Welcome to Belmont University!

This guide will help you understand our General Education program and hopefully answer most of your questions regarding course requirements, transfer policies, and registration. You may want to save this handbook to consult throughout your time at Belmont.

The BELL Core, the name of Belmont’s distinctive General Education curriculum, is shorthand for The Belmont Experience: Learning for Life. As you progress through your undergraduate education, you will come to discover that General Education at Belmont is far more than introductory courses that students “get out of the way” before pursuing courses in majors or minors. Instead, the BELL Core is truly a core—a common intellectual and academic experience shared by every student in every program of study. Moreover, the BELL Core is a dynamic program. All of us learn in stages, and the curriculum is designed to move forward with you as you move from your freshman to senior year. From the beginning, in First-Year Seminar, where you will be challenged to consider the complexities of knowledge and gain an appreciation for the fact there is far more than one way of “knowing” something, to your Senior Capstone Seminar that will engage you in reflection on your years at Belmont and also your future as a life-long learning, all of the BELL Core courses are designed to challenge you, inspire you, and, most importantly, prepare you for the future.

What follows is a description of the General Education program, including information on each of the courses that comprise the BELL Core. If you ever have question regarding the General Education program, the best place to begin is at the General Education website, at www.belmont.edu/bellcore. You may also contact the Office of General Education, at (615) 460-6183 or gened@belmont.edu.

Best wishes you begin you education at Belmont. We’re happy you are here!

Dr. Alison Moore
Director of General Education
The BELL Core: Vision, Purpose, & Values

OUR VISION is to nurture each student’s capability for transforming human culture and complements professional and vocational pathways. Liberal education involves acquiring fundamental intellectual skills; becoming conversant with a variety of human ideas, cultural perspectives, and conceptual frameworks; and developing habits of ethical reflection and action in an interdependent world. This vision of General Education enables Belmont University to achieve its vision to be a premier teaching university, bringing together the best of liberal arts and professional education in a Christian community of learning and service.

The BELL Core Curriculum at Belmont University is designed to help students develop:

- Sophisticated rhetorical skills, with particular emphasis on written and oral language, including effective writing and speaking; recognizing, evaluating, and constructing written and oral arguments; recognizing and evaluating visual and other forms of non-language-based communication; effective use of technology.

- Sophisticated critical thinking skills (inquiry, reflection, and analysis), including: quantitative reasoning, critical reading and reflection, engaging and solving complex problems, understanding systems and relationships, including interdependencies and interconnections.

- An understanding and enriched appreciation of the arts, humanities, religion, social sciences, and natural sciences, by focusing on both the conceptual frameworks and the diverse achievements in these areas.

- An understanding of the complex nature of the world and become responsibly engaged with that larger whole, including: local, national, international, and global perspectives; diversity; the consequences of individual decisions in an interdependent world.

The BELL Core curriculum is designed to provide students with learning opportunities at different stages in their academic development. There is a core of “signature” courses that students take in addition to menu options to complete their disciplinary (distribution) requirements. On the following page is a listing of the minimum BELL Core requirements for all students (with the exception of honors). Many of the degree options (BA, BS, BBA, etc.) require students to take additional courses in math, social science, science, foreign language, and/or humanities. Current BELL Core requirements can be found in the catalog by following the link to “General Education” in the red bar on the left. More detailed information can be found on the BELL Core website:  www.belmont.edu/bellcore.
BELL Core At-a-Glance

BELL Core Signature requirements:

GND 1015†…First Year Seminar (FYS; taken by freshmen during their first semester)
ENG 1010…First Year Writing (taken by freshmen during their first semester)
Learning Community Courses†…LCC; topical courses from different disciplines that are linked together (taken by freshmen during the spring semester)
COM 1100…Fundamentals of Speech Communication (taken during the sophomore year)
REL 10XX…Understanding the Bible OR Intro. to the Old Testament (to be completed in the first 2 years)
Mathematics…MTH 1020/1080 OR CSC 1020 (to be completed in the first 2 years)
XXX3015*†…Junior Cornerstone Seminar; discipline specific courses designed to also count as a disciplinary general education course (to be taken during the Junior year)
ENG 3010*…Third Year Writing (taken by Juniors during the spring semester)
REL 30XX…additional religion course; path-dependent (to be completed during the last 2 years)
XXX 4015*†…Senior Capstone Seminar (taken by seniors after completing ENG 3010 and JCS)
Wellness…two hours of classroom instruction (PED or NUR) + one hour of activity (PED)
GS & EL…students must take a total of 4 Global Studies courses and 2 Experiential Learning courses.

