Preparing students for challenges of the workplace.

NEW CORE CURRICULUM ALIGNS WITH ESSENTIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Core Curriculum, Journeys of Transformation, allows students to explore new ways of thinking as they answer four ‘Big Questions’—Who am I and what is the world?, Who is my neighbor?, How shall we live?, and What, then, must we do?—questions central to the faith heritage, intellectual tradition and social teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

The core curriculum consists of a common core focusing on these four ‘Big Questions’ and a core complement. In the core complement, students choose from courses in three areas: humanities and social sciences, mathematics and natural sciences, and languages. Opportunities for service learning, servant leadership, civic engagement, or community service are incorporated throughout the core to support the intellectual growth of students and enhance student leadership. In the first and second year, students will also participate in two service experiences. These experiences will introduce them to the service needs and opportunities available in the greater Nashua, N.H. area.

ALIGNED WITH LEAP GOALS

The University’s new core is aligned with the Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP Goals) Initiative developed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). LEAP, launched in 2005, is a national initiative that champions the importance of a twenty-first century liberal education. This approach empowers students, preparing them to function in a complex work environment where diversity and change are the norm. Core courses will focus on skills needed and relevant to today’s workplace.

Implementation of LEAP’S essential learning outcomes provides Rivier graduates with strong intellectual and practical skills including communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, along with the ability to apply this knowledge and these skills in their workplace. Quantitative reasoning, technological literacy, and oral communication competencies will be infused throughout the core curriculum and in all major programs of study.

Rivier University offers many high impact practices that research published by the AAC&U cites as substantial educational benefits, such as first-year seminars and experiences, writing-intensive courses, collaborative assignments and projects, community-based service learning, capstone courses and projects, and undergraduate research. In addition, Rivier’s new global engagement initiatives will offer extensive opportunities for diversity and global learning experiences.

LIVING THE RIVIER MISSION

In addition to the four LEAP essential learning outcomes, Rivier has added a fifth outcome aligned to its mission and Catholic heritage—Foster a Sense of the Sacred and of the Dignity of the Human Person, particularly as expressed through the Catholic tradition, including:

• Appreciation of the sacred meaning and purpose of life
• Inquiry into the essence of authentic human community
• Respect for the belief systems of others
GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES: THE COMMON CORE

1. Who am I and What is the World?
   Students explore these questions in their first year common core courses.
   • ENG 115 Expositions and Arguments, 3 Credits
   • REL 115 The Dignity of Creation: God and the Created Order, 3 Credits
   • LNS 108 Student Success: Campus to Community I, 1 Credit
   • LNS 109 Student Success: Campus to Community II, 1 Credit
   • BIO 112 Stewards of the Living World, 3 Credits

2. Who is My Neighbor?
   Students explore this question in their second and third years.
   HUM 200+ Humanities: Literature, Art, and the Human
   Students take one -200 level interdisciplinary course that addresses a basic human question from the perspectives of the literary, visual, and musical arts.
   • HIS 203 Interactions: The West in the World I, 3 Credits or
   • HIS 204 Interactions: The West in the World II, 3 Credits
   • SL 100 Serving the World, 1 Credit

3. How Shall We Live?
   Students explore this question in their junior and senior years.
   Religion: Faith, Religion, and Social Justice: Students take one Religion course developed with this theme at its center.
   Philosophy: Ethics, Values, and Moral Choices: Students take one Philosophy course developed with this theme at its center.

4. What, then, Shall We Do?
   Students explore this question in their junior or senior year.
   Capstone: Justice and Global Responsibility
   Students take one of a number of offerings under Justice and Global Responsibility. This seminar serves as the culmination of the Common Core. Informed by problem-solving pedagogy, this seminar enhances the student's connection with the Catholic vision of the University by focusing on justice and global responsibility.

AREA DISTRIBUTION COURSES: THE CORE COMPLEMENT

Humanities and Social Sciences
   • One course from: Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology.

Mathematics and Natural Sciences
   • One course in Mathematics: MA112 College Algebra or above
   • One course from: Computer Science, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, or Physical Science.

Culture through Language
   Students must demonstrate university-level introductory competency in a language other than English. Students may demonstrate proficiency by
   • Having successfully completed, with a “B” average or better, high school study in the same language at the fifth level (e.g. Spanish V).
   • Successfully completing six credits of introductory (or higher) study in the same language at the university level. Nursing students may complete this requirement with a three-credit course in a profession-oriented language course (e.g. SPA 105 Spanish for Health-Care Professionals).

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TRANSFORMING HEARTS AND MINDS TO SERVE THE WORLD