

# Newcomb-Tulane College

## CORE CURRICULUM

Designed to provide a common academic experience for undergraduates across all schools of the university, the core curriculum ensures the attainment of basic competencies in writing, foreign language, scientific inquiry, cultural knowledge, and interdisciplinary scholarship. Schools may add other degree requirements, and students are urged to consider these additional requirements when planning their schedules prior to entering a school. New to this core curriculum are: 1) the prominent role of public service, reflecting the value Tulane places upon developing a life-long commitment to public service and citizenship; 2) the required TIDES course, Tulane's signature interdisciplinary first-year seminar series; and 3) a capstone experience through which students apply the knowledge gained in their major fields of study. The core curriculum:

- is committed to breadth, requiring coursework in all areas of knowledge
- offers all students an integrative, themed first-year seminar experience (TIDES)
- is committed to developing ethical leadership skills and a commitment to public service
- assures the achievement of competencies in the following areas:

**Writing (4 hours)** – Effective writing is central to learning and communication. It is a highly useful skill, and it is also a way of learning and knowing. The first-year writing experience helps students to develop the intellectual, organizational, and expository skills appropriate to university study. Writing competence can be demonstrated by:

- An Advanced Placement score of 4 or better, or by a score of 5 or better on the higher-level International Baccalaureate English exam,
- A score of B+ or better in the English department proficiency examination, or
- Successful completion of either English 101 or a 119 writing-across-the-curriculum course.

**NOTE:** Writing competence must be completed in the first year of study at Tulane University.

**Foreign Language (4-8 hours)\*** – The study of foreign languages is an integral part of a undergraduate education, and a knowledge of foreign languages is essential for having a broader perspective of our increasingly globalized world. All students must take at least one foreign language course at Tulane University and demonstrate competency in that language. Competency in a foreign language may be achieved by:

- An Advanced Placement score of 4 or better,
- An SAT II Subject Test score of 640 or above,
- A passing score on a Tulane-administered test, or
- A passing grade in language courses at the 102 level or 112 level.

**NOTE:** All courses completed in order to fulfill the foreign language requirement must be taken in the same language.

\* Candidates for the Bachelor of Science majoring in Biomedical Engineering or Chemical Engineering degree are exempt from this requirement.

**Scientific Inquiry (9 hours to 12 hours)**, comprising:

- *Quantitative Reasoning* (3 hours to 4 hours) – Competency may be attained by:

- An advanced placement score of 4 or better on the Calculus AP exam or 3 or better on the BC test,
  - An advanced placement score of 4 or better in the Statistics AP Exam, or
  - Successful completion of one course in mathematics (excluding Math 119), or
  - Successful completion of Symbolic Logic (Philosophy 121) or
  - Experiments and Experimental Design (BMEN 201).
- *Physical and Life Sciences (6 hours to 8 hours) – Competency may be attained by:*
- An advanced placement score of 4 or better on a science exam or 5 or better on a higher level IB science exam,
  - Successful completion of two courses in architectural technological systems, astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth and environmental sciences, neuroscience, physics, psychology or in public health (only SPHU 102 or SPHU 202).

**NOTE:** One of the Science courses must be selected from a list of courses with an approved laboratory component.

**Cultural Knowledge (12 hours)**, comprising any six credits of Humanities and Fine Arts and any six credits of Social Sciences.

- Courses from which these credits can be earned are offered regularly by the Schools of Architecture, Law, Liberal Arts, Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and Social Work.  
HUMANITIES: African and African Diaspora Studies, Arabic, Architectural History/Theory, Chinese, Classical Studies, Communications, English, French, German, Greek, Haitian, Hebrew,

- Italian, Japanese, Jewish Studies, Latin, Literature, Philosophy, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese.
- FINE ARTS: Architectural Visual Media, Architectural Digital Media, Art history, Art studio, Dance, Music, Theatre
- SOCIAL SCIENCES: Anthropology, Architectural Urban Studies, Economics, History, International development, Latin American studies, Law, Political economy, Political science, Public health, Social work, Sociology, Women’s studies
- Of the 12 credits mentioned above, one course must be chosen from a list of courses in Perspectives in the European Tradition and one must be chosen in Perspectives outside the European Tradition or Comparative Cultures and International Perspectives.

