

HASS Core Requirements

Background: Regardless of a student's major (or dual-major), all Rensselaer undergraduates must satisfy core requirements in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (the *HASS Core Requirements*) and School of Science (the *Math/Science Core Requirements*) to meet their graduation requirements. This document provides guidance on how to satisfy the **HASS Core Requirements**.

In general, all Rensselaer undergraduates must complete (with a passing grade) 24 credits of HASS courses. This is typically accomplished by taking a combination of six 4-credit courses. Achieving the 24-credit total is slightly different for students in majors in the School of Engineering¹ and the School of Architecture².

Specifics of the Requirement

Distribution requirement: *Students must complete a minimum of 8 credits of courses within the Humanities, and at least 8 credits of courses within the Social Sciences (see Table below). The remaining 8 credits are satisfied by any combination of Humanities, Social Sciences, or interdisciplinary courses (courses with the designation IHSS). Note that IHSS courses can be counted as either humanities or social science courses.*

Humanities and Social Science Course Departmental Prefix Designations	
Humanities	Social Science
ARTS (Arts; Music)	COGS (Cognitive Science)
COMM (Communication & Media)	ECON (Economics)
LANG (Language)	PSYC (Psychology)
LITR (Literature)	STSS (Anthropology)
PHIL (Philosophy)	STSS (Sociology)
STSH (History)	STSS (Science & Technology)
STSH (Science & Technology)	
WRIT (Writing)	
IHSS (Interdisciplinary HASS)	IHSS (Interdisciplinary HASS)

Depth requirement: *Students must take at least two courses with the same course departmental prefix designation, one of which is above the 1000 level. Examples: PSYC 1200 + PSYC 2220; WRIT 2310 + WRIT 2320; ECON 1200 + ECON 4130.*

Communication Intensive requirement: *Students must take at least two courses designated as Communication Intensive or "CI". One CI course must be taken in the HASS core and one in the student's major. Courses designated as CI are listed on SIS. <https://sis.rpi.edu>*

4000-level Requirement: *Students must take at least one 4000-level HASS course.*

Restrictions:

1. A maximum of three 1000-level courses can be counted toward the HASS core requirement. Any additional 1000-level HASS courses will be counted as "Free Electives".
2. A maximum of 8 transfer or AP credits can be counted toward the HASS Core.

¹ Engineering majors must complete 22 credits of HASS courses in addition to a three-course sequence of 2-credit professional development (PD) courses entitled PD1, PD2, and PD3. PD2 counts as 2-credits toward the HASS Core.

² Architecture majors must complete 20 credits of HASS courses. Four credits of the HASS core requirements are embedded within the Architectural Genealogy sequence: ARCH 4100 and ARCH 4110.

Checklist for HASS Core Requirements

	Yes	No
Distribution requirement:		
Have you completed the Humanities distribution requirement? (A minimum of 8 credits in courses with a Humanities and/or IHSS departmental prefix) <i>Note: PD2 or alternate PD2 cannot be used</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you completed the Social Science distribution requirement? (A minimum of 8 credits in courses with a Social Science and/or IHSS departmental prefix) <i>Note: PD2 or alternate PD2 cannot be used</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Depth requirement:		
Have you completed two 4-credit HASS courses with the same departmental prefix, one of which is above the 1000-level? (Examples: COMM 1510 + COMM 2210; STSH 2130 + STSH 2310; ARTS 1010 + ARTS 4130) <i>Note: Pass/No Credit is not allowed</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication Intensive (CI) requirement:		
Have you completed at least one HASS course designated as CI? Courses designated as CI are listed on SIS. https://sis.rpi.edu <i>Note: Transfer credit and Pass/No Credit are not typically allowed</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4000-level requirement:		
Have you completed at least one 4-credit HASS course at the 4000-level?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you Meeting the Restrictions?		
A maximum of three 1000-level courses may be applied toward the HASS core.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A maximum of 8 transfer/AP credits may be counted toward the HASS core.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A maximum of 2 courses may be designated as Pass/No Credit (see restriction noted above)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you completed a total of 24 credits of HASS courses? (Note: Engineering is 22, and Architecture is 20 - see other side for details)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you have answered all of the questions with "YES", then you have met the HASS core requirements.		