Foundations in Liberal Arts (FILA): General Education Curriculum

At BC, the focus isn't just on selecting a major. The general education curriculum focuses on tangible skills that will prepare students for their future. The general education program is called "Foundations in Liberal Arts" or FILA. The Latin word *fila* means threads (or *fila*ments), and it is with these foundational liberal arts courses that a student weaves the fabric of their education.

The initial courses address the fundamental skills of critical inquiry, effective writing, oral communication and quantitative literacy (i.e. the first-year FILA seminar, English, communication and math).

Students also develop the ability to engage in a global society through meeting a modern language requirement, taking a class focused on learning deeply about another culture, and taking a class examining issues related to globalization.

Students engage ideas across the liberal arts areas of study by taking:

- one course in the social sciences (such as economics, political science, psychology and sociology)
- four courses in the humanities (one in fine arts, one in literature, one in history and one in philosophy or religion)
- one natural or physical science with a lab (biology, chemistry, environmental science, geology or physics)

The experience culminates in the integration of community engagement. Students take at least one course designated as experiential, which could be a May Term travel course, a practicum, experiential service-learning or other courses that has the student interact with the community outside the classroom.

FILA is flexible, giving the student a variety of choices to fulfill the requirements. This leaves room for adding an additional major, adding a minor or a concentration, studying abroad or completing an internship. Choosing the elements of a liberal arts education is a creative process, and with the courses (or threads) of FILA, the student will weave the fabric of a personalized education.

FILA-150 or FILA-350EW: FILA Seminar or FILA Integration Seminar

FILA-150 or FILA-350EW is BC's first-year/transfer student seminar. Students take this class at the very beginning of their time at BC—the fall semester of their first year.

Course topics for FILA-150 are extremely varied and diverse. Transfer students have a unique course topic as well, while Flory Fellows can choose from two honors sections.

Note: Transfer students sign up for FILA-350EW, and honors students in the Flory Fellows program have separate sections of FILA-150.

FILA-450: Personal Development Portfolio

During the senior year, students complete the senior e-portfolio. The final senior e-portfolio includes:

- A record of the student's academic achievements and community engagement experiences
- The student's current resume and cover letter
- A senior reflective essay, which shows the student's growth and development throughout the college experience

FILA Program Requirements

Master Core Skills

(Five courses, 7-13 credits)

Required Courses

Course Code	Title	Credits
ENG-110	Effective Writing	3
COMM-100	Oral Communication	3

Choose One Course from the Following

Choose FILA-350EW if a transfer student.

Course Code	Title	Credits
FILA-150	FILA Seminar	3
FILA-350EW	FILA Integration Seminar	3

Choose One Course from the Following

Course Code	Title	Credits
MATH-110	College Algebra	3
MATH-115	Mathematical Theory & Computation II	3
MATH-118	Quantitative Reasoning	3

ES Activity

Course Code	Title	Credits
	Select any ES Activity course	1

Engagement in Global Society

World Culture Through Language

(Two courses, 0–6 credits)

One course in world language at the 102, 201, or 202 level; FREN-214 or GER-214 (3 credits)
A placement credit for 202 in World Language course will exempt a student from this requirement.

Degree-seeking international students may petition the associate provost to request that their native language and proficiency in English as a second language satisfy the world culture through language requirement.

World Cultures and Global Dynamics

(Two courses, 6 credits)

One course in World Cultures (3 credits)

