

Enhanced General Education Curriculum at USF

What is General Education?

General education at any university is a core curriculum that represents what the faculty feel is important for students to learn. It is intended to reflect the skills and knowledge that will make your students stand out from other universities and be successful in life after graduation. In the state of Florida, all general education curricula must be 36 hours and include 21 hours in Communication, Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Math. Beyond that, universities have the freedom to design their own curriculum for the remaining 15 hours.

USF's Enhanced General Education

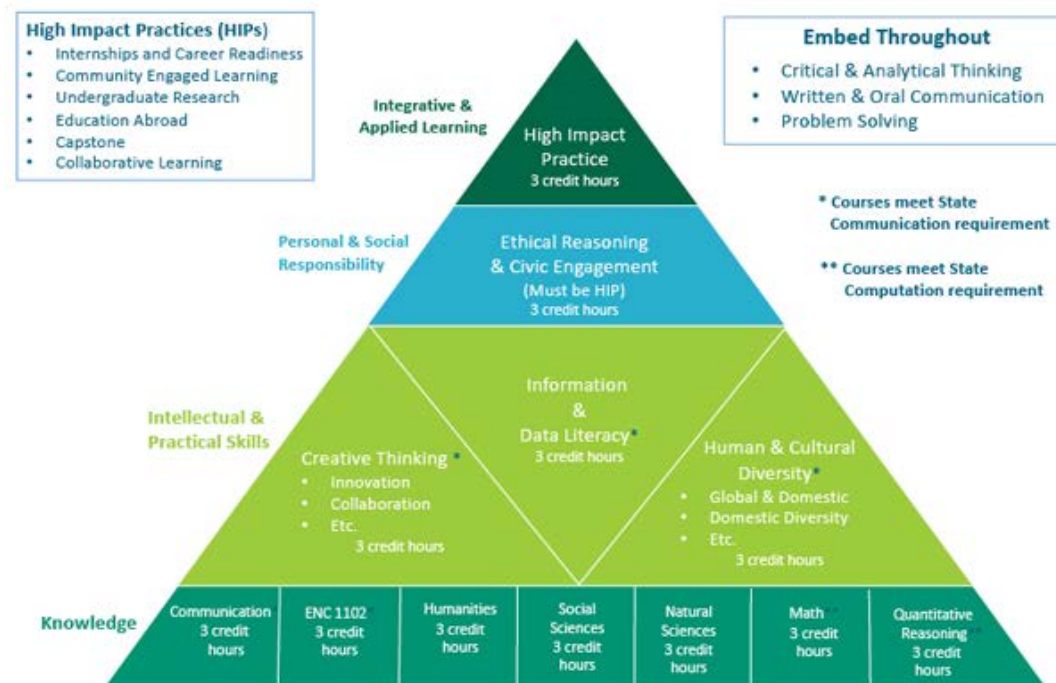
The Enhanced General Education curriculum at USF was based on research conducted by the American Association of Colleges & Universities that looked at the top skills desired by employers and graduate programs ([Hart Research Associates, 2013](#)). USF faculty chose to target the following eight:

1. Creative Thinking
2. Information and Data Literacy
3. Human and Cultural Diversity
4. Ethical Reasoning and Civic Engagement
5. Applied Learning
6. Problem Solving
7. Critical and Analytical Thinking
8. Communication

Undergraduate students take one course in each of the first five areas above and will have two courses with a required High Impact Practice (highly engaged coursework; see [here](#) for more information). The last three skills listed are emphasized in *every* general education course ensuring that students are prepared to be successful citizens in 21st century life. Besides providing a more rigorous and relevant experience for students, the Enhanced General Education curriculum is fully integrated into majors, meaning that students learn these critical skills in the context of their chosen field *and* have more curricular space to possibly complete a minor, explore other courses, or retake required coursework. Further, there are two required High Impact Practice courses meaning students have at least two opportunities for highly engaged learning that teaches them to apply their classroom content to other aspects of life.

Curricular Framework and More Information

More information on the Enhanced General Education curriculum can be found at the [Enhanced General Education](#) website or by downloading [this](#) brochure. Below is the framework for the curriculum.



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