

General Education at Trinity

A Trinity College of the Bible and Theological Seminary education prepares graduates for lifelong ministry and professional service to the religious or global community. Therefore, it is essential that Trinity graduates are able to understand and appreciate diverse cultures, master multiple modes of inquiry, effectively analyze and communicate information, and recognize the importance of creativity and values to the human spirit that enable individuals to live fulfilled and more successful lives. Consequently, to ensure that graduates acquire this breadth of knowledge and skills, General Education is an integral part of Trinity's undergraduate degree programs.

General Education is intended to impart common knowledge and intellectual concepts to students and to develop them in the skills and attitudes that Trinity College of the Bible and Theological Seminary believes every educated person should have. To this end, General Education at Trinity is spread across four Breadth of Knowledge areas which are drawn from Trinity's Institutional Core Competencies:

- Alternative Learning (Knowledge)
- Effective Communication
- Critical Inquiry and Thinking
- Healthy Relationships and Sensitivity to Human Diversity

Within each Breadth of Knowledge area are Intended Learning Outcomes which specify skills and attitudes requisite for a life of learning and service in a diverse society. Intended Learning Outcomes are embedded into Trinity's undergraduate courses.

Embedding is a growing trend that sees General Education as being linked, rather than unlinked to the world of work and ministry. At Trinity, through embedding, General Education competencies are integrated into undergraduate courses and across the curriculum. Consequently, Trinity's undergraduate courses provide an avenue to complete General Education requirements.

General Education Requirements

Trinity College of the Bible requires 31 semester credit hours of General Education for students enrolled in an Associate of Arts degree program. Those enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts degree program must validate 45 semester credit hours of General Education. Trinity's General Education requirements include a General Education Required Core Component and a General Education Elective Component.

THE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIRED CORE COMPONENT Trinity's General Education Required Core Component represents fundamental skills and knowledge that all students must demonstrate proficiently. A total of 15 semester credit hours are required to satisfy the General Education Required Core Component for the Associate of Arts degree as well as the Bachelor of Arts degree. The content in the General Education Required Core Component is the same for both degrees. The required 15 semester credits consist of three semester credit hours in each of the following five subject areas:

- Written Communication
- Oral Communication
- History
- Psychology
- Philosophy or Religious Studies

THE GENERAL EDUCATION ELECTIVE COMPONENT Trinity's General Education Elective Component enhances fundamental skills and knowledge to complete Trinity's General Education requirements. The General Education Elective Component for the Associate of Arts degree is 16 elective of the 31 total General Education credits required. For the Bachelor of Arts degree, the General Education Elective Component is 30 elective of the 45 total General Education credits required.

The General Education Elective Component allows students to include courses from a broad educational spectrum. Examples of General Education elective subject areas are literature, music, art, economics, sociology, computer technology, mathematics, and science. Biblically-based courses in these subject areas may also satisfy General Education electives.

Summary of General Education Required Credits						
Degree	General Education Required Core Credits (5 Specific Areas/3 Credits Each)			General Education Elective Credits	=	General Education Total Credits
Associate of Arts	15	+		16	=	31
Bachelor of Arts	15	+		30	=	45

General Education Validation

The General Education Required Core and Elective Components may be satisfied through transfer credits and Trinity undergraduate courses.

- Transfer Credits
 - From Approved Schools – Upon receipt of an official transcript from an approved school, the Office of the Associate Dean of Admissions evaluates and determines General Education transfer credits. All transfer credits are calculated on a semester credit hour basis and are considered only for those courses in which the student received a grade of ‘C’ or higher.
 - From Standardized Tests – Successful performance of standardized tests such as College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) or DANTES Subject Standardized Testing (DSST) may qualify for General Education transfer credits. Upon receipt of an official transcript for these tests, the Office of the Associate Dean of Admissions evaluates and determines General Education transfer credits.
- Trinity Undergraduate Courses – Since General Education competencies are embedded into Trinity's undergraduate courses, General Education required credits may be satisfied by completing Trinity undergraduate courses. Trinity courses taken to satisfy a General Education deficit cannot also be included as part of the student's associate's or bachelor's degree core credits.

The General Education Elective Component may also be satisfied through a Trinity Undergraduate Portfolio. An Undergraduate Portfolio cannot be used to validate courses in the General Education Required Core Component.

- Trinity Undergraduate Portfolio – Students may be awarded credits for the General Education Elective Component via submission and validation of an Undergraduate Portfolio that conforms to the standards of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) and the Trinity *Portfolio Guidebook*.