Requires a prerequisite of FILA-150 or FILA-350EW

Course Code	Title	Credits
ART-202	Non-Western Graphic Design	3
ART-307X	Visual Arts of Spain	3
COMM-333X	Europe Media and Culture	3
COMM-334	Intercultural Communication	3
ENG-220	American Folklife	3
ENG-224	Introduction to American Studies	3
ENG-235	Literature of Southern Africa	3
ENG-237	Contemporary Ukrainian Literature and Culture	3
ENG-243	Native American Literature and Culture	3
ENG-323X	International Culture Analysis	3
ENG-324	American Cultural History	3
ES-357X	Global Healthcare and Sport	3
FREN-305X	French Life and Cultures	3
FREN-307 / HIST-307	Cultural Memory of the World Wars	3
FREN-340	French Culture and Civilization	3
FREN-345	Modern French Cultures	3
FREN-350	Special Topics in Culture	3
GER-224W	Introduction to German Studies	3
GER-305X	German-Speaking Cultures	3
HIST-285X	Monuments, Memorials, and Museums	3
HIST-290	Medieval Europe	3
HIST-311	Early Modern Europe in the World, 1492-1789	3
HIST-318	African American History	3
HIST-321	Europe Since 1789	3
HIST-325	Modern Britain Since 1688	3
HIST-330HX	Modern Britain and Oxford	3
HIST-332	Special Topics in Global History	3
HIST-340	American Indian History	3
HIST-350	The Wars in Afghanistan	3
HIST-360	Modern Africa	3
HIST-370	Genocide	3
HIST-380	Topics in European History	3
HIST-390	War and Peace Across the Pacific	3
MUS-235	Music in Latin America	3
PHIL-328	Germanic Cultures	3
PHIL-329	Classical Cultures: Greece and Italy	3
PSCI-310	Latin American Politics	3
PWR-225X	Travel Writing	3
REL-250	Reel-World Religions: Inter-Religious Encounters in Contemporary Film	3
REL-312	Archaeology and the Bible	3
REL-315	The Lands of Bible	3
REL-340	Religions of the Near East	3
REL-350	Religions of the Far East	3
SOC-202	Cultural Anthropology	3
SOC-363	Cultures of Japan	3
SPAN-300	Special Cultural Topics in English	3
SPAN-305	Culture of Costa Rica	3

SPAN-308X	Spanish Life and Culture	3
SPAN-340	Spanish Culture and Civilization	3
SPAN-345	Latin American Culture and Civilization	3
SPAN-351	Latin American Science Fiction	3
SPAN-352W	Hispanic Masculinities	3

One course in Global Dynamics (3 credits)

Requires a prerequisite of FILA-150 or FILA-350EW

Course Code	Title	Credits
BIOL-215	Biology of Human Diversity & Pseudoscience of Racism	3
ECON-310	U.S. Economics & Business History	3
ECON-440	International Economics	3
ENG-221	The Images of "folk" in Literature	3
FREN-300	Special Cultural Topics in English	3
GER-300	Special Topics in English	3
GER-434	German Culture Through Film	3
HDFS-250	International Food & Nutrition	3
HIST-270	The Second World War in Global Perspective	3
HIST-305	India Past and Present	3
HIST-335	Women's History in Asia	3
PSCI-205 / SOC-205	Global Identities	3
PSCI-230	Introduction to Global Politics	3
PSCI-240	Introduction to Comparative Politics	3
PSCI-315	Politics of the Global South	3
PSCI-335W	Peace, War and World Politics	3
PSCI-336	United Nations	3
PSCI-338X	Politics of Social Change	3
PSCI-360	Population, Immigration, and Politics	3
PSCI-365E	Politics of Human Rights	3
PSCI-370	Issues in Global Politics	3
PSCI-440W	Global Political Economy	3
REL-215X	Basics of Interfaith Engagement	3
REL-251X	Israel-Palestine: People, Places, Perspectives, Peace	3
SOC-208E	Food Politics	3
SOC-331	Cultural Theory at the Movies	3
SOC-333	Racial and Ethnic Studies	3
SOC-334	Gender and Sexuality Studies	3
SOC-335	Immigrants in the Shenandoah Valley	3
SOC-336X	Immigrant Food Cultures of New York City	3
SPAN-301X	Hispanic Migrations Through Film and Literature	3
SPAN-304X	Peruvian Life and Culture	3
SPAN-307X	Cuban Life & Culture	3
SPAN-309X	Argentinean Life and Culture	3

Engagement of Ideas Across the Disciplines

One course in Fine Arts and Music (3 credits)

