

Academic Programs

The undergraduate degree is organized into core curriculum and discipline concentrations offered within each of the four schools and the Division of Extended Learning. Interdisciplinary programs, specialized programs of study, and minors are also available.

General Education

General Education — Core Curriculum

The curriculum of Holy Family stands within the mainstream of a 2,000 year old Christian liberal arts tradition. As presented in the catalog, the core curriculum of Religious Studies, Philosophy, the Humanities, and the Social and Natural Sciences implements in a general way the objectives of the University. It also contributes to the formation of liberally educated students who find their education is functional in the 21st century. Through this education, students are encouraged to seek not merely information, but personal formation and enrichment.

Programs of Specialization or Concentration*

The key concepts behind the degree programs are coordination and integration of knowledge through the seminar method of instruction in the Junior and Senior years, and through the employment of comprehensive or Senior examinations.

The University has chosen the seminar method as its distinctive feature because it finds that integration of disparate segments of learning is particularly desirable in today's world, where the explosion and fragmentation of knowledge pervade education and life. In the fulfillment of the purposes of the seminar, the patterns may differ in each department; selected topics or themes for the seminars may vary from year to year. As a further implementation of the concentration program and, specifically, as a means of exploring common areas of interest, seminars between the faculty and the students of several concentrations are occasionally arranged.

Ultimately, the programs aim at the formation of thinking persons who are prepared theoretically and practically, by intellectual habits and skills, for life and its everyday value judgments and decisions, and for smooth adjustment to particular professions.

**Concentration is synonymous with major or major area of study.*

Acceptance into the Concentration - It is to the advantage of the student to decide upon a field of interest early in his or her academic career.

To qualify for participation within a particular concentration, a student must be in good standing, i.e., have attained a cumulative index GPA of 2.0 or higher depending on the area of specialization. It is the policy of some schools to review the student's scores on tests in order to determine the levels of competencies before accepting the student into the school. It is the prerogative of the school to set its own expectations and standards of excellence when admitting concentrators.

A student may change the major area of study with the consent of the appropriate School Dean and the Associate Vice President for Academic Services and Registrar. Formal requests for a change of major are initiated in the Academic Advising Center. The student must be in good standing and must meet all the requirements for the new major before such a request may be honored. Acceptance into certain areas of concentration may also be restricted by enrollment.

Honors Study - The School of Arts and Sciences invites qualified students into honors courses to fulfill core curriculum requirements. These honors courses parallel regular courses but provide academic enrichment through more in-depth readings, research, independent work, and seminar-type format.

The following are the current honors courses being offered at Holy Family University:

ENGL 103, 104

Honors Writing I, II

ENGL/HIST 263

Honors American Studies

PHIL 103

Honors Introduction to Philosophy

Related Field - Holy Family University, as a general policy, does not have a related field requirement. Some programs, however, may prescribe a related field in support of their advanced coursework, e.g., students planning on certification to teach on the secondary level will be obliged to choose Education as a related field.

Minors - Currently, disciplines in the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Business Administration offer students an option to declare a minor. Students should declare a minor early in the Sophomore year in order to plan appropriate course offerings. To facilitate this, a student should consult his/her faculty advisor or the School Dean from which the minor is offered for direction in choosing and scheduling a minor concentration. The choices of available minors are described within the respective schools.

Interdisciplinary Programs

Students with special goals have an opportunity to concentrate in one of several currently available interdisciplinary programs including Biochemistry, Interdisciplinary Humanities, Psychobiology, and Psychology for Business. As indicated, each program involves 2 or more concentrations that already offer a major. Interdisciplinary programs are closely coordinated by a faculty advisor in each discipline who works with the student toward making this experience a meaningful and rewarding one.

All interdisciplinary programs include seminars and comprehensive examinations in accordance with the usual pattern of a degree program.

Pre-Professional Programs

Pre-professional programs offer students a combination of coursework and experiences which support their preparation for and application to designated professional programs of study.

Students participating in pre-professional programs benefit from focused advising offered through designated advisors and/or counselors.

Pre-Art Therapy – Students interested in combining an interest in art with a career in mental health and therapy should concentrate on a foundational program in Studio Art with appropriate electives in Psychology.