BELL Core Distribution Requirements:

Students must take at least one course in each of the following areas (see catalog at http://www.belmont.edu/catalog/ for information on which courses count and for any additional requirements for a specific degree; BS, BA, BBA, BFA, BM, BSN, BSW):

Social Science…HIS, PSC, SOC, ECO, COM, MDS
Humanities…HUM, ENL, ENW, PHI, CLA, EUR, foreign language (BA degree requires foreign language)
Lab Science…BIO, CEM, PHY, PSY
Fine Art…ART, DAN, TDR, MUH

*these courses are taken by ALL students at Belmont and are NOT transferrable from another institution
†these courses appear in the green box/folder on the right side of the main class finder page
first-year seminar (FYS; GND 1015)

FYS is a small class (approximately 20 students) where you will have the opportunity to get to know your fellow classmates as well as your professor. This is a reading and writing intensive course, so expect this course to be challenging! Your professor will push you to stretch your thinking, engage in meaningful conversation, and complete a substantial research project. You will leave this course better prepared to embark upon your academic work at Belmont.

This course hinges on the bedrock issues of life-long learning: What is knowledge? Are there multiple ways of knowing and understanding the world around us? How do we apply knowledge gained in the classroom to the world around us? Each FYS is organized around a set of questions to help you in your journey toward becoming a deep thinker, an effective communicator, and most importantly, a responsible and engaged citizen.

Every FYS in the Belmont catalog is designated GND 1015. But each section will carry a different title and course description, based on that instructor’s experience and interests. You will cover somewhat different material in each FYS, but each FYS will be focused around a common book and theme selected especially for your freshman class. Sign up for whichever one sounds interesting to you… or whichever one fits your schedule best! The course titles are listed on cCassfinder and the individual descriptions are listed here: www.belmont.edu/bellcore/academic advising

Every freshman at Belmont will read a common book this fall, no matter what their major, no matter what their background. This common book is chosen for its relevance to the theme “Ways of Knowing" and may also relate to the campus-wide theme which changes each year. Your First-Year Seminar (FYS) will explore the common book and other texts, as well as a variety of films, guest speakers, plays, and other media. You will be asked to think critically, draw conclusions, and make rational arguments about the subject in person and on paper.

first-year writing (ENG 1010)

All students are required to complete a first-year writing course. Some students may have completed this requirement before coming to Belmont. If you have successfully completed a dual enrollment freshman composition course, scored 4 or above on the AP exam, or received IB credit for writing, you will not need to re-take ENG 1010. These credits will appear on your Degree Works if they have been transferred to Belmont. If you have any questions about ENG 1010 credit, please ask your advisor.
learning community courses (LCC)

After you successfully complete First-Year Seminar, you will register for a pair courses taught by different instructors, connected by a common issue, text, or an overlap in content (spring semester). These are your Learning Community Courses (or LCCs). Both of these courses will be comprised of the exact same roster of students. The Learning Community Courses can be found in classfinder by clicking on “Learning Communities” in the green box/folder on the right side of the main classfinder page. These are the only courses that fulfill the LCC requirement.

The primary purpose of the LCC is to build on your understanding of the “Ways of Knowing” developed in the FYS. The experience of “crossing borders,” which is central to the FYS, will be a regular practice as you move between two disciplines, completing common assignments, readings, and projects. In the LCC you will learn to recognize the connections of knowledge and the ways one discipline contributes to understanding in another.

In order to receive credit for the LCC requirement you must pass both of the courses. If you fail one or both, you will not receive credit for the “linkage” requirement and will have to pass both courses of another LCC.

