The USM Core is a coherent, integrative, and rigorous liberal education that allows our graduates to be world-minded, intentional, life-long learners. Learning outcomes across the requirements are sequenced to help students develop increasingly sophisticated knowledge and skills. Courses throughout the curriculum involve close reading and oral and written communication.

Thematic Cluster (TC): Complete 3 courses in a cluster from two subject areas (only one may overlap with the major subject area), or complete a minor or a double major.

Satisfying Core requirements involves completing one course in each of the areas shown above. Diversity and International courses may overlap with other requirements but not each other. No restriction on major overlaps except in the cluster where only one course may overlap with the subject area of the student’s major.

Five Goals of General Education
1. Informed understandings of interrelationships between human cultures and the natural world;
2. Analytical, contextual, and integrative thinking about complex issues;
3. Effective communication using multiple forms of expression;
4. Critical reflection upon, and informed action in, their roles as participants in multiple communities; and
5. Ethical action to contribute to the social and environmental welfare of local and global communities.

Students may apply transfer credits throughout the Core. See your transfer credit report in Maine Street.