Pre-Law – Students considering the study of law after graduation plan a program of study that develops abilities in logic and critical thinking, skills in writing and communication, and an analytical understanding of human institutions and values. Nationally, more pre-law students major in the humanistic disciplines of English, Philosophy, or History, supplemented by general studies in the Natural and Social Sciences and Mathematics. Interested students are advised to discuss their objectives with the School of Arts and Sciences pre-law advisor.

Pre-Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Podiatry, Physical Therapy, Physician's Assistant, Veterinary – Post-baccalaureate professional programs in health care recognize strong liberal arts training as the foundation of a successful career in the health care professions. Requirements to a professional program in health care may be met by taking Biology or Biochemistry as the field of concentration. In any case, a candidate must excel in the sciences to receive favorable consideration for admission.

A Pre-Health Professional Committee serves an academic advising role providing assistance and support to those interested in entering a health professional career such as: medicine, dentistry, optometry, podiatry and veterinary medicine. For further information consult the Pre-Health Professional Advisor in the School of Arts and Sciences.

Pre-Pharmacy – Students interested in admission into a college of pharmacy usually complete two years of undergraduate study before transferring to a professional school. Their pre-professional curriculum must include two semesters of general biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, calculus, and English composition, as well as courses in literature, social sciences, and the humanities and/or others as defined by the professional school of choice.

General Education

Core Curriculum

Mission

- To introduce students to the core knowledge areas central to the development of an informed and responsible citizenry and to integrate this learning with the needs of the global world.
- To develop within students the ability to read, think, speak and write analytically, critically, skillfully and scholarly.
- To invite students to experience the depth of relational living with one's God, others and creation.
- To graduate students who will be competent professionals and enthusiastic life-long learners.

Contact Information

Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences: Michael W. Markowitz, PhD

General Education Assessment Coordinator: Megan L. Meyer, PhD

Core Curriculum

Note: All students are required to complete 45 credits in general education (core). Selections should be made from the areas and courses as described below. All transfer students entering at this time of transition will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Knowledge of God, the Judeo-Christian Value System – Two Courses (JCV)

Goal: To develop knowledge of religious traditions and their influence on one's relationship with God and others.

All students must successfully complete two courses (6 credits) in Religious Studies (RELS) selected from the following:

- RELS 104 World Religions
- RELS 105 Introduction to the Four Gospels
- RELS 106 Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures
- RELS 108 Basics of Catholic Faith
- RELS 203 Gospel According to John
- RELS 210 Jesus the Christ

The following course cannot be used as one of the two required courses in RELS but can be completed as an elective in the core.

- PHIL 207 Philosophy of Religion

Knowledge of the Human Quest – Two Courses (HQ)

Goal: To develop within students a critical appreciation for a wide range of aesthetic experiences.

All students must successfully complete one course (3 credits) in philosophy selected from the following:

- PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy **or** PHIL 103: Honors
Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 201 Philosophy of Human Nature
- PHIL 202 Logic
- PHIL 301 Ethics

All students must successfully complete one course (3 credits) selected from the following:

- ARTS 102 Art Appreciation
- ENGL 201 World Literature I
- ENGL 202 World Literature II
- ENGL 235 Understanding Movies

- MUSC 102 Music Appreciation
- PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology
- PSYC 206 Child and Adolescent Development*
- PSYC 207 Adult Development and Aging*
- PSYC 208 Psychology of Human Development*
- PSYC/SOCO 210 Gender Issues
- THEA 201 Acting

** If students take PSYC 206 in their degree program, they may not take PSYC 208 to complete the core requirement in HQ*

** If students take PSYC 207 in their degree program, they may not take PSYC 208 as the second course to complete the core requirement in HQ*

Knowledge of Global Perspective – Three Courses (GP)

Goal: To expose students to the increasing connectedness of the global society.