Each of the courses in your LCC will also satisfy a General Education requirement (fine art, science, social science, humanities, religion, or math). Take advantage of your many choices early on, and take your LCC at your earliest opportunity, usually the 2nd semester of your freshman year.
math requirements

Incoming Freshmen:

Each incoming freshman must take one of the following three BELL Core courses before their junior year. Placement is by interest and test score. Taking a second course from this list will not satisfy the mathematics requirement of any degree. Students are not allowed to earn credit for both MTH 1020 and MTH 1080. The BELL Core mathematics courses do not satisfy the prerequisites for other mathematics courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math ACT</th>
<th>Math SAT</th>
<th>Placement Test</th>
<th>Students should plan to take</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-24</td>
<td>0-560</td>
<td>0-23</td>
<td>MTH 1020 – Intro. to Mathematical Reasoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-36</td>
<td>520-800</td>
<td>20-40</td>
<td>CSC 1020 – Intro. to Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-36</td>
<td>570-800</td>
<td>24-40</td>
<td>MTH 1080 – Mathematical Inquiry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transfer Students:

If a student transfers 30 or more semester hours to Belmont at the time of initial admission and those hours include a mathematics course that is non-remedial according to Belmont standards, then that mathematics course will transfer for BELL Core mathematics credit. Otherwise the transfer student must take one of the BELL Core courses listed above. (Courses titled Basic Mathematics, Basic Algebra, Elementary Algebra, or Intermediate Algebra are nearly always remedial.)

All Students:

Students planning to take mathematics courses in addition to a BELL Core mathematics course must meet the prerequisites listed below in order to be able to register for those courses. Alternatively, the prerequisites for MTH 1130, MTH 1140, MTH 1150, MTH 1151, and MTH 1170 may be met by passing College Algebra with at least a C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math ACT</th>
<th>Math SAT</th>
<th>Placement Test</th>
<th>Meets Prerequisites for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>480-560</td>
<td>17-23</td>
<td>MTH 1110 - College Algebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-36</td>
<td>520-800</td>
<td>20-40</td>
<td>MTH 1150 - Elementary Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-36</td>
<td>520-800</td>
<td>20-40</td>
<td>MTH 1151 - Elementary Statistics for Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-26</td>
<td>560-600</td>
<td>23-26</td>
<td>MTH 1140 - Quantitative Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-26</td>
<td>570-600</td>
<td>24-26</td>
<td>MTH 1130 – Precalculus Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-26</td>
<td>570-600</td>
<td>24-26</td>
<td>MTH 1170 - Calculus I for Business, Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-36</td>
<td>610-800</td>
<td>27-40</td>
<td>MTH 1210 - Calculus I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
junior cornerstone seminar (JCS; XXX 3015)  
& third-year writing (ENG 3010)

You will take a Junior Cornerstone Seminar during your junior year (either semester) and a Third-Year Writing course (spring semester) to reinforce the principles of research, critical thinking, and effective communication that you’ve been working on since you came to Belmont as a freshman or transfer student. Once again, your professors will expect you to challenge the status quo and think outside the box.

Always designated as a 3015 course in the catalog, no matter what the discipline, this class does NOT count toward your major, only toward Gen Ed (BELL Core). If a course is NOT designated 3015, it will not count as a JCS. Every junior will take a JCS in one of the following areas:

- Fine Arts
- Humanities
- Religion
- Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Wellness

The JCS will serve as half of your experiential learning (EL) credit in the BELL Core system. You will conduct a research project on a “problem” with a team of classmates and present your results to a larger group, to be determined by your instructor. You will be graded, at a minimum, on self-directed learning, reasoning skills, and interpersonal skills.

senior capstone seminar

In your years at Belmont University, you will meet many different kinds of people--friends, classmates, faculty, staff, guest speakers. They will influence how you think and act.

You will learn more about the world and how it works--history, science, art, music, language, math, religion. This will affect the choices you make.

The Senior Capstone is the final piece of the puzzle that completes your BELL Core experience. You will reflect on your entire Belmont career and the effect it has had on your mind and spirit and the direction of your life. Where do you go from here and why? What do you hope to accomplish and how will you do it? The educational experiences you have, the friends you make here, will go with you. What will you make of them?

Senior Capstone Seminar is designed to encourage reflection on these questions.
international baccalaureate (IB)

Belmont University recognizes the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum as a strong pre-university program and encourages students in this program to apply to the university.

