

# Blazer Core

## CURRICULUM

### What is the Core Curriculum?

Core curriculum is a group of classes that ALL UAB students have to take before they graduate. These are requirements for you to earn a degree here at UAB and most classes taken during your first two years. These courses are designed to provide you with high-impact educational practices that help you become life-long learners.

**The Core Curriculum** is made-up of several areas. Each area has its own set of courses and you choose the courses you take from each area with the help of your advisor. Some courses are already decided for you based on how you are admitted to UAB.

#### LOCAL BEGINNINGS

You will take a First-Year Experience Course (FYE) to provide you with an introduction to academic study at UAB.

Foundations provide you with foundational knowledge and help you build your skills.

#### ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS

#### THINKING BROADLY

These courses provide you with the ability to think about culture and society and recognize value in diversity and scientific inquiry.

You will take a course that will immerse you in understanding and learning about opportunities surrounding our city.

#### CITY AS CLASSROOM

**Flags:** As you progress through core courses, you will begin to earn Flags that highlight specific skills that you have earned. These unique skills will be reflected throughout your time here at UAB.

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## Course Options

In addition to the credit hours required within the areas listed in this document, students must take one additional course from History and Meaning, The Creative Arts, or Humans and Their Societies.

### Local Beginnings

3 credit hours required

BUS 101 - Introduction to Business  
\*BUS 102 - Business Foundations  
BY 110 - Guide to Surviving Stress  
CAS 112 - Success in College  
EDU 100 - Touch the Future  
EGR 200 - Intro to Engineering  
\*HRP 101 - Experience the University Transition  
NUR 100 - Student Success in Nursing  
PUH 101 - Transitioning to College  
\*PY 107 - Psychology of Adjustment  
\*UASC 101 - Exploring UAB  
UASC 102 - Success and the City  
UASC 105 - Keys to Academic Success

\*Note: online section(s) available for these denoted courses as well as on campus section(s).

### Writing

6 credit hours required

EH 101 - English Composition I  
\*EH 106 - Introduction to Freshman Writing I  
EH 108 - English Composition I for Second Language Writers  
EH 102 - English Composition II  
\*EH 107 - Introduction to Freshman Writing II  
EH 109 - English Composition II for Second Language Writers

\*Note: EH 106/107 require enrollment in 096/097 corequisite labs (total of 4 credit hours); these labs provide individualized, hands-on support.

### Quantitative Literacy

3 credit hours required

MA 105 - Pre-Calculus Algebra  
MA 106 - Pre-Calculus Trigonometry  
\*MA 107 - Pre-Calculus Algebra/Trigonometry  
MA 108 - Mathematics of Social Choice  
\*\*MA 110 & 110L - Finite Mathematics & Lab  
\*\*MA 125 and 125L - Calculus I & Lab  
\*MA 126 - Calculus II  
\*MA 168 - Mathematics of Biological Systems  
MA 180 - Intro to Statistics  
\*MA 225 - Calculus I - Honors  
\*MA 226 - Calculus II - Honors  
MA 252 - Intro to Differential Equations  
MA 260 - Intro to Linear Algebra  
PH 299 - Modeling & Simulation of Data

\*Note: MA 107, 125, 126, 168, 225, and 226 are each 4 credit hour courses.

\*\*Note: MA 110 and MA 125 each require enrollment in a corequisite lab; these labs provide hands-on application to supplement the lectures.

**If you have questions, please contact your academic advisor.**

**Visit [BlazerNET](#) to see which academic advisor(s) has/have been assigned to you.**

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### Reasoning

3 credit hours required

ANTH 104 - Intro to Peace Studies  
BUS 210 - AI and Society  
BY 170 - Biology of Sex  
*HC 128 - Honors Seminar: Ethical Issues*  
Women's Health  
PHL 115 - Contemporary Moral Issues  
PHL 116 - Bioethics  
PHL 120 - Practical Reasoning  
PSC 102 - Foundations of Comparative Politics  
PUH 201 - Introduction to Public Health  
PY 213 - Cross-Cultural Perspective on Child Dev.

### Communicating in the Modern World

3 credit hours required

BY 225 - Issues in Science Policy  
CHI 101 & 101L - Introductory Chinese I & Lab  
CHI 102 & 102L - Introductory Chinese II & Lab  
CMST 101 - Public Speaking  
CMST 105 - Intro to Human Communication  
FR 101 & 101L - Introductory French I & Lab  
FR 102 & 102L - Introductory French II & Lab  
FR 201 - Intermediate French I  
GN 101 & 101L - Introductory German I & Lab  
ITL 101 & 101L - Introductory Italian I & Lab  
JPA 101 & 101L - Introductory Japanese I & Lab  
JPA 102 & 102L - Introductory Japanese II & Lab  
JPA 201 - Intermediate Japanese I  
*PSC 100 - HON Public Service*  
SPA 101 & 101L - Introductory Spanish I & Lab  
SPA 102 & 102L - Introductory Spanish II & Lab  
SPA 201 - Intermediate Spanish I  
WS 100 - Intro to Women's and Gender Studies

Note: all intro language courses must be taken with a co-requisite lab (total of 4 credit hours); these labs provide additional practice in the language.

