

POLISH, BA

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer 2026 should refer to the archived Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>) for the requirements that apply to them.

CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

Civics & Perspectives 3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.

Communication & Literacy 6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/>)

Humanities & Arts 6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.

Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning 6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/>)

Natural Science & Wellness Complete both:

- 6 credits of Natural Science & Wellness or Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.
- one course must be in Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.

Social & Behavioral Science 3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.

Total Credits 30 credits.

For more information see the policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/>).

UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

Total Degree 120 degree credits.

Residency Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered "in residence" if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and:

- is offered by UW-Madison and completed on the UW-Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or
- is offered by UW-Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW-Madison study abroad/study away program.

Quality of Work Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.

Math Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by:

- placing above MATH 96, or
- successfully completing MATH 96, or
- successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH 112, MATH 113, MATH 114, MATH 141, MATH 211, or MATH 221.

English Language If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by:

- earning credit for ESL 118, or
- achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.

Language Complete one:

- 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or
- one course with the second semester Language designation.

Major Declaration Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. Some courses satisfy more than one L&S degree requirement (visit College of Letters & Science: Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/#requirementstext>) for details).

This major can be paired with either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Communication Complete both:

- Part A: one course with the Communication A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and
- Part B: one course with the Communication B designation

Quantitative Reasoning	Complete both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and Part B: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation
Ethnic Studies	one 3+ credit course with the Ethnic Studies designation
Language	Complete either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the fourth unit of one language other than English; or the third unit of one language other than English and the second unit of an additional language.
L&S Breadth: Humanities	Complete 12 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation, which must include at least 6 credits with the Literature designation.
L&S Breadth: Social Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Social Science designation.
L&S Breadth: Natural Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Natural Science, Biological Science, or Physical Science designations, which must include both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one 3+ credit course with the Biological Science designation, and one 3+ credit course with the Physical Science designation.
Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) Coursework	at least 108 credits
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	at least 120 credits
UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 credits in residence, overall; and 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit
Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their School/College to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The Polish major requires study of the Polish language, Polish literature in translation, Polish literature in the original language, as well as culture and area studies, as detailed below:

Code	Title	Credits
Polish Language (complete two courses):		6
SLAVIC 277	Third Year Polish I	
SLAVIC 278	Third Year Polish II	
Polish Literature and Culture (complete both):		
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 215	Love and Death: Introduction to Polish Literature & Culture	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 361	Living at the End of Times: Contemporary Polish Literature and Culture	3
Additional Course in Polish Language or Literature/Culture (complete one):		3
SLAVIC 331	Fourth Year Polish I	
SLAVIC 332	Fourth Year Polish II	
SLAVIC 231	History and Ethics on Film: Polish Cinema ¹	
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 259	Adventure in Literature and Film	
Polish Literature and Culture Area Studies from:		6
SLAVIC 231	History and Ethics on Film: Polish Cinema ¹	
SLAVIC 246	Escaping Utopia: Cultures after Communism	
SLAVIC 245	Topics in Slavic Literatures	
SLAVIC/GEOG/ HISTORY/ POLI SCI 254	Eastern Europe: An Interdisciplinary Survey	
SLAVIC 285	Slavic Culture in Context: An Honors Course	
SLAVIC 299	Directed Study	
SLAVIC 307	Study Abroad in Poland	
SLAVIC 308	Study Abroad in Polish Culture and Area Studies	
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 357	Intermediate Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 467	Advanced Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	
SLAVIC 470	History of Polish Literature until 1863	
HISTORY 270	Eastern Europe since 1900	
LITTRANS 207	Slavic Science Fiction through Literature and Film	
LITTRANS 229	Representation of the Jew in Eastern European Cultures	
LITTRANS 247	Topics in Slavic Literatures in Translation	
LITTRANS/ SLAVIC 357	Intermediate Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	
LITTRANS/ SLAVIC 467	Advanced Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	
POLI SCI 340	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy	
Total Credits		21

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all major courses
- 2.000 GPA on at least 15 credits of upper-level work in the major, in residence
- 15 credits in the major taken on the UW–Madison campus

Upper-Level Courses in the Major:

Code	Title	Credits
SLAVIC 277	Third Year Polish I	3
SLAVIC 278	Third Year Polish II	3
SLAVIC 307	Study Abroad in Poland	1-4
SLAVIC 308	Study Abroad in Polish Culture and Area Studies	1-4
SLAVIC 331	Fourth Year Polish I	3
SLAVIC 332	Fourth Year Polish II	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 357	Intermediate Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 361	Living at the End of Times: Contemporary Polish Literature and Culture	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 467	Advanced Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	3
POLI SCI 340	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy	3-4

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.300 GPA for all SLAVIC courses and all courses counting in the major
- Complete a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in SLAVIC 681 and SLAVIC 682, for a total of 6 credits
- 9 credits from the following list:

Code	Title	Credits
SLAVIC 277	Third Year Polish I	3
SLAVIC 278	Third Year Polish II	3
SLAVIC 331	Fourth Year Polish I	3
SLAVIC 332	Fourth Year Polish II	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 361	Living at the End of Times: Contemporary Polish Literature and Culture	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 357	Intermediate Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	3
SLAVIC/ LITTRANS 467	Advanced Special Topics in Slavic Languages and Literatures	3

FOOTNOTES

¹ SLAVIC 231 may only count within one requirement for the major.