

# How to Use this Catalog

Your Washington State University Catalog provides you with information on a wide variety of important topics. This page shows how you can use the catalog easily.

## General Information

The general information section provides you with information about admissions, student services, and choosing a major.

## General Education Requirements and Courses

It is important to understand WSU's General Education Requirements (GERs), since you must fulfill them in order to graduate. The General Education section lists all courses which fulfill particular GERs. Vancouver students follow GER requirements described under the Vancouver Campus section of this catalog.

**Note:** Students pursuing degrees in the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Sciences have additional credit hour requirements for General Education and foreign language course work. Honors College students also have different requirements.

## Departments, Requirements, and Courses

The information in this section includes the following:

- A listing of faculty, descriptions of the academic fields, and details about departmental requirements for majors and options, in alphabetical order by department name.
- A complete listing of all requirements needed for each degree is shown in a semester-by-semester schedule of studies to help you plan your course of studies. Note that departmental requirements are set at the time you certify in your major.
- A description of the courses offered by each department. Undergraduate courses are numbered from 100 through 499. 100- and 200-level courses are suggested for first- and second-year students, while 300- and 400-level courses are most appropriate for third- and fourth-year students. Graduate courses are numbered from 500 through 800, and professional courses are designated with the letter P following the course number.

## Understanding the Schedule of Studies

Here is an example and explanation of what you will see when you look at a schedule of studies:

First Year

	First Semester	Hours
(1)	Arts & Humanities [H,G] (GER)*	3
	Degree Program Course <sup>1</sup>	3
(2)	Foreign Language, if necessary, or Elective*	4
	Math Proficiency [N] (GER)	3 or 4
(3)	Tier I Science [Q] (GER)	3

**(1)** You are required to take a certain number of General Education Requirement courses from different areas. In this case, you need to choose an Arts & Humanities course. Here you have a choice of any course that is designated with an [H] or a [G] from the catalog. Keep in mind that **all GER courses you choose must be outside your major department**. This means that if you plan to be an architecture major, you cannot use Arch 202 [H] (GER) to satisfy your GER Arts & Humanities requirement, although anyone who is not an architecture major can. A complete list of all GER courses can be found under the General Education section of this catalog.

**(2)** Footnotes are frequently used to give you more detailed information. In this case, the footnote will list the courses from which to choose, given your specific degree program.

**(3)** The College of Liberal Arts and the College of Sciences require you to take one year of a foreign language at the university level, if two years were not completed at the high school level.

**Many departments allow you to take the required courses in a different order.** Your advisor can tell you how much flexibility you have in rearranging the courses that are required for your degree.

## Understanding Course Descriptions

Below are examples of course descriptions with definitions for each part. **Important!** Prerequisites will be listed if there are courses you need to take before you enroll in any particular class.

In the first example, the course prefix, "Biol", is followed by the course number, and then by "[B]", which indicates that this course is a biological science GER course. The credit hours are shown next. This is a 4-credit course, with three hours in lecture and three hours in lab each week. Next are the prerequisites required for enrolling in the course; "c/" indicates that you may take chemistry at the same time you take Biol 107.

### Biol

**107 [B] Introductory Biology** 4 (3-3) Prereq one semester of chemistry or c/. First or second semester of a one-year sequence (Biol 106/107 or Biol 107/106) for science majors and pre-professional students. Cell biology and genetics of prokaryotes and eukaryotes.

In the second example, this "Topics" course indicates that the subject matter for the class will change each term and that the class may be repeated for additional credit. The course is also a variable credit class and 3 - 6 credits may be offered or taken each term.

### Anth

**395 Topics in Anthropology** V 3-6 May be repeated for credit; cumulative maximum 6 hours. Prereq junior standing. Examination of selected topics in contemporary anthropological theory and practice.