### History and Meaning

3 credit hours required

AAS 200 - Intro to African-American Studies  
ANTH 106 - Introducing Archaeology  
ARH 210 - Art and Medicine: A History  
EH 210 - Interpreting Film  
EH 212 - Forms of Literature  
EH 213 - Ideas in Literature (topics vary)  
*HC 219 - Honors Seminar: The Mindful Student*  
HY 101 - Western Civilization I  
HY 102 - Western Civilization II  
HY 104 - World History to 1600  
HY 105 - World History 1600 to the Present  
HY 120 - The United States to 1877  
HY 121 - The United States Since 1877  
PHL 100 - Intro to Philosophy  
PHL 125 - Intro to Ethics

### The Creative Arts

3 credit hours required

ARH 101 - The Art Experience  
ARH 102 - Modern Visual Culture  
ARH 206 - Survey of Asian Art  
ARS 280 - Creativity and Imagination  
EH 205 - Intro to Creative Writing  
*HC 218 - Honors Seminar: Chamber Music as Historical Record*  
MU 120 - Music Appreciation  
MU 165 - Jazz Styles: History and Appreciation  
MU 205 - African-American Music: 1619-Present  
THR 100 - Intro to Theatre  
THR 102 - Intro to Cinema  
THR 105 - Intro to Dance  
THR 200 - Plays on Film  
WLL 140 - Worlds of Anime and Manga

Visit [uab.edu/core-curriculum/](http://uab.edu/core-curriculum/) to learn about the Blazer Core.

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### Scientific Inquiry

8 credit hours required

ANTH 102 & 102L - Intro to Biological Anthropology & Lab  
AST 101 & 111 - Astronomy of the Universe and Lab  
AST 103 & 113 - Astronomy of the Solar System & Lab  
AST 105 & 115 - Extraterrestrial Life & Lab  
BY 101 & 102 - Topics in Contemporary Biology & Lab  
BY 108 & 109 - Human Population and the Earth's Environment & Lab  
BY 123 & 123L - Introductory Biology I & Lab  
BY 124 & 124L - Introductory Biology II & Lab  
CH 105 & 106 - Introductory Chemistry I & Lab  
CH 107 & 108 - Introductory Chemistry II & Lab  
CH 115 & 116 - General Chemistry I & Lab  
CH 117 & 118 - General Chemistry II & Lab  
CH 125 & 126 - General Chemistry I Honors & Lab  
CS 104 & 104L - Data Science for All & Lab  
ES 101 & 102 - Physical Geology & Lab  
PH 201 & 201L - College Physics I & Lab  
PH 202 & 202L - College Physics II & Lab  
PH 221 & 221L - General Physics I & Lab  
PH 222 & 222L - General Physics II & Lab  
PHS 101 & 101L - Physical Science & Lab

### Humans and Their Societies

3 credit hours required

ANTH 101 - Intro to Cultural Anthropology  
ANTH 120 - Language and Culture  
DCS 101 - Media, Culture and Society  
EC 210 - Principles of Microeconomics  
EC 211 - Principles of Macroeconomics  
*HC 214 - Honors Seminar: Authentic Leadership*  
LING 110 - Art and Science of Language  
NTR 121 - Well Being and You  
NTR 222 - Nutrition and Health  
PHL 230 - Social and Political Philosophy

### Humans and Their Societies continued

3 credit hours required

PHL 270 - Science, Knowledge and Reality  
PSC 101 - Foundations of American Government  
PSC 103 - Foundations of International Relations  
PUH 202 - Introduction to Global Health  
PUH 204 - Social and Behavioral Determinants of Health  
PY 101 - Intro to Psychology  
*PY 201 - Honors Introduction to Psychology*  
PY 212 - Developmental Psychology  
SOC 100 - Intro to Sociology  
SOC 200 - Social Change  
SOC 280 - Intro to Medical Sociology  
WLL 120 - World Cultures

### City as Classroom

3 credit hours required

ANTH 100 - City as Culture  
AST 121 - Starry Skies in Birmingham  
CHHS 141 - Lifelong Health and Wellness  
EH 203 - Writing in Birmingham  
EH 204 - Reading in Birmingham  
ES 108 - Urban Geology  
GEO 101 - Intro to Geography  
HY 200 - Disease in American South  
NUR 201 - Health in the City  
PH 104 - Community Data Research  
PSC 267 - City as Classroom  
PUH 275 - Health Equity in Alabama  
PUH 280 - Introduction to Sustainability  
WLL 125 - Eating in Birmingham  
WLL 130 - My Global Birmingham

See detailed City as Classroom course descriptions on pgs. 4-7.

