

## The Core Curriculum: Preparation for Success

The Core Curriculum of the School of Arts and Sciences establishes common goals that, along with a major and minor specialization, will prepare you for a successful life and career built on a critical understanding of the natural environment, human behavior, and the individual’s role in diverse societies. These goals derive from three focus areas: Contemporary Challenges; Cognitive Skills and Processes; and Areas of Inquiry.

The learning goals clearly articulate *what you will be able to do* upon completion of the Core. The Core goals align with the skills employers agree are critical for a successful career in a world of work marked by rapid change. Achievement of these learning goals prepares you not only to land your first job, but also to excel in that job, advance in your career, and adapt to the evolving demands of the 21st century.

### Goals: Contemporary Challenges

In an ever-changing world, we constantly face new challenges. Through the Contemporary Challenges goals, you will explore and analyze some of today’s most pressing issues.

#### Diversities and Social Inequalities [CCD] ☐

*You will take at least **one course** that meets the following goals:*

Analyze the degree to which forms of human differences and stratifications among social groups shape individual and group experiences of, and perspectives on, contemporary issues. Such differences and stratifications may include race, language, religion, ethnicity, country of origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status, abilities, or other social distinctions and their intersections.

Analyze contemporary social justice issues and unbalanced social power systems.

#### Our Common Future [CCO] ☐

*You will take at least **one course** that meets the following goals:*

Analyze a contemporary global issue from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Analyze the relationship that science and technology have to a contemporary social issue.

### Goals: Cognitive Skills & Processes

Writing, communication, and formal reasoning skills are essential to lifelong learning, and participation in the world of ideas. Through the Cognitive Skills and Processes goals, you will sharpen your writing, enhance your communication skills, and improve the way you process and analyze information.

#### Writing and Communication [WC] ☐ ☐ ☐

*You will take:* 01:355:101 Expository Writing

*And at least **two additional courses** meeting the following goals:*

Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience, and respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision. [WCR]

Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry; evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly; and analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights. [WCD]

#### Quantitative and Formal Reasoning [Q] ☐ ☐

*You will take at least **two courses** and meet both goals:*

Formulate, evaluate, and communicate conclusions and inferences from quantitative information. [QQ]

Apply effective and efficient mathematical or other formal processes to reason and to solve problems. [QR]

### Goals: Areas of Inquiry

Through the Areas of Inquiry goals, you will explore our natural world, travel back in time, discover different cultures, and appreciate the arts. Major requirements often overlap with at least one Area of Inquiry, and studying all of the Areas prepares you to be a creative problem solver and insightful individual, conversant in a variety of disciplines.

#### Natural Sciences [NS] ☐ ☐

*You will take at least **two courses** that meet the following goals:*

Understand and apply basic principles and concepts in the physical or biological sciences.

Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in scientific analysis.

#### Historical Analysis [HST] ☐

*You will take at least **one course** that meets the following goals:*

Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time.

Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors, using appropriate assumptions, methods, evidence, and arguments.

#### Social Analysis [SCL] ☐

*You will take at least **one course** that meets the following goals:*

Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.

Employ tools of social scientific reasoning to study particular questions or situations, using appropriate assumptions, methods, evidence, and arguments.

#### Arts and Humanities [AH] ☐ ☐

*You will take at least **two courses** and meet at least two of the following goals:*

Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production. [AHO]

Analyze arts and/or literatures in themselves and in relation to specific histories, values, languages, cultures, and technologies. [AHP]

Understand the nature of human languages and their speakers. [AHQ]

Engage critically in the process of creative expression. [AHR]

### How do you choose courses to fulfill Core requirements?

Only courses certified for the Core can be used to fulfill the Core requirements. You can find a full list of certified courses online by visiting the School of Arts and Sciences Office of Advising and Academic Services: [sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/core](https://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/core)

#### As you select courses to meet Core requirements, keep the following in mind:

- A single course may fulfill two requirements.
- Courses used for the Core often will also count towards your major or minor.
- The Core is intentionally structured to ensure that you are exposed to a broad range of topics and perspectives. Use your Core courses as an opportunity to explore!
- You can track your progress in the Core using our online degree audit program, Degree Navigator.
- Our academic advisors are ready to assist you in customizing your academic plans.