**Public Service** – The Center for Public Service administers the public service requirement of the undergraduate core curriculum. The guiding principle of the center includes the belief that public service, rooted in an academic context contributes to the development of student civic engagement.

The undergraduate public service graduation requirement is grounded in a sustained sequence of learning articulated by the center’s mission. Instituting a cumulative and reflective graduation requirement makes explicit the ideal that education uniting public service and scholarship can be a transformative experience.

To complete the public service graduation requirement, students, throughout their undergraduate experience, will:

1. Maintain a portfolio that documents their progress and reflections about their public service experiences.

2. Successfully complete one service-learning course at the 100-, 200-, or 300-level before they earn 70 credit hours.
3. After completion of 70 credit hours or four semesters of coursework, participate in one of the following Center for Public Service-approved programs (at the 300-level or above):
  - Service-learning course
  - Academic service-learning internship
  - Faculty-sponsored public service research project
  - Public-service honors thesis project
  - Public service-based study abroad program
  - Capstone experience with public service component

### **Understanding Interdisciplinary Scholarship (1 hour, TIDES seminar)**

Every first-year student will participate in a TIDES (Tulane Interdisciplinary Experience Seminar). These courses are graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

**Capstone Experience (3+ hours)** – Every Tulane senior must complete a capstone experience related to the student’s major. The capstone experience allows a student to demonstrate the capacity to bring information, skills and ideas acquired from the major to bear on one significant project. Capstone experiences will be designed by each of the schools and by individual departments/interdisciplinary programs within the schools.

### **MAJOR COMPONENT**

A major field of study provides each student the opportunity to explore a single area of inquiry in depth and to gain the self-confidence derived from mastery of a subject. The major must be selected no later than the beginning of a student’s fourth semester of college study. The selection of a major program also determines the school with which the student will be affiliated. Students may

change their majors at any point in their academic careers; students choosing to change their majors should be aware that:

- this action may necessitate a change in school,
- not all previously completed coursework may apply to the newly selected major, and
- additional coursework may be necessary to meet the new major requirements

Students, who elect to complete more than one major, must complete all courses for each major. Students declaring a second major must submit their programs of study to the appropriate dean’s office for approval. At least half of the coursework required for majors must be completed at Tulane University. Newcomb-Tulane College students should be aware that obtaining a second major in professional degree programs requires obtaining the professional degree, i.e. B.S.E., B.S.M., B.S.P.H., M.Arch.

Major fields of study are listed below; details of each major program may be found within the appropriate school section of the catalog.

Accounting  
African and African Diaspora Studies  
American Studies  
Anthropology  
Architecture  
Art History  
Asian Studies  
Biological Chemistry  
Biomedical Engineering  
Cell and Molecular Biology  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
Chemistry  
Classical Studies  
Cognitive Studies  
Communication  
Consumer Behavior/Marketing

Dance  
Digital Media Production  
Earth Sciences  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
Economics  
English  
Environmental Biology  
Environmental Geoscience  
Environmental Studies  
Finance  
French  
General Studies (B.G.S.)  
Geology  
German Cultural Studies  
German Language and Literature  
Greek  
History  
Information Systems/Process Management  
International Development  
Italian  
Italian Studies  
Jazz Studies  
Jewish Studies  
Latin  
Latin American Studies  
Legal Studies in Business  
Linguistics  
Literature  
Managing Human and Social Capital  
Mathematical Economics  
Mathematics  
Medieval and Early Modern Studies  
Music  
Music Composition  
Musical Performance  
Musical Theatre  
Music, Science and Technology  
Neuroscience

Philosophy  
Physics  
Political Economy  
Political Science  
Portuguese  
Psychology  
Psychology and Early Childhood Education  
Public Health/Environmental Health Sciences  
Public Health/Global and Community Health  
Public Health/Health Sciences  
Public Health/Informatics  
Religious Studies  
Russian Language and Literature  
Russian Studies  
Social Policy and Practice (under development)  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Strategy and Entrepreneurship  
Studio Art  
Theater  
Urban Sociology  
Urban Studies (under development)  
Women's Studies

**COORDINATE MAJOR PROGRAMS**

Coordinate majors are interdepartmental second majors that are linked to one of the primary majors listed previously. Students must complete all courses for each of the majors.

