

## **The OLE Core: A Summary of the Updated Draft**

*Note: This is a draft. It is quite likely that the names and descriptions of some requirements will change between now and November 7.*

**First-Year Experience (2 courses).** One course, “First-Year Seminar,” emphasizes reading, critical thinking, conversation, and academic habits for the liberal arts. The other course, “Writing and Rhetoric,” introduces and engages students in academic and public discourse (audience, purpose, genre, context) related to a particular topic. Both courses require that students engage with the OLE Questions.

**Religion, Faith and Values (1 course).** A course that builds religious literacy with a focus on one religious tradition or a set of related religious traditions and builds on OLE Questions 2 and 3. Students not only work to develop the skills necessary for critically interpreting and understanding religious life, they also gain a more complex understanding of the relationship between religion, community and the natural world along with the role of religion in answering fundamental questions about existence, meaning, and ethics.

**Christian Theology in Dialogue (1 course).** A course that focuses on the dialogue between Christian theology and the theology (or its equivalent) of another religious tradition or other form of inquiry.

**Race and Diversity (1 course).** In this course, students engage with all three OLE Questions and gain deep, contextualized knowledge of how race and ethnicity manifest in institutions and intersect with other forms of structural inequity such as gender, religion, sexual orientation, environmental injustice and social class. Students acquire familiarity with cultural differences and their contributions to a diverse society. Courses must discuss the U.S., but need not focus on it exclusively.

**Global Histories and Societies (1 course).** This course asks students to interrogate the ways in which the past is known, constructed, deconstructed, curated and preserved by the present. Courses will focus on analyzing and understanding textual, artistic, environmental and oral evidence within broader historical, ecological and cultural contexts.

**Natural Science (1 course).** Using scientific paradigms and methods, students will learn about and develop skills to lead a meaningful and responsible life in the natural world that all inhabit. This course engages students in collaborative problem solving, design challenges, and data analysis.

**Social Science (1 course).** In this course, which could engage any of the three OLE Questions, students use social science approaches to better understand human complexity and analyze important social issues through theories and empirical evidence while developing their ability to evaluate social science research.

**Writing Across the Curriculum (1 course).** Taught at the 200-level, this course bridges the First-Year Experience foundations of critical reading, writing, inquiry, discussion, and information literacy with deeper learning and transfer as students navigate one or more majors/concentrations, engage in academic and co-curricular experiences that invest in vocation and career planning, and develop a sense of place/role in community that invites effective communication. This course must emphasize OLE Questions 2 and 3.

**Quantitative and Computational Reasoning (1 course).** In this course, students gain knowledge of quantitative and computational methods. They learn how to apply quantitative and computational problem-solving and knowledge in various contexts.

**World Languages and Cultures (1-3 courses).** This requirement aims to develop language skills and the ability to use those skills to interpret authentic texts and reflect critically on the connections and differences between one's own experience and the diverse experiences and perspectives of users of other languages. Depending on placement, incoming students must complete at least one course and a maximum of three courses at St. Olaf.

**Creativity (1 course).** A course that asks students to explore "making and doing" - the experience of creation, whether the creation in question takes the form of a studio art project, a short film, a dance performance or a music piece.

**The OLE Experience in Practice (0-1 courses; can be satisfied by a non-credit bearing experience).** Students will be required to engage in work that integrates academic and experiential learning by applying classroom theories and ideas in a practical setting and/or drawing upon experiential learning to advance their understanding in an academic setting. All students will have the opportunity to benefit from the mentoring, guided inquiry, and reflection that characterize experiential learning.

**Portfolio.** A collection of reflections, artifacts, and materials related to vocation assembled by a student (in conjunction with the student's academic advisor) throughout their time at St. Olaf. Students can engage with all three OLE questions.

#### Proposed Requirements to be Fulfilled Outside of the OLE Core

**Writing in the Major (1 course or its equivalent).** A single course or a set of modules distributed across two or more courses that provide writing instruction relevant to a specific major and build upon lessons learned in the "First-Year Experience" (especially "Writing and Rhetoric") and "Writing Across the Curriculum."

**Ethics in the Major (1 course or its equivalent).** A single course or a set of modules distributed across two or more courses that provide instruction in and exploration of key ethical considerations relevant to the study and practice of a discipline or an interdisciplinary major.