The Core Curriculum opens the door to advanced study in a wide range of programs. Arts and Sciences students can choose from over 70 majors across the life sciences, the physical and mathematical sciences, the humanities, the social and behavioral sciences, and international studies.

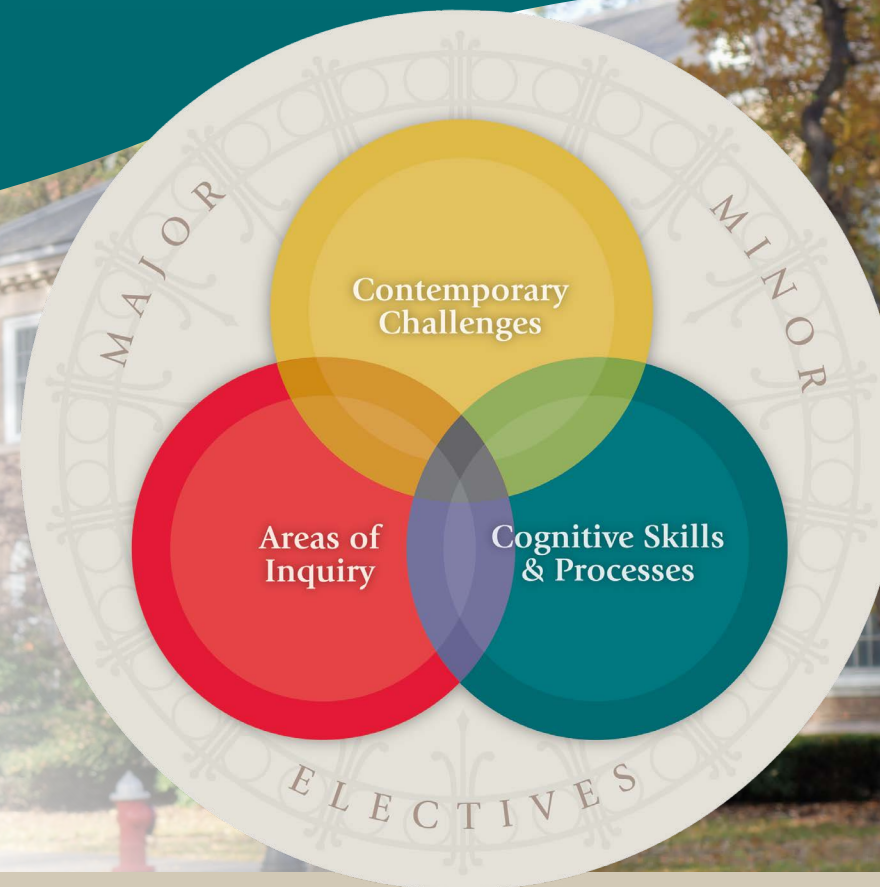
Find information about majors and minors open to Arts and Sciences students: [sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/majors](https://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/majors)







# CORE CURRICULUM



## Learn more:

Visit the SAS Advising webpage:  
[sasundergrad.rutgers.edu](https://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu)

Email your advisors:  
[undergrad@sas.rutgers.edu](mailto:undergrad@sas.rutgers.edu)

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New Brunswick**

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Photography: Roy Groething, Ian DeFalco

## Opens Wide...

The Core weaves courses required for your major with courses of interest across all disciplines. As you take courses for the Core, you'll expand your knowledge and uncover new interests and talents. The Core Curriculum guarantees that all School of Arts and Sciences graduates have the knowledge and competencies to be trailblazers in a rapidly-changing world.

## Where Your World

The School of Arts and Sciences Core Curriculum opens the door for you to discover new worlds of intellectual adventure. The Core Curriculum invites you to design your own path and explore different fields of study, while equipping you with essential skills for a successful future both in your life and career.