Asian Studies  
Cognitive Studies  
Digital Media Production  
Environmental Studies Concentrations  
    Environmental Policy  
    Environmental Science  
International Development

### **SELF-DESIGNED MAJORS**

A student with a 3.000 cumulative grade-point average may construct a major program by grouping courses from different academic departments. These self-designed majors must include at least 10 courses, more than half of which must be at the 300-level or above; no more than two courses before the 300-level may be taken in any one department. A student wishing to pursue this option must prepare a proposal including the title of the major, courses, and rationale. The student also must select a faculty adviser and obtain the adviser's approval. The proposal is then submitted to the Newcomb-Tulane College dean before the end of the student's fifth semester. These proposals often require revision and resubmission; therefore, the student is encouraged to submit the proposal earlier than this deadline.

### **DOUBLE MAJORS**

Newcomb-Tulane College students must have a primary major in the Schools of Architecture, Business, Liberal Arts, Public Health and Tropical Medicine, or Science and Engineering. Any student may also pursue a second major. If the second major is not housed in the primary school, the student does not have to complete the school-specific core of the secondary school. Subject to approval by their advisers, students may also pursue a second major in a professional degree program; however, this option requires completing all degree requirements for the second major and obtaining the professional degree, i.e., B.S.E., B.S.M., B.S.P.H., M.Arch. (See Dual Degrees.)

Full-time students may pursue second majors or minors in the School of Continuing Studies only as a voluntary overload. The second majors available are journalism or media arts; the second minors available are journalism, Louisiana studies, graphic design, media arts, telecommunications, Web application development or website development.

### **MINOR COMPONENT**

Undergraduate students may complete one or more minors. The minor is optional and is designed to provide structure to the study of a secondary field of interest chosen by the student. Students who elect to complete the requirements for a minor must earn a grade-point average of at least 2.000 in courses counting toward that minor. No courses counting toward the student's first minor will count toward the student's second minor. Individual schools or departments may specify the number of credits allowed on major-minor overlap. Students should consult departmental listings for additional information.

Minor fields of study are listed below; details of each minor program may be found within the appropriate school section of the catalog.

- Accounting
- African and African Diaspora Studies
- American Studies
- Ancient Culture
- Anthropology
- Architectural History
- Architectural Studies
- Architecture
- Art History
- Asian Studies
- Biomedical Engineering
- Brazilian Studies
- Business
- Cell and Molecular Biology
- Chemistry
- Classical Studies
- Cognitive Studies
- Communication
- Consumer Behavior/Marketing
- Cultural Studies
- Dance
- Digital Media Production
- Earth Sciences

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
Economics  
Engineering Science  
English  
Environmental Geoscience  
Environmental Studies  
Film Studies  
Finance  
French  
Geology  
German Cultural Studies  
German Language and Literature  
Greek  
History  
Information Systems/Process Management  
International Development  
Italian  
Italian Studies  
Jewish Studies  
Latin  
Latin American Studies  
Legal Studies in Business  
Literature  
Managing Human and Social Capital  
Mathematics  
Medieval and Early Modern Studies  
Music  
Music, Science and Technology  
Neuroscience  
Pharmacology  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Political Science  
Portuguese  
Preservation Studies  
Psychology  
Public Health  
Religious Studies

Russian Language and Literature  
Russian Studies  
Social Policy and Practice (under development)  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Strategy and Entrepreneurship  
Studio Art  
Theater  
Urban Sociology  
Urban Studies (under development)  
Women's Studies

### **THE SCHOOLS**

As the homes of the academic departments, the schools define the requirements for the school-specific core and are responsible for designing majors/minors and the capstone experience. For graduating students, the schools also certify completion of majors/minors, the school core, and the capstone experience for the degree. The schools also deliver graduate and professional education and programs.