Requires a prerequisite or corequisite of a master core skills course

Course Code	Title	Credits
ART-115	Introduction to Sculpture	3
ART-130	Introduction to Drawing	3
ART-200	Survey of Art History (prehistory to 1400)	3
ART-201	Survey of Art History (1400 to Present)	3
ART-300	Modern & Post-Modern Art	3
ART-301W	Perspectives on Contemporary Art	3
ART-310	Ceramic Sculpture	3
ART-311	Wheel Thrown Ceramics I	3
ART-315	Wood Sculpture	3
ART-316	Metal Sculpture	3
ART-323	Graphic Design	3
ART-328	The Book Arts	3
ART-331	Collage and Assemblage	3
ART-335	Painting	3
ART-344	Photography	3
ART-346	Studio Photography	3
ART-347	Videography I	3
FREN-355	Special Topics in Fine Arts	3
MUS-110	Music Fundamentals	3
MUS-111	Music Fundamentals at the Piano	3
MUS-220	Introduction to Western Music	3
MUS-233 / SOC-233	Social History of Jazz in America	3
MUS-271	Music in Film	3
SPAN-355	Special Topics in Fine Arts	3
SPAN-356	Hispanic Cinema	3
THEA-200	Theatre Production: Costumes and Scenery	3
THEA-210	Theatre Production: Lighting and Sound	3
THEA-225	Scenic Painting	3
THEA-250	World Theatre History I	3
THEA-255	World Theatre History II	3
THEA-315X	Theatre in London	3
THEA-325	Acting	3
THEA-330	Directing	3
THEA-345	Acting: Styles and Techniques	3
THEA-355	Environmental Theatre	3
THEA-370X	Special Topics in Theatre	3

One course in Literature (3 credits)

Requires a prerequisite or corequisite of a master core skills course

Course Code	Title	Credits
	Any course in English (ENG) numbered 201-204 or 325-400	3
ENG-334W / GER-334W	German Literature in Translation	3
ENG-335W / FREN-335W	French Literature in Translation	3
ENG-360W / THEA-360W	Modern Drama	3
ENG-362W / THEA-362W	Contemporary Drama	3
FREN-401W	Survey of French Literature I	3
FREN-402W	Survey of French Literature II	3
FREN-403W	Survey of Francophone Literature	3
SPAN-401	Spanish Literature	3
SPAN-402	Latin American Literature	3

One course in History (3 credits)

Requires a prerequisite or corequisite of a master core skills course

Course Code	Title	Credits
HIST-105	World History to 1500	3
HIST-110	World History Since 1500	3
HIST-112	Introduction to World History	3
HIST-115	20th Century World History	3
HIST-120	The Pacific World	3
HIST-125	The Atlantic World, 1450-1800	3
HIST-135	History of the Islamic World	3

One course in Philosophy or Religion (3 credits)

Requires a prerequisite or corequisite of a master core skills course

Course Code	Title	Credits
ECON-420	Development of Economic Thought	3
FREN-360E	Introduction to French Thought	3
PHIL-210	Philosophical Questions	3
PHIL-225E	Contemporary Moral and Political Problems	3
PHIL-228E	Philosophy of Popular Culture	3
PHIL-235E	Bioethics	3
PHIL-300 / REL-300	Topics in Philosophy and Religion	3
PHIL-310	Logic	3
PHIL-318E	Philosophical Ethics	3
PHIL-320E	Professional Ethics	3
PHIL-322EW	Ethics and Identity	3
PHIL-330 / REL-330	African, Latin American and Native American Thought	3
PHIL-331EW	Ancient and Medieval Western Philosophy	3
PHIL-332W	Modern Philosophy	3
PHIL-333W	Contemporary Philosophy	3
PHIL-335	Philosophy of Religion	3
PHIL-337W	Philosophy of Science	3
PHIL-340E	Environmental Ethics	3
PHIL-420W	Postmodernism	3
PSCI-220E	Introduction to Political Philosophy	3
PSCI-401E	Contemporary Political Thought	3
PSCI-402E	Philosophy of Law and Jurisprudence	3
PSCI-405E	Foundations of American Political Thought	3
REL-180	Religions and Nature	3
REL-210X	Study of Religious Traditions	3
REL-220	New Testament	3
REL-310	Jesus in History and Culture	3
REL-316W	Medieval Women's Spirituality	3
REL-317 / HIST-317	History of the Christian Church	3
REL-318E	Religious Ethics	3
REL-325X	The Uses and Abuses of Christian Scripture	3
REL-326	Readings in the Hebrew Scripture	3
REL-331W	Christian Beliefs	3
REL-332W	Reformation Thought	3
REL-333W	Contemporary Christian Thought	3
REL-335E	Christian Perspectives on Violence and Peace	3
REL-420EW	Christian Social Ethics	3

One course in the Social Sciences (3 credits)

Requires a prerequisite or corequisite of a master core skills course

Course Code	Title	Credits
COMM-375	Media Effects	3
ECON-200	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
ECON-210	Principles of Microeconomics	3
HDFS-319	Interpersonal & Marital Relationships	3
PSCI-210	Politics & Government in the United States	3
PSCI-215	Introduction to Public Policy	3
PSCI-280	Lying and Lie Detection	3
PSY-101	General Psychology	3
SOC-101	Sociological Imagination	3

