

# Essential Studies

Essential Studies (ES) is UND's program in general education. Along with your major, it helps form the core of your UND undergraduate education. We focus on more than general coursework, we focus on the essential skills employers are seeking. The heart of ES is its six learning goals. Each learning goal is aligned with the competencies employers report wanting most in employees. Essential Studies helps to set UND students up for a successful career. Every ES course you take at UND will focus on at least one of the six learning goals.

## Learning Goals

### Critical Inquiry & Analysis

Collect and analyze information to reach conclusions based on evidence.

Inquiry is a systematic process of exploring issues, objects or works through the collection and analysis of evidence that results in informed conclusions or judgments. Analysis is the process of breaking complex topics or issues into parts to gain a better understanding of them.

### Quantitative Reasoning

Be competent and comfortable when working with numbers and graphic displays of information based on numbers.

Quantitative Reasoning is competency and comfort in working with numerical data, using it to reason and solve quantitative problems from a wide array of authentic contexts and everyday life situations, and to create and clearly communicate sophisticated arguments supported by quantitative evidence, such as by using words, tables, graphs, mathematical equations, etc., as appropriate.

### Written Communication

Develop and express ideas in writing or with a mix of words, data and images.

Written Communication is the development and expression of ideas in writing. Written communication involves learning to work in many genres and styles. It can involve working with many different writing technologies, and mixing text, data, and images.

### Oral Communication

Present information (formally or informally) in various settings and sizes to achieve some purpose.

Oral communication involves a purposeful verbal presentation designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listeners' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors.

### Information Literacy

Find necessary information, understand where that information comes from, evaluate and use the information appropriately.

Information literacy is the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning.

### Intercultural Knowledge & Skills

Acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to interact successfully with others from different backgrounds, and apply that understanding to contemporary issues.

Intercultural knowledge and skills foster the capacity to meaningfully engage with the perspectives of people whose cultures and identities are different from one's own. To meaningfully engage with others' perspectives, one must be aware of how those perspectives are shaped by larger social structures, by issues of contemporary importance, and by issues that arise in global society.

## Breadth of Knowledge Requirements

Courses must be on the approved list during the semester you complete them in order to count toward your Essential Studies requirements.

Some courses count toward both your Breadth of Knowledge and your Special Emphasis.

You must complete at least 9 credit hours in each of the Breadth of Knowledge areas. Fine Arts & Humanities are combined as one area so that you need a total of 9 credits among them with at least 3 in each:

- Communication (<https://catalog.und.edu/undergraduateacademicinformation/essentialstudies/communication/>)
- Social Sciences (<https://catalog.und.edu/undergraduateacademicinformation/essentialstudies/socialsciences/>)
- Fine Arts (<https://catalog.und.edu/undergraduateacademicinformation/essentialstudies/fineartsa/>)
- Humanities (<https://catalog.und.edu/undergraduateacademicinformation/essentialstudies/humanities/>)
- Math/Science/Technology (<https://catalog.und.edu/undergraduateacademicinformation/essentialstudies/mst/>)

## Special Emphasis Requirements

Courses must be on the approved list during the semester you complete them in order to count toward your Essential Studies requirements.

Some courses count toward both your Breadth of Knowledge and your Special Emphasis.

You must complete at least 3 credit hours in each of the Special Emphasis areas:

- Advanced Communication (<https://catalog.und.edu/undergraduateacademicinformation/essentialstudies/advancecomm/>)
- Quantitative Reasoning (<https://catalog.und.edu/undergraduateacademicinformation/essentialstudies/quantreason/>)
- Diversity of Human Experience (<https://catalog.und.edu/undergraduateacademicinformation/essentialstudies/diversity/>)
- Analyzing Worldviews (<https://catalog.und.edu/undergraduateacademicinformation/essentialstudies/analyzing/>)
- Digital Information Literacy (<https://catalog.und.edu/undergraduateacademicinformation/essentialstudies/digitalliteracy/>)

**If you are a student who began at UND prior to Fall 2020 and are looking for US Diversity or Global Diversity courses, they can be found here: <https://und.edu/academics/essential-studies/courses.html>**

## Capstone Requirements

Courses must be on the approved list during the semester you complete them in order to count toward your Essential Studies requirements.

Essential Studies Capstone courses are taken at the end of your undergraduate program (within 3 semesters of graduation).

Some courses count toward both your Capstone and the Special Emphasis of Advanced Communication.

| Code                           | Title                                      | Credits | Goals                            | Special Emphasis       |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>American Indian Studies</b> |  |         |                                  |                        |
| IS 410                         | Indigenous Identities (Open to all majors) | 3       | Intercultural Knowledge & Skills |                        |
| <b>Anthropology</b>            |  |         |                                  |                        |
| ANTH 480                       | Senior Seminar                             | 3       | Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Art</b>                     |  |         |                                  |                        |