### **DUAL DEGREES**

Tulane University offers to the option of obtaining dual degrees. Newcomb-Tulane College students should refer to the school-specific section for more information on pursuing dual degrees within the same school and consult with their advisers early in their academic careers. Newcomb-Tulane College students pursuing dual degrees within two schools must complete the Newcomb-Tulane College core curriculum, each school's specific core curriculum, and the major requirements for each degree.

### **UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE AND GRADUATE/GRADUATE JOINT-DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Tulane University offers a number of joint-degree programs. Like the standard programs, these joint-degree programs provide a well-rounded education; however, they also provide special competency

in, or more pre-professional education for, a particular professional field.

The undergraduate schools allow qualified students who have completed three years of undergraduate work to begin graduate studies in one of the professional programs. A student who completes the junior year in residence in any of the schools (not on a Tulane study abroad program) and then begins study in one of these professional programs may receive a bachelor's degree from the respective school after satisfactorily completing one year of full-time professional study.

To enter one of these programs, students are required to be accepted by the professional program and to obtain approval from the Newcomb-Tulane College dean by the end of the sixth semester of study. Joint-degree candidates are required to complete 90 credits during three years of study in an undergraduate school before starting work in the professional program. Since the fourth year of study will consist of credits completed in the professional school, no professional school course may be counted among the 90 credits that must be completed by the end of the third year of undergraduate study. Candidates must meet all core curriculum and major requirements for the bachelor's degree in the undergraduate school. Students in joint-degree programs must complete 120 credits by the close of their fourth year of study in order to receive a degree from the undergraduate school. Students who fail to do so will be required to attend Tulane Summer School to make up their credit deficiency before beginning their second year in the professional school.

Transfer students must complete two years of undergraduate work at Tulane to be eligible for a joint-degree program. All students must file an application for degree at least two semesters prior to the anticipated date of graduation.

Every course taken during the first year in the professional program must be passed, and the student's performance in the first year's work in the professional program must be of sufficient

quality for advancement to the second year. A student who fails to meet this requirement may become a candidate for a degree in the undergraduate school after satisfactorily completing an additional year of study in the undergraduate school. If a student in a joint-degree program is a candidate for honors, the grade-point average used to determine the eligibility includes the applicable work done in the professional program.

### **PREMEDICAL AND PREPROFESSIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

While undergraduate students are completing the regular baccalaureate curriculum of their choice, they may work concurrently to complete the courses required to enter programs in the health professions, including dentistry, medicine, optometry, osteopathy, podiatry, and veterinary medicine. Preparation for such programs normally includes two semesters each of biology (with laboratory), general chemistry (with laboratory), organic chemistry (with laboratory), and physics (with laboratory). Many schools have additional entrance requirements including mathematics and upper-level science courses. Due to the variations in course requirements imposed by these professions, students should request specific information from schools in their fields of interest or from the health professions adviser.

Students interested in one of these professions may pursue a baccalaureate degree in any discipline. In the first three years, however, they should plan a course of study to meet the basic requirements of the professional school. Students considering a career in medically related fields should begin consulting the health professions adviser early in their undergraduate career to discuss available options in their choice of and preparation for a future profession.

### **CREATIVE PREMEDICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

Particularly well-motivated and well-qualified sophomores may apply to the School of Medicine through the Creative Premedical Scholars Program. Successful candidates complete the full four

years of the normal baccalaureate program but are guaranteed admission to the School of Medicine upon graduation and enjoy special opportunities for study with its faculty while enrolled as undergraduates. Students are expected to follow an academically rigorous program while maintaining a high level of academic performance throughout their college careers. Only sophomores who complete both the first and sophomore years at Tulane are eligible. A plan of study must be submitted with the application.

