

**Lower Columbia College Curriculum Committee
Distribution / Graduation Requirements for the DTA**

SUMMARY

This document provides an outline of degree requirements, and lists criteria for why/how courses and disciplines are placed in distribution areas.

I. Communications

- A. [ICRC](#) (10 credits)
 - 1. English composition
 - 2. Designated composition or writing courses or courses in basic speaking skills (e.g. speech, rhetoric, or debate)
- B. LCC requires **15** credits from the following courses: ENGL& 101, ENGL& 102, and (CMST& 220 Public Speaking, CMST& 230 Small Group Communication, or CMST 330 Professional/Organizational Communications)

CRITERIA for courses to be added to the distribution area: A composition or writing course or a course in basic speaking skills should have a majority of outcomes aligned with the LCC Global Skills outcomes for Communication:

COMMUNICATION: Express ideas and information in writing and speaking in a manner that is clear and appropriate to the audience, and read and listen effectively.

- A. Students will communicate in complete sentences, demonstrating use of grammar, mechanics, and word choice appropriate to context.
- B. Students will develop and express their ideas clearly and reasonably for a unified purpose.
- C. Students will demonstrate comprehension of a wide variety of materials.
- D. Students will use credible evidence to support arguments and conclusions.

II. Quantitative/Symbolic Reasoning

- A. [ICRC](#) (5 credits)
 - 1. Accepted courses must require a prerequisite intermediate algebra coursework with a grade of 2.0 or higher:
 - a) Pre-calculus or higher (MATH 141)
 - b) Mathematics for Elementary Education (MATH 131 AND 132)
 - c) Business Pre-Calculus/Finite Mathematics (MATH 125)
 - d) Statistics (MATH& 146)
 - e) Math in Society (MATH& 107)

2. Symbolic logic courses that focus on
 - a) Sentence logic with proofs and
 - b) Predicate logic with quantifiers and proofs and/or Aristotelian logic with Venn Diagrams (LCC does not offer this option. If we did, it would be designated as PHIL& 120)
- B. LCC (5 credits)
1. MATH& 107 or higher, except MATH& 131.
 2. **CRITERIA for courses to be added to the distribution area:** A QSR course must be PHIL& 120 or a college level math course numbered 107 and higher that includes a prerequisite of intermediate algebra course work or placement. A math or logic course should have a majority of outcomes aligned with the LCC Global Skills outcomes for Numeracy:

NUMERACY: Achieve competency with numbers and graphical skills to interpret and communicate quantifiable information, and apply mathematical and statistical skills in practical and abstract contexts.

 - A. Students will analyze, interpret and draw valid inferences from graphical and numerical data.
 - B. Students will use quantitative skills to arrive at a solution/conclusion.
 - C. Students will use quantitative skills to assess the validity of a proposed solution conclusion.
 - D. Students will communicate numerical and mathematical processes using appropriate symbols, language and terminology.

III. Humanities

- A. [ICRC](#) 15-20 credits from at least **two** disciplines. No more than 10 credits from any one discipline; no more than 5 credits in a foreign language at the 100 level; no more than 5 credits from a performance/skills course. Within the distribution requirements, integrative, synthesizing courses and programs, including interdisciplinary courses and linked sequences of courses, are to be encouraged, especially for colleges requiring a minimum of two disciplines per area. Performance / skills courses usually include those where the student literally performs a work of music, dance, drama, speech, or art; or engages in a studio art class such as drawing, painting, ceramics, or photography.
 1. Suggested disciplines include
 - a) Art
 - b) Drama/Theater
 - c) Foreign Language/American Sign Language. Faculty are encouraged to include cultural aspects in their curriculum.
 - d) History
 - e) Literature

- f) Music
- g) Philosophy
- h) Speech/Communication Studies

B. LCC requires 15 credits from at least **three** disciplines; no more than 10 credits from any one discipline; no more than 5 credits in performance or skills. Some Social Science courses may also be included in the Humanities, but if so, those courses cannot be used to also satisfy a Social Science distribution requirement.