Credit for individual tests will be awarded for scores of 5, 6, or 7 for tests that were taken at the “higher level” as opposed to the “standard level”. For students who have earned IB diplomas, further consideration will be given in awarding credit, based on the evaluation of their entire IB transcript. A maximum of 24 semester hours’ credit may be earned in IB, AP, and other pre-university courses.

advanced placement (AP)

Belmont University participates in the Advanced Placement program of the College Entrance Examination Board, and gives advanced placement and appropriate hours of university credit to qualified entering students. University credit is awarded automatically for the courses listed below to students who receive the scores indicated. University credit is awarded in the amount carried by the course for which the student is receiving advanced placement. For instance, you may receive 3 hours for a history course or 4 hours for a physics course that includes a lab.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AP Test</th>
<th>AP Score</th>
<th>University Course for which credit is received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Government</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>PSC 1210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American History</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>Either HIS 2010 or HIS 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>ART 2000, 2800, or 2810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>BIO 1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>BIO 1010 &amp; BIO 1110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHY 1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>CEM 1610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>CEM 1610 &amp; CEM 1620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Government</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>3 hours PSC elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test A</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>CSC 1110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test AB</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CSC 1110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test AB</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>CSC 1110 &amp; CSC 1120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Lang. and Comp. or Lit. and Comp.</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>ENG 1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Lang. and Comp. or Lit. and Comp</td>
<td>At least 4 on BOTH tests</td>
<td>ENG 1010 &amp; 3 hours of general elective credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP Test</td>
<td>AP Score</td>
<td>University Course for which credit is received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European History</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>HIS 1020 or 3 hours of HIS elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Lang. or Lit.</td>
<td>3, 4, or 5</td>
<td>FRE 1010, 1020, 2010, or 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Lang. or Lit.</td>
<td>3, 4, or 5</td>
<td>GER 1010, 1020, 2010, or 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin Lang. or Lit.</td>
<td>3, 4, or 5</td>
<td>LAT 1010, 1020, 2010, or 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macro economics</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>ECO 2210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math – Statistics</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>MTH 1150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math AB calculus</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>MTH 1210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math BC calculus</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MTH 1210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music: Listen/Lit</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>MUH 1200 or 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music: Theory</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>MUT 1310 or 1380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHY 1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>PHY 1110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>PHY 1110 &amp; 1120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>PSY 1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>3, 4, or 5</td>
<td>SPA 1010, 1020, 2010, or 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World History</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>HIS 1020 or 3 hours of HIS elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**dual enrollment credits**

You may transfer credit earned through dual enrollment during high school that are similar to Belmont courses, if you earned a grade of C- or better. Dual enrollment courses are treated the same as transfer courses and you must have the official transcript sent to Belmont for those classes to count. Once transferred, these dual enrollment classes will appear on your DegreeWorks just like any other college course.
transfer credits

You may transfer credit earned at another university or college for classes that bear a clear resemblance to ours, if you earned a grade of C- or above in the class being transferred to Belmont University. The following pages relate only to credits that you want to apply to your BELL Core requirements. This does not delve deeply into your major degree requirements. Please consult your advisor about that.

The Following are non-transferable toward the BELL Core:

- ENG 3010: Third-Year Writing
- Junior Cornerstone Seminar
- Senior Capstone Seminar

**NOTE:** The burden of proof to ensure the appropriateness of the transfer equivalency falls to the student. The information on a transcript may not be adequate; catalog course descriptions and/or syllabi may be needed to verify the course’s appropriateness.

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR (FYS) AND LEARNING COMMUNITY COURSES (LCC)

All first-time, full-time freshmen ARE REQUIRED to take FYS and LCC at Belmont University.

Students who have successfully completed 30 or more credit hours in college (two full-time semesters) are exempt from FYS and LCC. The 30-hour requirement does not include AP credits or IB credits. This policy applies to all regular transfer students and all re-admitted students who have been away from Belmont for more than two years and are therefore following the catalog in place at the time of their re-admission.

Students who have successfully completed two consecutive full-time semesters of college—25 to 29 hours either after high-school graduation or through dual-enrollment college credit earned while still in high school—may appeal to be exempt from these Belmont requirements. Students who are appealing must present their college or dual-enrollment transcripts to the Office of General Education, showing clearly that they have earned an average of “C” or higher, and making the case that they have completed two consecutive, full-time college semesters.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (EL)

Students who transfer in 1-95 college credit hours still must complete the requirement of TWO EL courses. Junior Cornerstone Seminar (JCS) will be one of them.