One course in the Natural & Physical Sciences (4 credits)

Requires a prerequisite or corequisite of MATH-110, MATH-115 or MATH-118

Course Code	Title	Credits
BIOL-100	The Nature of the Biological World	4
BIOL-110	Principles of Biology I	4
CHEM-102 / GEOL-102	Earth Science	4
CHEM-161	General Chemistry I	4
ENVR-101	Introduction to Environmental Sciences	4
GEOL-130	Physical Geology	4
PHYS-110	Introductory Astronomy	4
PHYS-119	Physics and the Modern World	4
PHYS-125	Concepts of Physics	4

The Integration of Skills and Ideas

(Four courses, 1–10 credits)

One course in Writing Intensive (0-3 credits)

Requires a prerequisite of [FILA-150](#) or [FILA-350EW](#) and [ENG-110](#)

Course Code	Title	Credits
ART-301W	Perspectives on Contemporary Art	3
BUS-412W	Professional Selling	3
BUS-414W	Consumer Behavior	3
BUS-416W	Advertising	3
COMM-255W / PWR-255W	Introduction to News Writing	3
ENG-332W	Arthurian Literature	3
ENG-334W / GER-334W	German Literature in Translation	3
ENG-335W / FREN-335W	French Literature in Translation	3
ENG-345W	Literature for Children	3
FILA-350EW	FILA Integration Seminar	3
FREN-401W	Survey of French Literature I	3
FREN-402W	Survey of French Literature II	3
FREN-403W	Survey of Francophone Literature	3
GER-224W	Introduction to German Studies	3
MUS-380W	Exploration of Western Music	3
PHIL-322EW	Ethics and Identity	3
PHIL-331EW	Ancient and Medieval Western Philosophy	3
PHIL-332W	Modern Philosophy	3
PHIL-333W	Contemporary Philosophy	3
PHIL-337W	Philosophy of Science	3
PHIL-420W	Postmodernism	3
PSCI-335W	Peace, War and World Politics	3
PSCI-420W	International Law & Organization	3
PSCI-440W	Global Political Economy	3
PWR-227W	Food Writing	3
PWR-312W	Technical Writing	3
PWR-313W	Writing for Business	3
PWR-318W	Writing for Visual Media	3
PWR-325WX	Special Topics in Public Writing	3
REL-316W	Medieval Women's Spirituality	3
REL-327W / ENG-327W	Biblical Themes in Literature	3
REL-331W	Christian Beliefs	3
REL-332W	Reformation Thought	3
REL-333W	Contemporary Christian Thought	3
REL-420EW	Christian Social Ethics	3
SOC-302W	Contemporary Social Theory	3
SOC-368W	Sociology of the Family	3
SPAN-352W	Hispanic Masculinities	3
THEA-360W / ENG-360W	Modern Drama	3
THEA-362W / ENG-362W	Contemporary Drama	3

One course in Ethical Reasoning (0-3 credits)

Requires a prerequisite of FILA-150 or FILA-350EW and ENG-110

Course Code	Title	Credits
COMM-349EX	Non-Profit Communication	3
COMM-410E	Communication Law and Ethics in a Digital Age	3
EDUC-371E	Classroom Management, Elementary	4
EDUC-372E	Classroom Management, Secondary	4
FILA-350EW	FILA Integration Seminar	3
FREN-360E	Introduction to French Thought	3
PHIL-225E	Contemporary Moral and Political Problems	3
PHIL-228E	Philosophy of Popular Culture	3
PHIL-235E	Bioethics	3
PHIL-318E	Philosophical Ethics	3
PHIL-320E	Professional Ethics	3
PHIL-322EW	Ethics and Identity	3
PHIL-331EW	Ancient and Medieval Western Philosophy	3
PHIL-340E	Environmental Ethics	3
PSCI-220E	Introduction to Political Philosophy	3
PSCI-290E	Aesthetics, Philosophy and Politics	3
PSCI-365E	Politics of Human Rights	3
PSCI-401E	Contemporary Political Thought	3
PSCI-402E	Philosophy of Law and Jurisprudence	3
PSCI-405E	Foundations of American Political Thought	3
PSY-475E	Neuroethics	3
REL-318E	Religious Ethics	3
REL-335E	Christian Perspectives on Violence and Peace	3
REL-420EW	Christian Social Ethics	3
SOC-208E	Food Politics	3
SOC-210E	Foundations of Community Engagement	3
SOC-255EX	Introduction to Social Welfare Systems	3
SOC-316E	True Crime Sociology	3
SOC-366E	Sociology of Birth and Death	3
SOC-370E	Sociology of Religion	3