## City as Classroom - Course Descriptions

### **ANTH 100 - City as Culture - online**

City as Culture introduces students to multiple aspects of culture and cultural diversity in Birmingham and the UAB campus, drawing from the four subdisciplines of anthropology. The goal is to encourage students to experience and understand the City and campus as rich cultural spaces. Topics include food practices, identity and heritage, religion, language, art, consumption, gender and sexuality, transportation, parks and recreation, pollution and waste, and others.

### **AST 121 - Starry Skies in Birmingham - on campus**

Examines perspectives and strategies for the protection of the natural nighttime environment. Beginning with multicultural perspectives of the night sky and darkness, students will explore scientific, social, and environmental issues related to the impact of artificial light at night on access to the night sky, public safety, and health. Skills to address these impacts will accrue through participation in a scientific service-learning project. Designed for students with little or no scientific experience.

### **CHHS 141 - Lifelong Health and Wellness - on campus / online**

This course equips students with knowledge and skills that support a healthy lifestyle. Topics include dimensions of wellness; components of fitness; nutrition; weight management; stress and sleep; chronic and infectious diseases; addictions related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; sexual behavior/issues; and environmental health. Students will explore local organizations that promote the dimensions of wellness, engage in experiential health promotion learning in their community, and create a sustainable action plan for lifelong health and wellness that can be a part of their life on campus and in the city.

### **EH 203 - Writing in Birmingham - on campus**

Improvement of skills for public writing, using Birmingham as geographical, historical, and institutional context. Emphasis on issues related to Birmingham's past and present, including the ethics and civic responsibilities of Birmingham residents. (Prerequisites: Undergraduate level EH 102 Minimum Grade of C or Undergraduate level EH 107 Minimum Grade of C or Undergraduate level EH 109 Minimum Grade of C).

### **EH 204 - Reading in Birmingham - on campus / online**

Study of literature related to the city of Birmingham and the surrounding area. Themes vary by section: consult the English Department website for a list of section themes. Emphasis on the ways in which works of literature engage with and interrogate cultural ideas of local and regional communities. (Prerequisites: Undergraduate level EH 102 Minimum Grade of C or Undergraduate level EH 107 Minimum Grade of C or Undergraduate level EH 109 Minimum Grade of C).

## City as Classroom - Course Descriptions

### ES 108 - Urban Geology - on campus

Urban lives are dominated by concrete and steel, as well as daily movements from home to campus or work. Every manufactured object is derived from earth's resources, and the planet's dynamic activity drives and constrains movements. This course will introduce students to the resources of the material world, e.g. minerals, rock, water, and the processes that impact the urban environment, e.g. flooding, weathering, etc. Students will learn, practice, and employ scientific thinking skills to better understand and analyze connections between geologic resources and economics, environment, and social justice.

### GEO 101 - Intro to Geography - online

Examines perspectives and strategies for the protection of the natural nighttime environment. Beginning with multicultural perspectives of the night sky and darkness, students will explore scientific, social, and environmental issues related to the impact of artificial light at night on access to the night sky, public safety, and health. Skills to address these impacts will accrue through participation in a scientific service-learning project. Designed for students with little or no scientific experience.

### HY 200 - Disease in American South - on campus

This class uses Birmingham and surrounding communities as a lens through which to examine life, culture, history, and religion in the American South. Each class will explore a specific topic including, but not limited to: the civil rights movement, labor history, gender, sexuality, medical disparities, the local music and art scene, innovation and technological advancement, the immigrant experience, and religious practice.

### NUR 201 - Health in the City - on campus

The purpose of this course is to explore how environmental and social determinants contribute to health among urban dwellers. The focus is on the impact urbanization has on the physical and emotional wellbeing of selected vulnerable populations including children, immigrants, the homeless, elders, racial/ethnic/sexual minority groups, and the poor. Emphasis is on policies, planning, and strategies used to reduce health disparities and meet the challenges of promoting health in Birmingham, AL, and similar mid-sized cities in the U.S.

