



Liberal Education Program Advising Guide—Fall 2018

A great college education is transformative. For our students, the cornerstones of this transformation are a student’s major and the Liberal Education Program (LEP). Students develop the specific skills and depth of knowledge required for expertise within a particular field or profession through their major. Students gain the foundational skills and exposure to different ways of thinking that are required of flexible, creative citizens through the LEP. This program, shared by all students on campus, is designed to balance the major’s narrowing effects with exposure to a wide range of people, ideas and attitudes. We encourage students to embrace the LEP as an opportunity to learn about themselves, explore new interests and look for yet unidentified abilities. Core skills are developed in the Tier 1 courses. These skills are applied in Tier 2 courses as students explore the breadth and diversity of the university. The Tier 3 (capstone) course is a chance to step back and connect all that one has learned.

Tier 1 courses help students develop the foundational competencies that are essential to success in Tiers 2 and 3 and in their upper-level major courses. Ideally, a student that is academically prepared for college-level work will complete all of Tier 1 by the end of freshman year. Practically, many students need to take prerequisite courses for some areas, but should be advised to complete Tier 1 by the end of sophomore year, if possible.

Tier 1 competency	Prerequisites/placement	Waiver policies
INQ 101—First year experience		Waived for transfer students with 15 or more transfer credits. ¹
Critical Thinking		Transfer student waiver policy. ²
Multilingual Communication (must complete up through the third level of a language)	Many students may need to take a first or second-level prerequisite course. See placement link http://www.southernct.edu/placement/	Transfer student waiver policy. ³
Quantitative Reasoning	Many students may need to take a first or second-level prerequisite course. See placement link above.	
Technological Fluency		
Written Communication	Many students may need to take a prerequisite class. See placement link above.	

- 1 Waiver policies based on transfer credits are based on “initial transfer credits”, which is the number of credits taken and transferred prior to the first semester that a student is matriculated at SCSU.
- 2 Waived for transfer students with 30 or more credits AND an overall transfer GPA \geq 2.5 AND at least three Tier 2 equivalent transfer classes. Students can contact the LEP director if they believe they are eligible for the waiver.
- 3 Waived for transfer students with 60 or more credits or an Associate’s degree. Waived for transfer students with 30-59 credits AND who took up through Level 3 of a language in high school. Otherwise, transfer students with 30-59 credits can complete this requirement with a second-level college course.

Tier 2 courses cover different areas of knowledge that prepare students for active citizenry and serve as the basis for lifelong learning.

Only two requirements in Tier 2 may be fulfilled by courses in the same subject area.

All students must complete both Natural World I and II and are required to complete any 6 of the 7 remaining areas of knowledge. However, students are required to complete all Tier 2 areas that are restricted by their major. For example, if a student is in a major that restricts the Mind and Body requirement, he/she will see the following on the degree evaluation:

- Natural World I
- Natural World II
- Mind and Body
- Complete 5 of 6 of
 - American Experience
 - Creative Drive
 - Cultural Expressions
 - Global Awareness
 - Social Structure, Conflict and Consensus
 - Time and Place

Tier 2 Study Abroad policy: All current students who study abroad for the span of a semester or year shall have the opportunity to use up to two of their successfully completed courses for Tier 2 requirements. These must be courses taken during the study abroad experience that are otherwise counting only for elective credits. Students, however, may not substitute these courses for departmental degree requirements, unless authorized by the department, nor may they substitute for both of the Natural World science requirements.

The Tier 3 capstone seminar integrates all three goal categories of the general education program: competencies, areas of knowledge and experience, and discussions of values.

New policy starting Fall 2019: All Tier 1 courses and 6 of the 8 Tier 2 courses must be completed before completing the Tier 3 capstone.

Currently, students may take a Tier 3 course after completing 6 Tier 2 courses. Starting in the Fall of 2019, in addition, all Tier 1 courses must either be completed prior to taking a Tier 3 course or be taken concurrently with Tier 3.

Students may replace a Tier 3 course with the completion of a departmental honors thesis, HON 495. This option is available to all students, and not only those in the Honors College. If Tier 3 is restricted for the student's major, the department chairperson can decide whether to allow HON 495 to replace the required departmental Tier 3 course.

Note: Students in the Honors College are required to fulfill the Tier 1 Quantitative Reasoning and Multilingual Communication requirements, along with any LEP areas that are restricted by their major. All other LEP requirements are met by the Honors College curriculum.