To be considered, students must complete two semesters (with laboratory) for each of the following: biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics. These courses must be completed at Tulane during the regular academic first and sophomore years with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.600 or better. Students with Advanced Placement (AP) credit in biology should discuss their status with the health professions adviser.

### **PRELAW PROGRAM**

There is no standard prelaw curriculum that must be followed to qualify for admission into law school. A well-rounded education is the best preparation for the study of law, because such an education ensures exposure to a wide variety of ideas and leads to an understanding of the various social, political, economic, and cultural forces that have shaped laws and the societies they govern. Students should develop analytical reasoning and communication skills. Proficiency in writing is essential. Students considering law school are encouraged to begin consulting with the prelaw adviser early in their undergraduate career.

### **PRELAW EARLY ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM**

Particularly well-motivated and well-qualified juniors may apply to the Tulane University Law School through the Prelaw Acceptance Program. Prelaw Acceptance Program candidates complete all requirements of the normal baccalaureate program, but are guaranteed admission to the Law School upon graduation. Students are expected to follow an academically rigorous program while maintaining a high level of academic performance

throughout their college careers. Only students who complete all four years of college at Tulane (with the exception of the Tulane study abroad program) are eligible. (This program should not be confused with the 3+3 program, in which Tulane students are accepted to the Law School during the junior year and permitted to enroll at the Law School during what would otherwise be the student's senior year, receiving the baccalaureate degree after the first year of law school and the law degree after two additional years of law school.)

To be considered for the program, students must provide a Tulane transcript showing normal progress (at least 30 credits per year) for at least five regular, full-time semesters of Tulane coursework, and evidence of in-depth study in at least one area. Students must present a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.400 and a score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) of at least 161. Applications should be submitted between October 1 of the junior year and February 1 of the senior year. The LSAT may be taken anytime between June after the sophomore year and December of the senior year. The earliest point at which the Law School will offer admission occurs after the fall semester of the junior year.

### **INDEPENDENT STUDIES**

Many departments and programs offer to a limited number of students with superior scholastic standing creative opportunities for independent study normally under the direction of full-time faculty members. The work may take the form of directed readings, laboratory or library research, or original composition. Instead of traditional class attendance, the student substitutes conferences, as needed, with the director. An independent study is a stand-alone course that may not be added to another course and may not replicate existing courses.

### **LESS COMMONLY TAUGHT LANGUAGES**

Motivated students with demonstrated achievement in foreign language may enroll for courses offered in the Less Commonly Taught Languages Program. These classes primarily are self-



instructional; students use audiotapes, textbooks, and software where available and attend group sessions with a native speaker of the language under study. Progress is monitored by the program director. Courses taken in the program are offered as electives and do not fulfill the core undergraduate foreign language requirement.

### **PROVISIONAL GRADUATE CREDIT**

A senior who completes all baccalaureate requirements before the end of the senior year and intends to enter a Tulane University graduate program may apply for provisional graduate credit in up to, but not more than, 12 credits of both 600- and 700-level courses. These courses must be approved by the applicable department beyond the credits needed for the baccalaureate. Graduate credit for such work, if passed with a grade of B or better, will be awarded when the student is admitted to full graduate status in the applicable school, upon recommendation of the department chair and approval of the dean. These provisions do not apply to transfer of credits to or from other graduate institutions.

### **4+1 PROGRAMS**

Tulane University has developed “4+1” programs in which students can obtain a master’s degree within one year of completing the bachelor’s degree. Students who pursue this option take courses in the fifth year at a substantially reduced tuition rate. Fields of study in which these programs are offered include anthropology, applied sociology, art history, classics, biomedical engineering, economics, environmental biology, environmental science, English, French, geology, history, linguistics, mathematics/statistics, neuroscience, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, public health and Spanish and Portuguese. Interested students should contact their academic advisers for more information.