CRITERIA for courses to be added to the distribution area: Courses should be selected from the ICRC list of suggested disciplines; include disciplines that study aspects of human society and culture; should use an analytical or speculative approach based on a social critique or symbolic interpretation; or they should present a study of how people process and document the human experience.

Some disciplines (History, Philosophy, Psychology, etc.) have courses that could be either Social Science or Humanities.

If a course is interdisciplinary in nature, and could as easily be in the Humanities or Social Science distribution area, then selection should be based on what best serves students in a Guided Pathways framework.

For our purposes in assigning courses to the distribution list, we should consider the analytical method used by a course, and defer to the common experience and understanding of the relevant faculty.

C. Resources

1. [Stanford Humanities Center](#): “The humanities can be described as the study of how people process and document the human experience.”
2. [American Academy of Arts and Sciences](#) Scope of the “Humanities” for the purposes of the Humanities indicators
3. Some practitioners of the Social Sciences use an analytical or speculative approach based on a social critique or symbolic interpretation; these courses would fall within the Humanities ([Wikipedia - Humanities](#)).
4. There is a broad overlap in how the terms humanities and social science are used. While Wikipedia may not be authoritative, information posted there is illustrative of common usage. The [American Academy for Arts and Sciences](#) also includes the discipline of history in the humanities, and all social sciences are included in their [reporting](#) of the awarding of degrees. The Wikipedia [entry for Humanities](#) states that history is a discipline within the humanities. .

IV. Social Science

A. [ICRC](#) 15-20 credits; must be from at least **two** disciplines; no more than 10 credits from one discipline. Within the distribution requirements, integrative, synthesizing courses and programs, including interdisciplinary courses and linked

sequences of courses, are to be encouraged, especially for colleges requiring a minimum of two disciplines per area.

1. suggested disciplines:
 - a) Anthropology
 - b) Economics
 - c) Geography
 - d) History
 - e) Philosophy
 - f) Political Science
 - g) Psychology
 - h) Sociology

B. LCC (15 credits from at least **three** disciplines; no more than 10 credits from one discipline; courses may not be counted toward more than one distribution area.

CRITERIA for courses to be added to the distribution area: Courses should be selected from the suggested list of disciplines, should rely on quantitative and analytical methods, and be derived from a consensus opinion from the faculty in the list of suggested disciplines.

C. Resources

The distinction between the humanities and the social sciences is not well-defined, and quite often, the humanities are considered a large category encompassing social science.

1. National Science Foundation [Classification of fields of study](#).
2. [Wikipedia - Social Science](#)
3. International Association of Universities World Higher Education Database [directory of Social Sciences](#)
4. American Academy of Political and Social Science -[history of the Academy](#). This professional society was “created ... to synthesize and advance research on contemporary political, economic, social, and policy issues”
5. [National Social Science Association](#) is an interdisciplinary association with members consisting of social scientists representing history, geography, education, economics, psychology, anthropology, sociology, ethnic studies, women’s studies, interdisciplinary studies, political science, and other related studies.

V. Natural Science

A. [ICRC](#) (15-20 credits; at least **two** disciplines; no more than 10 credits from any one discipline; shall include at least one lab course; course may not be used to satisfy more than one distribution area.

1. Suggested disciplines:
 - a) Astronomy

- b) Biology
- c) Botany
- d) Chemistry
- e) Geology
- f) Mathematics
- g) Physics
- h) Zoology

- B. LCC 15 credits; from **three** disciplines on the distribution list; 5 credits of lab; at least 10 credits in biological, physical, or earth sciences; no more than 10 credits in any one discipline; no more than 5 credits from math and engineering. Courses used to satisfy the NS distribution area cannot also be used to meet the QSR.

CRITERIA for courses to be added to the distribution area: Courses should be selected from the suggested list of disciplines, although the list is not exhaustive or complete, and should rely on quantitative and analytical methods. For example, we include disciplines such as Oceanography, Environmental Science, Earth Science, Physical Geography, and Biological Anthropology in our current Natural Science catalog of courses. These courses may or may not include a lab. A course in History or Philosophy of Science would be included in the Social Science distribution area.

