

Lifetime Leadership Skills

Westminster encourages lifetime learning, which is enabled by the development of specific intellectual skills. Breakthrough general education requirements places particular emphasis on skills that are needed for success in the 21st century. To this end, Westminster students will take courses that allow them to sharpen their skills in written and oral communication, information and digital literacy, and research inquiry and analysis.

Skill	Cours	Semester	Hours
Writing Intensive: two courses (at least one must be an upper-level course); three courses if transferring in ENG 103			
Oral Communication: one course			
Information and Digital Literacy: one course			
Research: Inquiry and Analysis one course			

Communication:

Communication includes the ability to write, speak, read, and listen effectively. Development of these skills is essential for preparing students to be confident communicators with the capacity to convey, engage, apply, and reflect on knowledge accessed within their chosen fields.

Writing Intensive:

Westminster students must earn credit in two Writing Intensive courses, one of which must be upper level, to fulfill this portion of the Lifetime Leadership Skills. Students transferring credit in composition must take three WI courses and at least one of the courses must be upper-level. Some professors may offer a course as “Writing Intensive Option” in order to allow a limited number of students to take the course for Writing Intensive credit; it is the student's responsibility to get permission from the instructor of a Writing Intensive option course and to submit the electronic form to the Registrar's Office in order to receive Writing Intensive credit.

Writing Intensive courses will be designated with “WI” and Writing Intensive Option courses will be designated with “WIO” in parenthesis after the title of the class.

Approved Writing Intensive Courses:

- ACC 421: Auditing
- BIO 204: Animal Behavior
- BIO 404: Biochemistry
- BIO 420: Physiology
- CSA 470: Software Engineering Capstone I
- CSA 480: Software Engineering Capstone II
- ~~-CSC 350: Systems Analysis & Design (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- ~~-ECN 334: Economic Development (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- ECN 355: Research Methods for Business and Social Sciences Applications
- ~~-ECN 367: Econometrics (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- ~~-ECN 400: Senior Honors Thesis (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- EDU 231: Education of Exceptional Individuals
- EDU 290: Foundations of Education
- EDU 306: Teaching Reading
- EDU 309: Teaching of Writing in Middle & Secondary Schools
- EDU 350: Digital Literacy
- EDU 385: Diversity in Education
- EDU 392: Reading & Writing in the Content Area
- EDU 431: Teaching English in Middle & Secondary Schools
- EDU 441: Reading Assessment and Advancement
- EDU 490: Education Seminar
- ENG 206: British Literature since 1800
- ENG/JMP 220: Janus and the World of Publishing
- ENG/JMP 265: Technical and Web Writing
- ENG/JMP 270: Expository Writing

- ENG 275: Introduction to Creative Writing
- ENG 290: Introduction to Literary Studies: Critical Approaches & Research Methods
- ~~-ENG 315: Environmental Literature (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- ENG 335: Crime, Mystery, and Detection 19th Century British Literature
- ENG/WGS 340: Romanticism and Gender: Bad Girls of Romanticism
- ENG 350: Shakespeare
- ENG 350: Supernatural Shakespeare
- ENG 372: Creative Writing Prose (Fiction)
- ENG 374: Creative Writing Poetry
- ENG 376: Creative Nonfiction
- ENG/THE 378: Playwriting
- ENG 420: Honors Project I
- ENG 430: Honors Project II
- FRE 280: Introduction to French Literature and Culture
- GEO 315: Anthropocene Geology
- GTS 310: Memory & Culture in Global Perspective
- GTS 320: Global Inequality
- GTS 401: Research Seminar
- HES 300: Eat Like a Greek
- HES 321: Kinesiology
- HIS 390: Historiography
- HIS 422: Senior Thesis
- HIS 423: Senior Thesis
- HIS 424: Senior Thesis
- MAT 310: History of Mathematics
- MAT 331: Mathematics Seminar
- MUS 312: Music of Resistance, Revolution & Liberation
- PHL 242: Biomedical Ethics
- PHL 246: Environmental Ethics
- PHL/REL 302: The Meaning of Life
- PHL/REL: 333: Asian Philosophy and Religion
- PHL 400/REL 300: Buddhism
- PHL 410/SEC 300: Ethical Warfare
- PHL 410/WGS 300: Philosophy of Race and Gender
- POL 301: The American Presidency
- POL 304: American Political Theory
- POL/SEC 328: National Security Agencies
- POL 332: National Security Law I
- POL 333: National Security Law II
- POL 343: Congress
- POL/WGS 351: Women and Politics
- ~~-POL 370: Drugs, Politics, and Public Policy (removed from Breakthrough after 2020-2021)~~
- PSY 422: Psychology Seminar