Trinity College of the Bible General Education

Breadth of Knowledge Areas

With Intended Learning Outcomes

Trinity's undergraduate courses include four Breadth of Knowledge Areas which provide students with Intended Learning Outcomes. Not all Intended Learning Outcomes listed under each Breadth of Knowledge Area are contained within Trinity undergraduate courses. Instructors select and assign those Intended Learning Outcomes that are appropriate for their courses.

Alternative Learning (Knowledge): Demonstrate cognitive skills and learning outcomes stemming from a Christ-centered distance education dedicated to integrity, excellence, and innovation.

Intended Learning Outcomes included so that the Trinity College of the Bible graduate will have knowledge of:

- ❖ Terms and definitions relevant to a specific area of study.
- ❖ Key developments, theories, paradigms, and principles learned in the course of study.
- ❖ The important contributors to the literature of the program.
- ❖ Major themes, events, and personalities found in the Old and New Testaments.
- ❖ The Bible's nature and content.
- ❖ Solid hermeneutical foundations for biblical interpretation of the Old and New Testaments.
- ❖ The biblical foundation and historical development of Christian doctrine and practice.
- ❖ Biblical theology.
- ❖ The nature and ministry of the church.
- ❖ The ever-widening multi-national demographics of the church.
- ❖ Major periods in philosophical history, philosophers, theologians, writers, artists, and other great thinkers and their influence upon the development of civilization and the Christian faith.
- ❖ Major ethical theories.
- ❖ Philosophy and apologetics.
- ❖ The various formal and informal tools of logic that philosophers and apologists use to state arguments and warrant assertions.
- ❖ Criteria used to classify, examine and interpret various competing worldviews as seen in the world and its religions today.
- ❖ History, from biblical through post-biblical times as an expression of the interaction of human choice and divine sovereignty.
- ❖ Systematic theology solidly rooted in the Christian tradition.
- ❖ The relationships between the various areas of theology.
- ❖ Christian educational theories, principles, practices, programs, and procedures.
- ❖ Biblically-based problem solving skills in the various disciplines.
- ❖ The basic and essential components of successful Christian ministry.
- ❖ The uniqueness of a biblical model of counseling.
- ❖ The structures and uses of information literacy systems.

Effective Communication: Communicate effectively with those served in the religious or global community.

Intended Learning Outcomes included so that the Trinity College of the Bible graduate will be able to:

- ❖ Do assigned readings and demonstrate an understanding of their written and/or quantitative content.
- ❖ Demonstrate the ability to summarize, paraphrase, and question using standard written English.
- ❖ Write a clear, well-organized paper, using standard English, that utilizes primary and secondary sources.
- ❖ Properly cite sources using Turabian style.
- ❖ Make a clear, well-organized verbal presentation.
- ❖ Demonstrate visionary transformational leadership that influences, motivates, and empowers those seeking to live for Christ and further His Kingdom.

Critical Inquiry and Thinking: Exhibit familiarity with other worldviews and show that critical inquiry is included as an integral part of the ongoing evaluative learning process.

Intended Learning Outcomes included so that the Trinity College of the Bible graduate will be able to:

- ❖ Analyze, summarize, and interpret a variety of reading materials including texts, journal articles, classical, and primary sources.
- ❖ Critically discern both in the selection and use of theological texts.
- ❖ Apply acquired biblical and theological knowledge and skills to life and ministry situations.
- ❖ Identify a problem in ministry and professional situations, and utilizing biblically-based problem solving skills, develop viable solutions.
- ❖ Elaborate upon knowledge to create new thoughts, processes, and/or products.
- ❖ Think critically and make connections in learning across disciplines.

Healthy Relationships and Sensitivity to Human Diversity: Display healthy relationships with self, family, church, and others and foster sensitivity to people of diverse ages, genders, ethnicity, beliefs, and socioeconomic levels for the purpose of ministering more effectively within the religious or global community.

Intended Learning Outcomes included so that the Trinity College of the Bible graduate will be able to:

- ❖ Explain how the education received was based on the teachings of the Bible and structured around the central theme of the deity of Christ.
- ❖ Develop and explain a personal biblical worldview as a framework for ethical decision making and behavior.
- ❖ Describe a plan for maintaining a personal communion with God.
- ❖ Demonstrate self-direction, intellectual curiosity, and understanding of differing worldviews.
- ❖ Demonstrate sensitivity to people of diverse ages, genders, ethnicity, beliefs, and socioeconomic levels.
- ❖ Foster effective skills in evangelism, discipleship, and acts of compassion in a variety of contexts.
- ❖ Demonstrate intellectual, emotional, social, moral, and spiritual growth.
- ❖ Demonstrate spiritual, civic, and social responsibility.