All students must successfully complete two sequential courses in a single language (6 credits) selected from the following:

- FREN 101, FREN 102 Introduction to French
- FREN 103, 104 Intermediate French
- FREN 201, 202 Advanced Writing and Composition
- GERM 101, 102 Introduction to German
- ITAL 101, 102 Introduction to Italian
- ITAL 103, 104 Intermediate Italian
- MAND 101, 102 Introduction to Mandarin
- PLSH 101, 102 Introduction to Polish
- SPAN 101, 102 Introduction to Spanish
- SPAN 103, 104 Intermediate Spanish
- SPAN 201, 202 Advanced Grammar and Conversation

All students must successfully complete one course (3 credits) selected from the following:

- HIST 108 Global History to 500 CE
- HIST 109 Global History 500 – 1700
- HIST 208 Global History 1700 – present

Knowledge of Mathematics – One Course (MATH)

Goal: To develop the mathematical skills and strategies necessary to investigate and solve problems involving real world applications.

All students must successfully complete at least one course from the following as determined by placement testing:

- MATH 121 Contemporary Mathematics
- MATH 150 College Algebra and Trigonometry
- MATH 211 Calculus I

** MATH 106 and MATH 107 are developmental courses and do not fulfill the core requirement. Students may enroll in these courses only as a result of placement testing. For those students who are required to complete one or both of these course they may be used as free electives. They may not be taken by a student who has passed MATH 121 or higher.*

Knowledge of Natural Science – Two Courses (KNS)

Goal: To develop an understanding of the complexities of the natural world.

All students must successfully complete two courses from the following selection. At least one of these courses must be a lab course:

- BIOL 120 Biological Principles I (Lab Course)
- BIOL 121 Biological Principles II (Lab Course)
- GSCI 104 Biology in the Natural World (Lab Course)*
- GSCI 105 Living in the Environment (Non-lab Course)
- GSCI 106 Chemistry and the Environment (Non-lab Course)
- GSCI 107 Fundamental Concepts of Biology and Chemistry
(Non-lab Course* Recommended for students majoring in nursing)
- GSCI 108 The Environment of Planet Earth (Non-lab Course)

** Only one of the two courses, GSCI 104 or GSCI 107, but not both may be used to fulfill the Natural Science requirement because of similar content.*

Knowledge of the National Experience – Two Courses (NE)

Goal: To provide students with a social and historical foundation of American institutions to prepare them to engage in citizenship.

All students must successfully complete one course (3 credits) selected from the following:

- HIST 203 American History to 1820
- HIST 204 American History 1820 – 1920
- HIST 205 American History since 1920

All students must successfully complete one course (3 credits) selected from the following:

- POLS 210 Introduction to International Relations
- SOCO 101 Introductory Sociology
- SOCO 206 Marriage and the Family

Freshman Writing/Speech/Reading – Three Courses (FRBL)

Goal: To develop within students the ability to read, think, speak and write analytically, critically, skillfully and scholarly.

All students must successfully complete two writing courses (6 credits) and a speech course (3 credits):

- ENGL 101/102 Writing I and II I as determined by placement test
- ENGL 103/104 Honors Writing I and II as determined by placement testing
- ENGL 115 Public Speaking

First Year College Success Program

Mission

The First Year of College Success Program is an interdisciplinary experience which introduces first-time students to the University's Mission so that they may understand and grow in its spirit and give continued expression to its core values in their lives.

Contact Information

Vice President for Academic Affairs: Sister Maureen McGarrity, CSFN, PhD

Program Director: Michael McNulty-Bobholtz, BA

Students will be able to:

- Identify the Holy Family University Mission and core values in relationship to the college-student experience and their own personal lives
- Locate Holy Family University resources and services and relate them to their personal circumstances
- Examine common college-student issues and relate them to their personal circumstances
- Define and practice behaviors and strategies which facilitate effective group work and achieve common objectives.

Completion of this course fulfills a graduation requirement for those entering the University as first time, full-time students.

Course: FEXP 100: First Year Experience (1 credit)

Completion of this course fulfills a graduation requirement for all first year students.

This is an interdisciplinary course which seeks to acquaint students with the academic culture, values, and expectations of Holy Family University. Students will meet with assigned mentors and engage in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that will help them to develop the personal, academic, and social skills needed for current and future success. This course is supplemented by an extensive Presidential Lecture Series offering student a range of content and services designed to complement and augment coursework.