QC Degree Requirements at a Glance

These requirements are for students entering the college as freshmen or transfer students as of the Fall 2009 semester.

Effective Fall 2009, entering freshmen and transfer students will follow a revised curriculum that includes writing, mathematics, abstract or quantitative reasoning, foreign language study, the Perspectives on the Liberal Arts and Sciences, and a capstone or synthesis course. Students who matriculated prior to Fall 2009 will complete their degree requirements under the prior curriculum guidelines. The Academic Advising Center provides information about all degree requirements. Here are the rudiments of the college curriculum, required of all students.

A minimum of 120 credits (approximately 40 courses) that includes a major course of study and the following college-wide degree requirements:

WRITING
All students are required to complete ENGL 110 and three additional courses designated as “writing-intensive” (W). Some ‘W’ courses also satisfy General Education requirements. A list of courses with the “W” designation being offered each semester is available online prior to registration.

MATHEMATICS
All students are required to complete a course numbered MATH 110 or above, or to place into a course numbered above MATH 122 based on the COMPASS exam.

ABSTRACT OR QUANTITATIVE REASONING
All students are required to complete one course carrying the AQR designation. Some AQR courses also satisfy General Education requirements. A list of courses with the AQR designation being offered each semester is available online prior to registration.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE
All students are required to satisfy the foreign language requirement with a passing grade in an intermediate level 1 course in a foreign language at Queens College or by studying a foreign language within other specified contexts.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
All students are required to study a broad range of academic subjects from varying perspectives and ways of understanding. At Queens, these courses are known as “General Education” or the “Liberal Arts and Sciences.”

PERSPECTIVES ON THE LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
1. Core Areas of Knowledge and Inquiry:
   - Reading Literature (RL): two courses.
   - Appreciating and Participating in the Arts (AP): one course.
   - Cultures and Values (CV): one course.
   - Analyzing Social Structures (SS): two courses, from two departments.
   - Natural Science (NS): two courses, one with a laboratory component (NS-L).
2. Global Contexts:
   - United States (US): one course.
   - European Traditions (ET): one course.
   - World Cultures (WC): one course.
   - Pre-Industrial Society (PI): one course.

The US, ET, WC, and PI requirements may be fulfilled by any course carrying these respective designations. Some of these courses also satisfy the Core Areas of Knowledge and Inquiry requirements described above.

MAJOR
Each student is required to complete an approved major area of study. (Completion of a minor is recommended, but not required.)
UPPER LEVEL DEGREE REQUIREMENT
Capstone or Synthesis (required for students who entered in Fall 2010 or later). The capstone course is open to upper-level students in a specific major, while the synthesis course is open to upper-level students across varied majors who meet prerequisite requirements for the course. These courses are meant to offer opportunities for students to integrate areas of knowledge drawn from varied perspectives and ways of understanding, and to produce a body of work that advances their critical and creative abilities.
(On April 14, 2011, the Academic Senate resolved that the General Education Requirement of a Synthesis or Capstone course be suspended for the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 academic year)

ADDITIONAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
Each student must also complete the following:
- At least 45 credits in residency at Queens College.
- At least 30 of the last 64 credits at Queens College or the CUNY Graduate Center.
- A minimum 2.0 cumulative index.

* For transfer students, the Director of Writing Across the Curriculum has the sole responsibility to authorize writing-intensive units for transferred courses other than ENGL 120W. At most, two writing-intensive units will be granted for any student, but only if the institution at which the course was taken has a writing-intensive program similar to that at Queens College, and the course is specified in the institution’s bulletin as writing intensive. At least one writing-intensive unit must be taken in residence at Queens College.

† The foreign language requirement can be met by passing an intermediate course at Queens College or by successful completion of one of the following:
• A course taught in a foreign language or American Sign Language at the third-semester level or higher.
• Three years of high school education in the same foreign language.
• A minimum grade of 80 on the New York State Regents exam in a foreign language.
• Completion of 11th grade or higher in which the language of instruction is a foreign language.
• A satisfactory score on a scheduled departmental proficiency exam at Queens College.
• A satisfactory score on an approved external placement exam in a foreign language.
Students should consult the Arts & Humanities Division webpage for a list of approved departmental and external proficiency exams in foreign language.