Students who transfer in 96+ hours (about 6 ½ semesters) must complete ONE EL course. This will be the JCS.
GLOBAL STUDIES (GS)

Students who transfer in 1-59 hours (up to about 4 semesters) must complete the requirement of FOUR GS courses. Students who transfer in 60+ hours (after sophomore year) must have TWO GS courses. Students who transfer in with courses or other credits that clearly meet Belmont’s criteria for the GS courses will be granted credit accordingly.

This policy for transfer students applies equally to students who have been re-admitted to Belmont after having been away from Belmont for more than two years, which means that they are following the catalog in place at the time of their re-admission.

MATH

If you transfer to Belmont with 30 or more semester hours at the time of initial admission, you may transfer for BELL Core math credit any math course that is NON-REMEDIAL according to Belmont standards.

Generally these titles are remedial and will NOT count for Gen Ed/ BELL Core credit at Belmont: General Mathematics, Business Math, Pre-Algebra Mathematics, Advanced Algebra, Basic Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, and Intermediate College Algebra.

SPEECH COMMUNICATION

Transferable: Any 3-hour course in speech/communication that includes significant public speaking and instruction in public speaking.

Transferable: Any 3-hour course in business and professional communication that includes significant public speaking (3 or more individual speeches, at least 2 of which require research), as well as instruction in public speaking.

Not automatically transferable: Courses that are “hybrid” communication survey courses, covering multiple areas of communication: interpersonal, small group, public speaking, etc. These courses can count if they include significant public speaking (3 or more individual speeches, at least 2 of which require research) as well as instruction in public speaking.
RELIGION

**Transferable:** For REL 1010: Any 3-hour course that covers the entire canon of the Bible, New and Old Testaments together.

**Transferable:** For REL 1020: Any 3-hour “Old Testament” course that is a survey of the Old Testament.

**Transferable:** For REL 3000-level: If a student transfers to Belmont with credit in any college Religion course (1000-4000 level) it can count for the second course of the Religion requirement (i.e., for REL 3020, 3060, 3080, or 3090).

**NON-Transferable For REL 3000-level:** Once a student has matriculated to Belmont, he or she may not take a lower-level Religion course at another institution and transfer this course in as Belmont’s 3000-level Religion requirement after the student has acquired 45 credit hours toward his or her degree.

HUMANITIES

Any 3-hour course from any of the following prefixes: HUM, PHI, ENG, any foreign language prefix, and any prefix that clearly indicates writing (excluding freshman composition) or literature.

Exceptions to the above are:

- Courses used to meet the First-Year Writing requirement
- Courses that focus on methods of teaching English
- First-semester beginning language course without an additional higher-level course in the same language, transferred in or taken subsequently at Belmont University.

Students pursuing a BA or BFA cannot use foreign language to fulfill the Humanities requirement, since they have a separate foreign language requirement.

American Sign Language, taken at the appropriate level, fulfills the Foreign Language requirement for the BA and BFA degree. It does not fulfill the humanities requirement except in rare cases where students can demonstrate the course had a cultural component exposing them to a broader understanding of deaf culture.

This policy implies that students transferring in 6 hours of a first-year writing course like ENG 101-102 can substitute one of the two courses for ENG 1010 and the other for the Humanities requirement if it addresses literature or social problems/issues.
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Transferable: Any 3-hour course from Anthropology, Communication Studies (non-speech), Economics, Geography (culturally based, non-lab), History, Political Science, Media Studies, or Sociology. Courses should be theoretically or conceptually based, rather than skills based or technical courses.

SCIENCES

Students must have a minimum of 4 hours of Science credit, including a Science course with a lab component, but not necessarily a 4-hour course. If they do not have a 4-hour Science course, they may also fulfill this requirement through two 3-hour Science courses. If one of these has a lab component, then the student has fulfilled the lab requirement as well. Students may take additional lab-based Science courses, or may take additional Science courses without labs.

Belmont’s standard Psychology course (which fulfills one of the Science requirements) is PSY 1200, which is a 4-hour, lab-based course. If a student has taken a 3-hour introductory psychology course without a lab at another institution, it can be used as a second science course to fulfill a degree-specific general education distribution requirement. All degrees except the BM and BFA degrees have such additional requirements. Additional science hours are optional within the BBA degree.

