

3. Colonnade Courses Will Complement Your Major

The required courses that make up the Colonnade Program will prepare students for the advanced coursework that is a part of their major. For example, do you think that taking a course on Managerial Communications to fulfill a Colonnade requirement is not relevant to an information technology degree? Think again. An IT professional may supervise staff, negotiate with product vendors and develop company procedures—job responsibilities that require basic skills in effective communication. Colonnade electives enable you to take courses that not only strengthen your skills and abilities for future course work, but also foster the proficiencies employers most value in the workforce.



4. Colonnade Courses Will Help You Acquire Essential Job Skills

According to a study done by AACU, 91% of employers said they are asking employees to take on more responsibilities and to use a broader set of skills than in the past. In other words, job seekers need to know a lot more than just the basic skills required to work within their fields. Additionally, 88% of employers said that to succeed in their companies, employees need higher levels of learning and knowledge than they did in the past. In short, employers prize ethical reasoning, communication, and quantitative literacy as equal to or more important than hard skills.

5. Colonnade Courses Will Help You Adapt to a Constantly Changing World

In the end, general education requirements are all about preparing students for the unknown. A student's interests can change, careers may advance, and new jobs may be created—all situations where a foundational skillset and broad-based knowledge are necessary for success. The purpose of the Colonnade program is to give students abilities that can't be found in a textbook and that will be used throughout one's personal and professional life; they are the product of communication, analysis, problem solving, and experience.

WKU COLONNADE *Program*
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WKU
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Program

What is the Colonnade Program?

The Colonnade Program is the name of WKU's distinctive General Education curriculum. WKU has adopted the Colonnade Program to ensure that each student possesses certain academic skills, a breadth of human knowledge, and an appreciation for the diversity of ideas and perspectives that exist in the nation and world. All Colonnade courses are designed to challenge you, inspire you, and, most importantly, prepare you for the future.

The Colonnade Program is far more than introductory courses that students pursue before completing coursework in their majors or minors. Instead, the Colonnade Program is truly a core—a common intellectual and academic experience shared by every student in every program of study. Moreover, the Colonnade Program is dynamic. All of us learn in stages, and the curriculum is designed to help you as you progress from your first semester to graduation. In Foundations and Explorations courses you will be challenged to gain an appreciation for the fact that there is far more than one way of “knowing” something while Connections courses will engage you in reflection on your years at WKU and also your future as a life-long learner.



What is the Core Mission of the Colonnade Program?

The Colonnade Program helps you to develop a set of skills you will need to navigate the demands of the twenty-first century environment successfully and responsibly:

- The ability to think clearly about complex problems;
- The ability to analyze a problem to develop workable and creative solutions;
- An understanding of the global context in which work is done;
- The ability to apply knowledge and skills in new settings; and
- A strong sense of ethics and equality.

The American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) established that the skills listed above are the very skills that employers look for in their employees.



Top 5 Things You Will Get Out of the Colonnade Program

1. Colonnade Courses Will Help You Be a Successful College Student

Since most students take Colonnade courses in their first five semesters, these courses will help you build the skills necessary to be a successful college student. Through Colonnade, you will become a more proficient note taker, writer, time manager, researcher, as well as a group participant and group leader. Regardless of discipline, the skills you acquire in Colonnade courses will be applicable in a wide variety of classes – and beyond.

2. Colonnade Courses Will Open Up New Academic and Intellectual Opportunities.

Although college provides valuable opportunities to learn more about yourself and your chosen major, you must be ready to take the courses that build foundational knowledge and skills. Also, who knows? Maybe the sociology class you take sophomore year will take you by surprise and lead you to switch your field of study. It is extremely common for college students to change their mind early on and pick a different major than the one they originally selected. Colonnade courses are a great way to make sure you give each of these areas a chance. You could end up learning more than you expected, ultimately identifying the career path that is ideal for you.