College of Arts and Sciences Requirements for BA

In addition to completing the university general education program, students getting a bachelor of arts degree need to complete the following college-level requirements. Students getting a bachelor of science degree have no further requirements.

- Philosophy or religious studies (3 credits) This can be fulfilled by any course in philosophy or religious studies.
- Literature (3 credits in addition to the university requirement) This can be fulfilled by any English course at the 200 level, PHIL 253, or selected courses in foreign languages at the 300 level.
- Non-western culture (3 credits in addition to the University global understanding requirement). See section on global understanding for a listing of courses.
- Proficiency in a foreign language through the intermediate level (0-12 credits); see below
- Social sciences (3 credits in addition to the university requirement)

Students do not have to meet each requirement with a separate course; i.e. it is possible that a single course may be used to fulfill more than one college requirement. It is also possible for students to use a single course to fulfill a university requirement and a college requirement. For example, a course might be used to fulfill the global understanding requirement and the CAS philosophy/religious studies, literature, or CAS social sciences requirement. It is possible for students to use a course to fulfill a general education requirement and a requirement for the major.

Foreign language requirement:
To get a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences, students must demonstrate intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language. Students can demonstrate proficiency in three ways.

- by completing one foreign language course at the 202 level or above (Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish taughed at GMU). Students with no prior experience with the language should register for 101. Students, who will continue with a foreign language they have already begun, should take the Foreign Language Placement Test.
- by achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test
- for students whose native language is not English, by presenting for admission to George Mason University a score of 230 or above on the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and a 4.5 on the TOEFL essay. For further information, see the Foreign Language Placement Test website.