For any student who wishes to take psychology courses for which PSY 1200 is a prerequisite, a 3-hour intro psychology course without a lab will satisfy that prerequisite. This does not, however, replace the need for a 4-hour, lab-based science course that must be taken to satisfy the BELL Core Science requirement.

WELLNESS

Students need to complete a total of 3 hours of health and wellness courses, 1 hour of which must be an activity-based course. The remaining 2 hours should be from a course or courses incorporating concepts of fitness, wellness, and health. These courses must include one more of the following concepts: healthy lifestyles, risk factors, disease prevention, nutrition, and health-related fitness.

FINE ARTS

Students may transfer in any 3-hour course in Art, Music, Theatre, or Dance that is primarily an arts history/culture course. A combination course such as an allied arts course is also acceptable. The course may be a survey course, or it may focus on one particular area. The course may focus on the arts of the classical tradition, commercial/American popular tradition, or a specific world tradition or era. Ensembles and studio, skill- or performance-based courses (such as private voice, studio art courses, dance courses such as ballet, acting courses or music theory) do not meet the Fine Arts requirement.
Your academic advisor will be there to assist with understanding your degree requirements, including those that make up the BELL Core. Be sure to get to know your advisor early on in your career as a student. Here are some pointers, as you begin to plan your Belmont years:

1. Know your degree requirements. Each degree has unique requirements, including some from General Education. Consult the Course Catalog carefully [http://www.belmont.edu/catalog/](http://www.belmont.edu/catalog/). Also, be aware that changing majors may change your Gen Ed requirements (although usually the changes are small).

2. Develop a strong relationship with your advisor. Your academic advisor is here to help! Make sure to meet him or her as early as possible. Make a note of that phone number and email address. Our faculty take this role seriously and are motivated to answer your questions and keep you on track to complete your degree.

3. Plan ahead! As you look through the requirements for Gen Ed, you will see that it pays to plan out a long-term strategy for completing them. Some courses, such as Learning Communities and Junior Cornerstones, satisfy other requirements as well. Talk with your advisor about killing two birds with one stone whenever you can!

4. Ask questions. Never hesitate to ask if you don’t understand what is required. Take charge of your education. Make sure you are on the right path at all times!

There is a lot of information about the Gen Ed program online. The best place to start is on the “Academic Advising” page, at the BELL Core website, [www.belmont.edu/bellcore/academic_advising/index.html](http://www.belmont.edu/bellcore/academic_advising/index.html). Here you will find:

- FYS course descriptions
- LCC information, including registration procedures and courses offered
- JCS descriptions and policies
- GS and EL info
- Transfer credit policies for Gen Ed courses (including AP and IB)
- Math policies and placement procedures

On the following pages you will find a series of “-Year Gen Ed Check-up” lists. Use these pages to help guide you while planning your academic career.
First-Year Gen Ed Check-up

- **Convocation:** How many credits have you completed so far? (for traditional freshmen, 60 total credits—10 in each category—are required in order to graduate. By the end of this academic year, you should try to complete 15 or more)

- **First-Semester Freshman are expected to take:**
  - First-Year Seminar (GND 1015)
  - First-Year Writing (ENG 1010)

- **Second-Semester Freshmen are expected to take:**
  - LCC (Learning Community Courses or “links”). There is an LCC page in Classfinder (green “folder” on the right side of the page). Your LCC must come from that list of courses. Every LCC will have a section number in the 50s or 60s, and it will have an L or K in the section number. Very few sections will be offered in the Fall, so you should plan to take LCC this spring.

- When will you take Math (MTH 1020, MTH 1080, or CSC 1020; based on your ACT score)?

- When will you take Speech (COM 1100)?

- Have you taken any GS/EL courses yet? A letter after the section number will tell you if it counts toward GS or EL. You need 4 GS and 2 EL.

- How many hours have you fulfilled in Science? Social Science? Humanities? Fine Arts? Foreign Language? Wellness? And which of these academic areas will you use for your required Junior Cornerstone Seminar?

- When will you take a 1000-level Religion course yet?

- Have you declared a major?

- Have you registered for at least 1-2 courses in your major?

- Have you considered if/when you might study abroad?
Second-Year Gen Ed Check-up

○ **Computer Proficiency:** Have you completed this, if it is required in the catalog of the year you entered Belmont? Have you completed all exams? (If not, are you registered for the course? If you did not register for the course, you can do so during the drop/add period or wait until next semester). You will receive an F on your transcript if you have registered for the course, but you do not complete the tests this semester.