### PH 104 - Community Data Research - on campus

Working with a team of other undergraduate students, students will engage in team-based/project-based learning opportunities to find answers to real-world data analysis questions relevant to Birmingham. This course is designed to provide students of all disciplines with a local experiential learning opportunity in data analysis and data communication by using the department of Physics expertise in Computational and Data-Driven Materials Physics Research.

(Continued on next page).



## City as Classroom - Course Descriptions

### PH 104 - Community Data Research (Continued) - on campus

Students learn to solve problems by using data analysis and deliver data projects with relevance to our local community interests, local quality of life, and local economic development. This course features a carefully guided and curated selection of introductory-level topics related to data analytics and data modeling. Data analysis tools used within the context of the course are of relevance for the local and national STEM and data workforce. Emphasis is placed on developing inductive and deductive reasoning skills specific to the analysis of data and on using computational tools for model development and testing. Students will make and explore conjectures about data in a variety of disciplines, by using techniques developed in the fields of computational and data science and data-driven materials physics to understand social science, business, and finance data. Students will be introduced to the use of simple models to visualize and qualitatively understand quantitative information. Students will work as part of a team to design and develop data analysis.

### PSC 267 - City as Classroom - on campus

The heart of the political process is often rooted in neighborhoods, communities, and local governments. Cities evolve along with social norms, cultural and demographic changes, and as issues of local and global importance create critical needs. Issues range from lack of infrastructure to address emerging issues of health, education, welfare, and transportation to understanding and addressing human rights of vulnerable populations such as homeless, formerly incarcerated, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ groups. Responses to these ever evolving and changing issues require critical reflection and creativity with thinking outside of the traditional box. Complex social issues are often rooted in histories of oppression, marginalization, economic disadvantage, educational neglect, and generalized structural disadvantage driven by lack of access to or participation in the political process. This course will encourage students to investigate and respond to complex social issues by providing high impact learning methods that assist them in creative solutions. Particular attention will be directed toward team-based learning leading to cutting-edge solutions for complex problems. Topics in this course will change relative to current events and faculty areas of expertise. Specific topics will be identified in the course title

### PUH 275 - Health Equity in Alabama - online

In an atmosphere of discovery, we will learn about the public health needs of residents, who meets them, and how we can be a part of the solution. This course will cover the concept of health equity and a broad overview of health disparities in the Birmingham metro area and across the state of Alabama and then identify ways to work with community partners to address them. This course will examine relevant historical issues, theories, and empirical data emphasizing critical analysis and application of knowledge. Students will gain a better understanding of interventions to promote health equity through a combination of readings, lectures, reflection papers, in-class exercises, and proposing a Commitment to Action. Among outcomes, students will summarize the evidence regarding a specific health disparity (topic and population of their choice) and develop and propose an intervention to promote health equity.

## City as Classroom - Course Descriptions

### PUH 280 - Introduction to Sustainability - on campus

Starting from a foundation of social, economic, and environmental sustainability literacy, this course examines placed-based examples of successes and challenges in pursuing a more sustainable present and future. Through lectures, videos, team discussions, local field experiences, virtual engagement, and guest speakers, students will gain new perspectives on complex issues impacting sustainability. Particular areas of emphasis include the built environment, transportation, waste, food, economics, energy, natural systems, policy, and climate change from all perspectives: individual, municipal, corporate, national, and international. Students will be challenged to formulate a framework and set of core principles for applying sustainability within their own personal and professional lives.

### WLL 125 - Eating in Birmingham - on campus

This course explores the connection between cuisine and culture at different levels in the restaurant and food scene in Birmingham, AL. Students will analyze the interconnectedness of multicultural influence, economy, history, and culture through the study of iconic Birmingham foods and culinary groups. In this course, students will explore fine dining, food trucks, and locally owned restaurants through kitchen visits and collaboration, chef and cook interviews, and critical reflection on relevant texts and multimedia materials. Students will examine the various factors that influence food availability, tradition, and representation in the local community through a social justice lens and conclude the course with a collaborative research project contributing to the students' own and local community's understanding of its relationship with food in the past, present, and future.

### WLL 130 - My Global Birmingham - online

This experiential learning course is an overview of Birmingham's connections with countries other than the United States, taught by a specialist in a specific global region, its languages, and its cultures. Precursors to Birmingham's 1871 foundation include previous cities in Alabama that have determined the city's ever-global culture. Topics may include but are not limited to nonviolence and job opportunities in a global context. Students will demonstrate understanding of Birmingham's ties to other nations and regions. They will complete an experiential learning project to interact in a hands-on manner with the Birmingham community.

**Did you know? The next QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) topic for UAB beginning Fall 2025 is "The City is Our Classroom."**

**Our signature courses immerse you in the city as a space of learning, providing you with opportunities to apply your knowledge to real world opportunities and issues right here.**