

# Discovery Program (as per Faculty Senate Motion #XIII-M8)

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## Preamble

A university is an enchanted place. Faculty and students record, preserve, and discover human knowledge; and they commit to understanding fully and using ethically that knowledge, both in the present and as a reservoir from which to draw in the future. At its most elemental, a general education program represents the intersection of those common purposes and the faculty's collective belief in what constitutes essential and shared knowledge of the world.

How, then, do we know the world? What questions and what tools shape our knowledge? How do our different perspectives--intellectual and personal--inform each other? When we teach and learn in Discovery, we take these three questions as our common ground.

Professors teaching in Discovery share a mission: to help students from all departments and programs understand better the organization of knowledge in the modern world. Each of us is responsible not only to colleagues in our own disciplines, but also to others teaching in the Program from across the university's variegated intellectual terrain. Each course in the Discovery Program similarly fulfills an obligation not only to its own field, but also to others. Individually, courses illuminate the disciplines and ask that students understand their foundational methods, tools, and questions. Collectively, they chart the constellation of human knowledge. The Discovery Program as a whole aspires to help students recognize complexity and elegance in the relationships amongst the disciplines.

**To satisfy Discovery requirements, a total of TEN courses must be completed.**

### I. Discovery Foundations (Discovery Skills)

Discovery skills set the stage for building knowledge, expanding the boundaries of knowledge, applying knowledge to human problems, and expressing the human experience.

**Inquiry** (*444 or attribute - breadth requirement or departmental requirement*)

**Writing** (one course)

**Quantitative Reasoning** (one course)

### II. Discovery in the Disciplines (Disciplinary Breadth)

Discovery courses introduce students to the primary questions, methods and perspectives of the field or discipline; they encourage students to understand the connections among different disciplines or fields of study. Students take a total of 8 courses at the 400 – 600 level (7 if one course is an Inquiry 444).

**Biological Science\***

**Physical Science\***

\*One must have a LAB

**Fine and Performing Arts**

**Humanities**

**Historical Perspectives**

**World Cultures**

**Social Science**

**Environment, Technology and Society**

### III. Discovery and Integrative Understanding

Learning and teaching in Discovery foster the integration of discovery skills and disciplinary breadth. The Senior Capstone Experience allows students to reflect on their education and to synthesize knowledge and skills.

Capstone Experience: *Completed by senior students. This experience supervised and approved within the major. To be launched in AY 2013-14.*