- PSY 430: Pre-Thesis
- PSY 431: Senior Thesis
- REL 345: Writings of C.S. Lewis
- REL/WGS 355: Sex and Gender in the Christian Tradition
- SEC 420: Security Studies Thesis
- ~~-SEG 470: Software Engineering Capstone I (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- ~~-SEG 480: Software Engineering Capstone II (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- SPA 381: Advanced Grammar and Composition

Approved Writing Intensive Optional Courses:

- BIO 322: Vertebrate Biology
- BUS 334: Consumer Behavior
- BUS 327: Operations Management
- CBR 210: Cybersecurity for Society
- CBR 331: Information Storage and Management
- CBR 415: Information Security Policy
- CHM 410: Medicinal Chemistry
- ~~CHM 425: Physical Chemistry I Lab (removed from WIO Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- CHM 435: Physical Chemistry II Lab
- CLA 215: Mythology
- CLA 227: Greek Civilization
- CLA 228: Roman Civilization
- ~~-CLA 320: Medicine, Miracles, and Magic (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- ~~-CLA 325: Omens, Dreams & Portents (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- ~~-ECN 316: Public Finance (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- ENG 330/GTS 300: Literary Remixes: Contemporary Takes on Classic British Fiction
- ENG/WGS 340: Wives, Widows & Whores
- ENG 345/GTS 300: African Diasporic Lit
- ENG 345: Native American Literatures
- ENG/GTS 345: Caribbean Literature
- HES 340: Exercise Physiology
- HES 357: Community Nutrition
- HIS 109: World History I
- HIS 110: World History II
- ~~-HIS/POL 300: Fascism (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- ~~-ITY 200: Cybersecurity for Society (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- ~~-ITY 331: Information Storage and Management (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- MAT 422: Modern Algebra
- MAT 424: Advanced Calculus
- PHL 101: Introduction to Philosophy Through Film

- PHL 120: History of Philosophy
- PSY 274: Methods in Experimental Psychology

Oral Communication & Presentation Skills: 1 course required. Students will earn credit by completing a course emphasizing oral communication and presentation skills.

Students may take any course designated OCP to fulfill this requirement, but it is recommended that they complete this course within their major in order to promote meaningful engagement with and application of this skill in their chosen field.

Approved Oral Communication and Presentation Courses:

- All courses with SPE prefix, except SPE 203
- BIO 302: Human Anatomy
- CSA 470: Software Engineering Capstone I
- CSA 480: Software Engineering Capstone II
- ECN 355: Research Methods for Business and Social Sciences Applications
- ~~-ECN 367: Econometrics (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- EDU 231: Education of Exceptional Individuals
- EDU 392: Reading & Writing in the Content Area
- ENG/THE 230 & 231: Play in Performance
- GEO 315: Anthropocene Geology
- GTS 212: Model United Nations Team
- GTS 310: Memory & Culture in Global Perspective
- HES 357: Community Nutrition
- MAT 305: Heart of Mathematics
- MAT 422: Modern Algebra
- MUS 335: Song and the Community
- PHL/REL 102: World Religions
- POL 300: Domestic Terrorism
- POL/SEC 328: National Security Agencies
- POL 335: Politics and Security in Developing Nations
- ~~-POL 370: Drugs, Politics, and Public Policy (removed from Breakthrough after 2020-2021)~~
- PSY 311: Social Psychology Lab
- PSY 313: Developmental Psychology Lab
- PSY 316: Personality Lab
- PSY 321: Memory and Cognition Lab
- PSY 391: Abnormal Psychology Lab
- REL 246: Religion and Violence
- SEC 312/GTS 300: Terrorism
- SEC 334: Intelligence at Home & Abroad
- ~~-SEG 470: Software Engineering Capstone I (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~