|   |  |                                    |                        |
|---|--|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| ART 498                                       | Seminar in Art and Design Capstone   | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Atmospheric Sciences</b>                   |  |                                    |                        |
| ATSC 492                                      | Senior Project I   | 1 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| ATSC 493                                      | Senior Project II  | 2 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Aviation</b>                               |  |                                    |                        |
| AVIT 485                                      | Aviation Senior Capstone   | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Biology</b>                                |  |                                    |                        |
| BIOL 480                                      | Senior Capstone Seminar  | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| BIOL 481                                      | Fisheries & Wildlife Senior Capstone                                       | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| BIOL 489                                      | Senior Honors Thesis   | 1-15 Written Communication         | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Biomedical Engineering</b>                 |  |                                    |                        |
| BME 480                                       | Senior Innovation Based Learning I *                                       | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Chemical Engineering</b>                   |  |                                    |                        |
| CHE 411                                       | Plant Design I: Process Design and Economics *                             | 4 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Chemistry</b>                              |  |                                    |                        |
| CHEM 495                                      | Chemistry Capstone   | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Civil Engineering</b>                      |  |                                    |                        |
| CE 483  | Civil Engineering Design II  | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Criminal Justice</b>                       |  |                                    |                        |
| CJ 401  | Administration of Criminal Justice Systems *                               | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Communication</b>                          |  |                                    |                        |
| COMM 410                                      | Senior Capstone in Communication   | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Communication Sciences &amp; Disorders</b> |  |                                    |                        |
| CSD 485                                       | Clinical Practicum II: Speech Language Pathology                           | 3 Written Communication            |                        |
| <b>Computer Science</b>                       |  |                                    |                        |
| CSCI 492                                      | Senior Project I *   | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Electrical Engineering</b>                 |  |                                    |                        |
| EE 480  | Senior Design I *  | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>English</b>                                |  |                                    |                        |
| ENGL 415                                      | Seminar in Literature  | 3 Critical Inquiry & Analysis      |                        |
| <b>Forensic Science</b>                       |  |                                    |                        |
| FS 499  | Forensic Entomology - From Crime Scene to Courtroom                        | 3 Oral Communication               | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Geography</b>                              |  |                                    |                        |
| GEOG 454                                      | Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (Open to all majors) | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Geological Engineering</b>                 |  |                                    |                        |
| GEOE 484                                      | Geological Engineering Design  | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Geology</b>                                |  |                                    |                        |
| GEOL 420                                      | Geology Capstone *   | 3 Oral Communication               | Advanced Communication |
| <b>History</b>                                |  |                                    |                        |
| HIST 440                                      | Research Capstone  | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Honors</b>                                 |  |                                    |                        |
| HON 489                                       | Senior Project: Honors Research  | 1-8 Written Communication          | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Interdisciplinary Studies</b>              |  |                                    |                        |
| IDS 495                                       | Service and Citizenship (Open to all majors) *                             | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Kinesiology</b>                            |  |                                    |                        |
| KIN 491                                       | Senior Capstone *  | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Languages</b>                              |  |                                    |                        |
| LANG 480                                      | Capstone: Global Connections (Open to all majors) *                        | 3 Intercultural Knowledge & Skills |                        |
| <b>Law</b>                                    |  |                                    |                        |
| LAW 160                                       | (Lawyering Skills I)   | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Mathematics</b>                            |  |                                    |                        |
| MATH 488                                      | Senior Capstone  | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Management</b>                             |  |                                    |                        |
| MGMT 475                                      | Strategic Management *   | 3 Written Communication            |                        |
| <b>Mechanical Engineering</b>                 |  |                                    |                        |
| ME 480  | Mechanical Engineering Seminar *   | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Medical Lab Sciences</b>                   |  |                                    |                        |
| MLS 449                                       | Capstone in Medical Laboratory Science                                     | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Music</b>                                  |  |                                    |                        |
| MUSC 441                                      | Methods and Materials for Middle and Secondary School Music                | 3 Oral Communication               | Advanced Communication |
| MUSC 490                                      | Seminar in Music   | 3 Oral Communication               | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Nursing</b>                                |  |                                    |                        |
| NURS 450                                      | Transition to Practice: Seminar  | 2 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| NURS 453                                      | Clinical Practicum V: Transition to Practice                               | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| NURS 474                                      | Leadership & Professional Nursing Development                              | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Nutrition &amp; Dietetics</b>              |  |                                    |                        |
| N&D 441                                       | Nutritional Biochemistry *   | 4 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Occupational Therapy</b>                   |  |                                    |                        |
| OT 503  | Research Methods in OT 2: Outcomes to Translation to Practice              | 4 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Petroleum Engineering</b>                  |  |                                    |                        |
| PTRE 485                                      | Senior Design *  | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Philosophy</b>                             |  |                                    |                        |
| PHIL 480                                      | Public Philosophy (Open to all majors)                                     | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Physics</b>                                |  |                                    |                        |
| PHYS 499                                      | Physics Capstone   | 3 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Physical Therapy</b>                       |  |                                    |                        |
| PT 514  | Case Management I  | 2 Written Communication            | Advanced Communication |
| PT 627  | Integrated Clinical Experience   | 1-4 Oral Communication             | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Political Science</b>                      |  |                                    |                        |

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| POLS 495                         | Senior Colloquium in Political Science and Public Administration                | 3 | Written Communication       | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Psychology</b>                |   |   |                             |                        |
| PSYC 405                         | History and Systems of Psychology   | 3 | Information Literacy        |                        |
| <b>Rehabilitation Services</b>   |   |   |                             |                        |
| RHS 493                          | Senior Capstone Seminar *   | 3 | Oral Communication          | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Sociology</b>                 |   |   |                             |                        |
| SOC 475                          | Sociology Capstone *  | 3 | Critical Inquiry & Analysis |                        |
| <b>Social Work</b>               |   |   |                             |                        |
| SWK 483                          | Field Education II *  | 5 | Information Literacy        |                        |
| SWK 484                          | Field Education Seminar II  | 1 | Written Communication       |                        |
| <b>Teaching &amp; Leadership</b> |   |   |                             |                        |
| T&L 489                          | Senior Capstone: Responsive Teaching *  | 3 | Written Communication       | Advanced Communication |
| <b>Theatre Arts</b>              |   |   |                             |                        |
| THEA 424                         | History of the Theatre: Seventeenth Century to the Present (Open to all majors) | 3 | Written Communication       | Advanced Communication |

\*Course offered online