Discovery 3 CR**
This is the third of four courses in The Human Journey, Sacred Heart University’s Common Core Curriculum. This course focuses on the scientific approach and its uses and limits in addressing the four fundamental core questions of human meaning and value. The practice of scientific inquiry with respect to political, social and cultural factors will also be examined, particularly in the context of the Catholic intellectual tradition. Potential topics to be discussed include learning about your own ancient genetic lineage, evolution, genetic
testing, environmental pollution, global climate change, and disease prevention.

**CHCC 103 The Human Community and Scientific Discovery 3 CR**
This is the third of four courses in Sacred Heart University’s Common Core Curriculum, The Human Journey. This course will examine the core’s four fundamental questions of human meaning and value. From the perspective of Chemistry, students will learn about science and the natural world and science’s engagement with the Catholic intellectual tradition.

**PYCC 103 The Human Community and Scientific Discovery 3 CR**
This is the third of four courses in Sacred Heart University’s Common Core Curriculum, The Human Journey. As part of The Human Journey curriculum, this course will address the four fundamental questions of human meaning and value from the perspective of the academic disciplines of Physics and Theology. PYCC103 will examine the relationships between our human explorations of the universe through science, in general, and physics, in particular. We will examine Physics as a fundamental and practical human endeavor which helps us understand and appreciate the natural world as part of God’s provision and revelation for us. As with all of the courses that make up the Common Core, the four fundamental questions will serve as the threads that will serve as the framework for the fabric of the course.

**RS/PHCC 104 The Human Search for Truth, Justice, and the Common Good 3 CR**
This course is the capstone course in Sacred Heart University’s Common Core sequence of study, The Human Journey. As the capstone, this course addresses the Core’s four fundamental questions of human meaning and value. This course will investigate the religious or philosophical understanding of the human condition as a theme running through the four stated questions. Students will study both classic and contemporary texts from a range of religious and some philosophical traditions, particularly the Catholic intellectual tradition. A vital component of the course will be students’ own responses to the four questions, especially as those responses evolve through the enrichment of the course material. As a capstone course, RS/PHCC104 enables students to develop a personal, integrated set of answers to the common core questions through a range of modalities and media, including service projects, research papers, artistic productions, student “portfolios” of completed assignments for all four Core courses, and other similarly integrated and interdisciplinary work.

**THE MAJOR FIELD (30-58 CREDITS)**

The major provides the student an area of specialty as preparation for a career or as a foundation for graduate study. Several baccalaureate majors offer multiple specialization programs. One half of the credit for the student’s major must be completed at Sacred Heart University. Sacred Heart University offers the following baccalaureate major programs, with concentration options listed after the major:

**College of Arts and Sciences**

- Art/Graphic Design
- Biology: *Traditional, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Ecology and Conservation Biology, Neuroscience*
- Chemistry: *Biochemistry, Traditional Communication*
- Communication and Technology Studies
- Computer Science: *Computer Science, Information Technology*
- Criminal Justice
- English: *Literature, Writing*
- History
- Mathematics
Philosophy
Political Science
Psychology
Religious Studies
Social Work
Sociology
Spanish

MINOR PROGRAMS

In addition to a major, the student may choose an optional minor program from the following:

College of Arts and Sciences

Art
Biology
Catholic Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Criminal Justice
English
European Studies
French Global Studies
History
Honors
Information Technology
Italian
Latin American Studies
Mathematics
Media Studies
Middle Eastern Studies
Music
Philosophy
Political Science
Psychology
Religious Studies
Sociology
Spanish
Women's Studies

University College

General Studies

ELECTIVES (0–36 CREDITS)

Electives are courses offered by the University in subject areas that interest the student. Electives should be selected in consultation with the student's academic advisor.

Students majoring in any discipline may also elect courses in the following pre-professional areas: Pre-Law, Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental, Pre-Occupational Therapy, Pre-Optometry, Pre-Physical Therapy, and Pre-Veterinary. Qualified students may also elect courses in the Thomas More Honors Program or in Education. These are explained in the Academic Enhancement Programs chapter in this catalog.

John F. Welch College of Business

Accounting
Business Economics
Finance
Sport Management

College of Health Professions

Athletic Training
Exercise Science
Nursing (B.S. only): First Professional Degree Program, BSN Completion Program, RN to BSN, RN to MSN

Geriatric Health and Wellness
POLICY ON AWARDING OF SECOND BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

Students will be eligible to receive a second baccalaureate degree from Sacred Heart University, with a major other than that obtained with their first degree, if they meet the following criteria:

1. They will have fulfilled the requirements of the second degree and major.

2. They will have completed at least 30 credits at Sacred Heart University after the date of the first degree.

3. That up to 90 credits of the first degree can be used toward the fulfillment of the new degree/major.

If the above conditions are not met, the transcript would then indicate the completion of a second major if requirements for that major have been achieved.

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE—GENERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

All Associate of Arts degrees are offered by University College. The candidate for the AA degree in General Studies must complete 60 credits, which include the AA Core Curriculum as well as an emphasis of not less than 15 credit hours and elective courses chosen in consultation with the student’s advisor. A minimum of 30 of these credits must be taken at Sacred Heart University, and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 is required.

Core Curriculum

The Core Curriculum for the AA degree provides the student with the opportunity to experience other disciplines, obtain a background for further study, and gain the knowledge to become a knowledgeable and educated human being.

Foundational Core

*EN 110 *EN 111 *MT TBD *A grade of C or better is required.

Common Core: The Human Journey

Sacred Heart University’s academic signature centerpiece, The Human Journey, is a coherent, integrated, and multidisciplinary study of the liberal arts and sciences and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

See description of the Common Core: The Human Journey courses listed previously in this chapter.

Elective Core

To accomplish the elective core, students will complete the following: Humanities (3 credits) Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 credits) Natural Sciences (3 credits)
Religious Studies/Philosophy (3 credits)

EMPHASIS

Credits range from 15–32, depending on the emphasis.

Note: The required courses for each emphasis are listed under each college and department section.

A grade of C or better is required in all emphasis courses. Area discipline courses cannot be used in above core areas. Areas of emphasis with required courses are:

Associate of Arts Degree

College of Arts and Sciences

Art/Graphic Design
Biology
Chemistry
English
French
History
Italian
Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Philosophy
Political Science
Psychology
Religious Studies
Sociology
Spanish

Associate of Science Degree

College of Arts and Sciences

Computer Science and Information Technology

John F. Welch College of Business

Accounting
Business
Business Economics