1. (Historical Grounding) understanding the historical, political, and cultural forces and conditions that have given rise to the unity and diversity in the region today.

2. (Multi-disciplinarity) analyzing contemporary political, economic, and cultural realities in the region from at least two disciplinary perspectives, ideally including humanities, social sciences and sometimes natural science approaches.

3. (Depth of knowledge) mastering at the undergraduate generalist level a particular facet of life in the region by taking seven courses on three particular sub-regions or countries or by taking seven courses on the region in more than one discipline.

4. (Language knowledge) mastering at undergraduate generalist level a particular facet of life in the region by studying a regional language to the intermediate level.