○ **Convocation:** How many credits have you completed so far? (if you were a traditional freshman, 60 total credits—10 in each category—are required in order to graduate. By the end of this academic year, you should try to complete 30 or more)

○ **Sophomores are expected to take:**
  ○ COM 1100

○ Have you taken FYS? First-Year Writing? LCC? Math?

○ Have you taken any GS/EL courses yet? A letter after the section number will tell you if it counts toward GS or EL. (If you started Belmont as a freshman, you need 4 GS and 2 EL.)

○ How many hours have you fulfilled in Science? Social Science? Humanities? Fine Arts? Foreign Language? Wellness? And which of these academic areas will you use for your required Junior Cornerstone Seminar?

○ Have you declared a major?

○ Have you registered for at least 1-2 courses in your major?

○ How many credit hours have you earned toward your degree? Are you on track for on-time graduation?

○ Have you considered if/when you might study abroad?

**By the end of your Sophomore year you must have successfully completed:**
First-Year Seminar (FYS), First Year Writing, math (MTH 1020, MTH 1080 or CSC 1020), COM 1100, 1000-level religion, and a set of Learning Community Courses (LCC)
Third-Year Gen Ed Check-up

- **Computer Proficiency:** Have you completed this, if it is required in the catalog of the year you entered Belmont? Have you completed all exams? (If not, are you registered for the course? If you did not register for the course, you can do so during the drop/add period or wait until next semester). You will receive an F on your transcript if you have registered for the course, but you do not complete the tests this semester.

- **Convocation:** How many credits have you completed so far? (If you were a traditional freshman, 60 total credits—10 in each category—are required in order to graduate. By the end of this academic year, you should try to complete 45 or more)

- **Juniors are expected to take:**
  - Third-Year Writing (ENG 3010). Most sections of Third-Year Writing are offered in the Spring. Very few sections will be offered in the Fall, so plan to take this course in the Spring.
  - Junior Cornerstone (any discipline XXX 3015). There is a JCS page in Classfinder. Your Cornerstone must be listed on that page. This is a pre-requisite for Senior Capstone. You may take JCS in the Fall or the Spring.

- When do you plan to take your 3000-level Religion course? Pre-requisite: 1000-level Religion (don’t forget that there are two paths—path A and path B).

- How many GS/EL courses have you successfully completed? A letter after the section number will tell you if it counts toward GS or EL. (If you started Belmont as a freshman, you need 4 GS and 2 ELs)

- Are you making reasonable progress in your major requirements?

- How many credit hours have you earned toward your degree? Are you on track for on-time graduation?

- Have you completed your requirements in Science? Social Science? Humanities? Fine Arts? Foreign Language (not required in some majors)? Wellness?

- Have you considered if/when you might study abroad?

**By the end of your Junior year you must have successfully completed:**

Junior Cornerstone Seminar (XXX 3015) and Third-Year Writing (ENG 3010)
Fourth-Year Gen Ed Check-up

- **Computer Proficiency:** Have you completed this, if it is required in the catalog of the year you entered Belmont? Have you completed all exams? (If not, are you registered for the course? If you did not register for the course, you can do so during the drop/add period or wait until next semester). You will receive an F on your transcript if you have registered for the course, but you do not complete the tests this semester.

- **Convocation:** How many credits have you completed so far? (if you were a traditional freshman, 60 total credits—10 in each category—are required in order to graduate. You should complete all of them at least one month before graduation)

- **Seniors are expected to take:**
  - Senior Capstone (XXX 4015). Pre-requisite: Junior Cornerstone (XXX 3015). The Cornerstone and Capstone cannot be waived.

- How many GS/EL courses have you successfully completed? A letter after the section number will tell you if it counts toward GS or EL. (If you started Belmont as a freshman, you need 4 GS and 2 EL.)

- Are you making reasonable progress in your major requirements?

- How many credit hours have you earned toward your degree? Are you on track for on-time graduation?

- Have you completed your requirements in Science? Social Science? Humanities? Fine Arts? Foreign Language (not required in some majors)? Wellness?

- How many credit hours have you earned toward graduation?

- Have you applied for graduation?