One course in Experiential Learning (3 credits)

Requires a prerequisite or corequisite of a master core skills course

These 1-credit courses require that 2 prerequisite credits be earned in the same course:
COMM/PWR-131X (prerequisite: 2 credits in COMM/PWR-131)
MUS-441X Concert Choir (prerequisite: 2 credits in MUS-441)
MUS-442X Chorale (prerequisite: 2 credits in MUS-442)
MUS-443X Symphonic Band (prerequisite: 2 credits in MUS-443)
MUS-444X Jazz Band (prerequisite: 2 credits in MUS-444)
MUS-449X Marching Band (prerequisite: 2 credits in MUS-449)

Course Code	Title	Credits
ART-305X	Museums and Galleries	3
ART-307X	Visual Arts of Spain	3
BIOL-257X	Marine Ecology	3
BIOL-302X	Medical Terminology	3
BUS-305X	International Business and Entrepreneurship	3
BUS-365X	Cross-Cultural Issues in Business	3
BUS-422X	Entrepreneurship	3
BUS-478X	Strategic Management	3
COMM-131X / PWR-131X	News Practicum	1
COMM-256X	News Practicum	3
COMM-331X	The Television & Film Studio System	3
COMM-333X	Europe Media and Culture	3
COMM-349EX	Non-Profit Communication	3
COMM-370X	Heroes, Flutes, and Ghosts: Stories and Opera	3
COMM-365X	Rhetoric of the Civil Rights Movement	3
COMM-481X	Media Field Experience	3
EDUC-380X	Practicum in Current Teaching Techniques	3
ENG-322X	Interpreting the Built Environment	3
ENG-323X	International Culture Analysis	3
ENVR-330X	Introduction to Geographical Information Systems	3
EQU-350X	International Equine Breeding, Training and Management	3
ES-300X	Personal and Community Health	3
ES-357X	Global Healthcare and Sport	3
FREN-305X	French Life and Cultures	3
GER-305X	German-Speaking Cultures	3
HIST-268X	The Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley	3
HIST-285X	Monuments, Memorials, and Museums	3
HIST-302X	American Presidential Leadership: Virginia Dynasty	3
HIST-330HX	Modern Britain and Oxford	3
MUS-309X	Audio Production	3
MUS-441X	Concert Choir	1
MUS-442X	Chorale	1
MUS-444X	Jazz Ensemble	1
MUS-449X	Marching Band	1
PHIL-485X / REL-485X	Gender Studies Practicum	3
PSCI-338X	Politics of Social Change	3
PSY-481X	Practicum in Applied Psychology	3
PWR-225X	Travel Writing	3
PWR-325WX	Special Topics in Public Writing	3
REL-210X	Study of Religious Traditions	3
REL-215X	Basics of Interfaith Engagement	3
REL-251X	Israel-Palestine: People, Places, Perspectives, Peace	3
REL-325X	The Uses and Abuses of Christian Scripture	3
SOC-255EX	Introduction to Social Welfare Systems	3

SOC-336X	Immigrant Food Cultures of New York City	3
SOC-337X	Food Systems of the Shenandoah Valley	3
SOC-338X	Introduction to Material Culture Studies	3
SOC-339X	Food Cultures of Italy	3
SOC-401X	Community Action	3
SOC-481X	Field Experience in Social Welfare	3
SOC-484X	Professional Practicum in Law Enforcement	18
SOC-483X	Senior Practicum in Crime and Justice	3
SPAN-301X	Hispanic Migrations Through Film and Literature	3
SPAN-304X	Peruvian Life and Culture	3
SPAN-307X	Cuban Life & Culture	3
SPAN-308X	Spanish Life and Culture	3
SPAN-309X	Argentinean Life and Culture	3
SPAN-316X	Spanish Translation for the Professions	3
THEA-315X	Theatre in London	3
THEA-370X	Special Topics in Theatre	3

A course (minimum 3 credits) completed through the College's semester study abroad program.

A course (minimum 3 credits) completed through the College's semester at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institution.

Internship (480X)

Integration of Skills and Ideas (1 credit)

Course Code	Title	Credits
FILA-450	Personal Development Portfolio	1