- C. Resources

1. National Science Foundation [Classification of fields of study](#). This document groups disciplines according to broad headings, such as Biological and Agricultural Sciences, Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences, Physical Sciences, etc.
2. [National Academy of Sciences](#) a professional society that includes physical, life, social, behavioral sciences

VI. PHED Activity Course

- A. [ICRC](#) Appendix A Courses Generally Accepted in Transfer specifically identifies a 3 credit limit on Physical Education activity courses. PE activity courses are defined as courses which primarily involve body movement produced by skeletal muscles resulting energy expenditure through organized group or class activities. PE courses which primarily involve curriculum which is not physically active in nature may be included in the restricted elective distribution area. This rule is a result of the NCAA having the same limit on their athletes and programs; the ICRC determined that we should follow the same best practice and thereby eliminate the possibility of a transfer institution being forced to “unwrap” the DTA.
- B. LCC 3 activity PE credits maximum.

CRITERIA for courses to be added to the category: Courses that primarily involve body movement produced by skeletal muscles resulting energy expenditure through organized group or class activities.

VII. Natural Science Lab Course

A. [SBCTC policy manual](#) 5.40.10 states

Guided Practice

Students are actively engaged in practicing and mastering skills under the supervision of the instructor. This category of instruction could include but are not limited to labs, studios, shops, clinical experiences, computer-mediated learning, hands-on projects, or other skill building activities. Instruction may be individualized or group-focused and include skills assessment. Such activities could take place in a variety of instructional modalities. One credit is generated by two weekly contact hours of instruction or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. May also include out-of-class student effort, typically one hour per two class hours.

VIII. Electives (Unrestricted and Restricted)

A. [ICRC](#): Other college-level courses, of which a maximum of 15 credits may be in college-level courses as defined by the receiving institution. Where appropriate, preparation courses for the major should be included in this course work.

1. College level courses (numbered 100 and above);
2. Any course from a discipline in the current DTA Associate Degree Guidelines Distribution Requirements;
3. Maximum of 15 credits from courses from the restricted electives list (Appendix B, DTA Associates Degree Course List Part II: Restricted Subject Areas for Transfer);
4. Courses from the DTA Associate Degree Guidelines Distribution Requirements (ICRC handbook Appendix A, DTA Associates Degree Course List Part I: Courses Generally Accepted in Transfer);
5. Any course that is a requirement for a Major Related Program (MRP);
6. General survey courses that include appropriate foundational topics that cover basic principles and theories, and/or history and philosophy of the discipline (ICRC Appendix J)

IX. Diversity

A. This is an LCC DTA degree requirement; it is not required by the state DTA agreement. However, the state system of Community and Technical Colleges have a reciprocity agreement whereby:

The receiving institution will accept an entire Diversity Requirement for a transfer degree as being met if that student has met the entire Diversity Requirement of a transfer degree, according to the sending institution's degree criteria.

B. The LCC Diversity Course Proposal form:

<https://forms.gle/9en6NXwZp6JuLRrD9>

1. LCC College Catalog Associate in Arts - Direct Transfer Agreement (AA-DTA)

5 credits. Courses that meet this requirement may also be used toward other graduation requirements and will be designated in course schedules.

2. The proposal form includes the criteria for our diversity courses:

To be considered for inclusion, the following two criteria must be met:

1. The subject matter of a diversity course will be one or more of the following:

- A. Multicultural experience in the United States
- B. Sex and gender in society
- C. History, culture, or religion of non-European civilizations such as Asia, Africa, or Latin America

2. The course outcomes will reflect one or more of the goals of the Diversity Requirement.

- Examine the causes of difference, power, and discrimination to critically evaluate and assess one's own attitudes.

(NOTE: I have not found a site or document listing the goals of the diversity requirement)