~~-SEG 480: Software Engineering Capstone II (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~

-THE 201: Basic Acting

Information and Digital Literacy:

Westminster prioritizes development of the skill of information technology, or the ability to employ computer and other technologies in writing, in the manipulation of data, and in understanding the nature and limits of technology. To adapt to rapidly changing technology tools, students should have both information and digital literacy. This implies the ability to access, retrieve, evaluate, manage, and use information effectively and efficiently from a variety of print, non-print, and digital sources through the use of computer and other information technologies.

It is recommended students meet the Information and Digital Literacy skill in their chosen field of study. This skill is addressed throughout the curriculum as indicated by courses tagged as IDL. While courses are not designated IDL in the catalog, they are noted as such in the Schedule of Classes published each semester.

Approved Information and Digital Literacy Courses:

-BIO 114/115: Biological Processes (Lecture and Lab)

-BUS 210: Spreadsheet Application for Business

-ECN 355: Research Methods for Business and Social Science Applications

-EDU 231: Education of Exceptional Individuals

-EDU 350: Digital Literacy

-ENG/JMP 220: Janus and the Publishing World

-ENG/JMP 265: Technical and Web Writing

-ENG 335: Crime, Mystery, and Detection 19th Century British Literature

-ENG/JMP 380: Introduction to Digital Humanities

-HES 321: Kinesiology

-HIS 390: Historiography

-ITY 250: Web Page Design, Aesthetics, and Interaction

-MAT 351: Methods of Teaching Elementary & Middle School Mathematics

-PSY 270: Research Tools

Research Inquiry and Analysis:

Active learning, analysis, and application are essential for the development of mature critical thinking. In order to further student's development in higher-level thinking, there must be an emphasis on inquiry and analysis. Inquiry is a systematic process of exploring issues/ objects/works through the collection and analysis of evidence that results in informed conclusions. Analysis is the process of investigating complex topics or issues in order to gain a better understanding of the factors that interact and shape relationships, outcomes, or events.

Completing this process of research will help students to apply the tools, theories, and conventions of their field to a specific area of inquiry. Therefore, courses that meet this skill (tagged as RIA) should be taken within the student's field or chosen in consultation with their department.

Approved Research Inquiry and Analysis Courses:

- BIO 212: Research Methods in Biology and Environmental Sciences
- BIO 204: Animal Behavior
- BIO 404: Biochemistry
- BIO 420: Physiology
- BUS 353: Non-Profit Management
- BUS 364: Introduction to Qualitative Research
- ECN 355: Research Methods for Business and Social Sciences Applications
- ~~-ECN 367: Econometrics (removed from Breakthrough after 2021-2022)~~
- EDU 231: Education of Exceptional Individuals
- ENG 290: Introduction to Literary Studies: Critical Approaches and Research Methods
- ENG 350: Shakespeare
- GTS 401: Research Seminar
- HES 321: Kinesiology
- HIS 422: Senior Thesis
- MAT 424: Advanced Calculus
- PHL 242: Biomedical Ethics
- PHL 246: Environmental Ethics

- PHL/REL 333: Asian Philosophy and Religion
- PHL 410/SEC 300: Ethical Warfare
- PHL 410/WGS 300: Philosophy of Race and Gender
- POL 301: The American Presidency
- POL/SEC 328: National Security Agencies
- POL 343: Congress
- POL/WGS 351: Women & Politics
- PSY 274: Methods in Experimental Psychology
- REL 345: Writings of C.S. Lewis
- REL 346: Religion and Violence
- SEC 312/GTS 300: Terrorism