

Compass Curriculum: General Education

UCCS Compass General Education Curriculum

A general education curriculum required for all students is common at most colleges and universities. General education provides college graduates with a core set of skills and experiences no matter their degree choices. We believe that all students at UCCS will benefit from the curriculum and will find the skills they develop useful in whatever path they follow after graduation. The [UCCS Compass General Education](#) program is based on nationwide best practices and on recommendations from the American Association of Colleges and Universities. The UCCS Compass program is intentional in integrating [high-impact practices](#) shown to promote learning and college success. Our curriculum reflects the most recent research into the skills that matter to employers such as the AAC&U's report on "[How College Contributes to Workforce Success.](#)" The curriculum is also informed by work from leading scholars like [Dr. Matthew Sanders](#), an author of our Gateway Program Seminar (GPS) textbook.

Compass Assessment

The Compass Curriculum is responsible for assessing student learning related to general education outcomes. Faculty who teach Compass courses are expected to participate in this assessment by submitting student work, distributing course surveys, and encouraging students to take standardized tests. Each compass area requirement (GPS, Sustainability, Writing Intensive, etc) has unique responsibilities for assessment. You can find the specific requirements for each Compass area and instructions for how to participate [on our website](#). You will also be notified by email any time you have Compass Assessment responsibilities.

Compass Application and Renewal

The Compass Curriculum Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving courses for Compass designations ("flags"). When a designation is added, it applies to *all sections* of a course. Any faculty teaching that course is expected to ensure the course meets the core learning objectives of the Compass designation. A single course may hold several Compass designations, as long as it follows the overall rules of the Compass Curriculum (some flags can't be paired). Faculty can apply to have a Compass designation added to a course by completing the form on our website. Once the form is submitted, we will invite the applying faculty member to join our committee for a brief discussion of the course. Every five years, courses within the Compass Curriculum must be renewed by faculty. To renew a course, faculty must complete the most current version of our application form. However, the review process is expedited, and we do not require renewing faculty to meet with the committee.

- You will be notified by your Department Chair any time you are due to renew a Compass course.
- You will be notified by email any time you are scheduled to teach a Compass course.

Join us on our website:

<https://compasscurriculum.uccs.edu/overview>

Compass Curriculum: General Education

Student Compass Requirements

There are ten core requirements for students to complete their Compass General Education Curriculum. Many students meet these requirements before coming to UCCS through Advanced Placement, CLEP, transfer credit, or associate degrees. Students will work with their advisors to review previous work and apply it to their Compass General Education requirements. There is also a petition system on our website where students can ask for credit or for a requirement to be waived in unusual circumstances.

The Compass Curriculum Committee has a commitment to ensuring many general education requirements can be met by courses within a student's major. Only four of the ten elements (around 18 credit hours) typically happen outside the college of the major (GPS, Core Writing Course, the Explore Courses, and the Writing Portfolio). We are also deeply committed to providing students with choice. GPS, Core Writing, and Explore courses all present students with a range of options to select from based on their interests, goals, and skill level.

1. [GPS \(Gateway Program Seminar\)](#): one course = 3 credits
2. [Core Writing Courses](#): two courses = 6 credits
3. [Quantitative Reasoning Course](#): one course = 3 credits
4. [Explore Courses](#): three courses selected from approved lists = 9 credits
5. [Writing Intensive \(WI\)](#): two courses designated as "Writing Intensive"
6. [Inclusiveness](#): one course
7. [Sustainability](#): one course
8. [Navigate](#): one 3000-level course = 3 credits
9. [Summit Experience](#): course or summit experience offered within a student's major degree.
10. [Writing Portfolio](#): university-wide requirement met by completing PORT 3000 (a 0-credit course with a \$25 fee)

UCCS Writing Portfolio

Prior to graduation all students must complete the [writing portfolio requirement](#) by successfully passing PORT 3000 or earning a C- or better in a replacement course (TCID 3080 or ENGL 3010). PORT 3000 is a "zero credit" course. The only assignment is to submit a portfolio of two to three papers you wrote in other courses. Most students enroll in PORT 3000 near the end of their junior year when they have completed between 60 and 90 credit hours.

Join us on our website:

<https://compasscurriculum.uccs.edu/overview>