Degree Requirements

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee requirements are designed to give structure to each student's education while affording her/him the greatest possible freedom to design an individual academic program.

The General Education Requirements include two major requirement categories, the first designed to assure basic student competencies and the second designed to provide students with a broad body of knowledge as a context for specialization. The first set of requirements, competency requirements, includes the general areas of English composition, mathematics, and foreign language.* The second set of requirements, distribution requirements, is composed of the general areas of the arts, the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. Students must complete these requirements for graduation. For specific exceptions consult the appropriate School or College section in this Bulletin.

The requirements are as follows:

SECTION I - Proficiency Requirements

Proficiency examinations are administered in _____.

A. English Composition

Proficiency in English composition must be demonstrated by writing an essay examination at a level of achievement to be determined by the English Proficiency Committee and approved by the Academic Program and Curriculum Committee.

Students qualify to write the essay examination in two ways:

1) By passing the Wisconsin English Placement Test with a satisfactory score (65 on Form A) or

2) By earning a grade of B- or better in English 101 or 102, Afro-American 101, or Linguistics 118.

Satisfactory completion of the English Composition Requirement is prerequisite for junior standing.

B. Mathematical Skills

Students must achieve a satisfactory score of 2 on the Mathematics Placement Test, or obtain a grade of C or better in Mathematics 112 (College Algebra) or equivalent. These are university-wide minima. Higher standards may be required by UWM Schools or Colleges. Consult appropriate section(s) below.

Satisfactory completion of the Mathematics Proficiency Requirement is prerequisite for junior standing.

*Foreign Language Requirement effective for all freshman entering the University as of Fall 1991.
C. Foreign Language (Foreign Language Requirement effective for all freshmen entering the University as of Fall 1991.)

Each student is required to demonstrate a knowledge of one foreign language. The level of competency required is equivalent to the intermediate college level. The requirement is satisfied by:

1) Four years of a modern foreign language, or three years of a classical language, in high school or

2) Two semesters of foreign language in college at the 200 level or above, or

3) Proof of being bilingual, or

4) Demonstration of proficiency in a second language at the intermediate level as determined by a formal test.

SECTION II - Distribution Requirements

Courses taken for distribution provide the general educational background for each student. The distribution requirements comprise course choices from four broad areas:

A. The Arts

Three credits in a course on the history, philosophy, theory, or practice of the creative and interpretive arts (e.g., visual arts, dance, music, theatre, and creative writing).

B. The Humanities

A total of six credits in at least two courses.

C. The Social Sciences

A total of six credits in at least two courses.

D. The Natural Sciences

A total of six credits in at least two courses. At least one course must include laboratory or field experience illustrating the generation and testing of data and the application of concepts and knowledge to the solution of problems.

For courses which satisfy distribution requirements see the current Schedule of Classes where acceptable courses are identified as Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, or Natural Sciences. A single course can be counted in only one of these four areas. For specific restrictions on acceptable courses, consult your school or college.
SECTION III - Number of credits required for graduation.

The number of credits required for graduation varies from a minimum of 120 to 139. Consult the appropriate School or College section in this Bulletin for specific degree requirements.

SECTION IV - Concentration

The course of study in the departments or programs of the Schools or Colleges requires a field of concentration or major. For specific requirements consult the appropriate School or College section in this Bulletin.