

Louisiana State University
Faculty Senate Integrative Learning Core (FSILC) Committee

ILC - FAQ PAGE FOR STUDENT ADVISORS

As student advisor, you are asked to have a comprehensive understanding of ILC so that you can effectively explain it to students and help them make informed decisions.

What is ILC?

ILC stands for Integrative Learning Core. It is LSU's general education program. ILC meets the general education requirements of the State of Louisiana Board of Regents while helping to develop proficiencies that enable students to integrate knowledge from different fields and to transfer their learning to new situations and real-world issues.

What is integrative learning and how does it benefit students?

Integrative learning is an instructional method that combines different areas of study to create a more comprehensive and interconnected learning experience. It facilitates connecting knowledge and skills from various fields and applying them to real-world situations. Integrative learning encourages students to think critically and link academic knowledge to relevant experience, making connections across fields and across perspectives.

What are general education requirements?

The State of Louisiana Board of Regents established a set of requirements designed to provide students with a well-rounded education. Before graduating, all students must meet the Board of Regents requirements by taking 39 credit hours in six different areas: English Composition (6 hours); Mathematical / Analytical Reasoning (6 hours); Fine Arts (3 hours); Humanities (9 hours); Natural Sciences - Life and Physical (9 hours); and Social/Behavioral Sciences (6 hours). It is recommended that students complete the requirements during their first four semesters.

What are the ILC proficiencies?

There are nine ILC proficiencies: Civic Engagement; Ethical Reasoning; Global Learning; Inquiry and Analysis; Intercultural Knowledge and Competence; Oral Communication; Problem Solving; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; and Written Communication. These proficiencies were selected to span across fields.

Do students need to take courses in each ILC proficiency?

No – students do not need to take courses in each proficiency. Students can focus on specific ILC proficiencies according to their own interests. The [general catalog](#) provides a list of ILC courses awarding general education credit, indicating the ILC proficiency being mastered in each course. In choosing courses to fulfill their general education requirements, students might consider the ILC proficiencies that, given their career goals, they would like to concentrate on.

How do I advise students to decide on proficiencies?

Advisors should encourage students to consider their degree and career interests to determine which proficiencies they should concentrate on. [Note: priority is to ensure selection is aligned to declared major requirements.]

For example:

- Student A is interested in completing a degree in Finance with the goal of working for an international banking company. Given their ambition of working internationally, Student A may choose ILC courses that involve the proficiency of ‘Intercultural Knowledge and Competence’.
- Student B is interested in completing a degree in Mass Communication with the goal of becoming a television reporter. The ability to speak confidently in front of large audiences is essential. This would be a good reason for Student B to choose ILC courses that focus on the proficiency of ‘Oral Communication’.
- Student C is interested in getting a degree in Sociology. Since this degree encompasses a wide range of topics, Student C may choose ILC courses that involve a range of different proficiencies. This allows the student to build a solid foundation of essential skills that are useful regardless of their career trajectory.

How do ILC proficiencies benefit students?

ILC enhances the broad learning that is the goal of general education by highlighting the interconnections among courses and fields, leading students to develop a set of proficiencies that are useful for success in college and beyond. ILC prepares students to apply their knowledge to real-world issues. For instance, Civic Engagement helps students develop a sense of responsibility towards their community. Ethical Reasoning encourages students to reflect on their values and beliefs and to consider the perspectives of others. Intercultural Knowledge and Competence helps students develop an understanding of the interconnectedness of the world and the diversity of cultures and perspectives.

Are all students at LSU required to participate in ILC?

Yes – all undergraduate students at LSU are required to participate in ILC, because ILC is LSU’s implementation of the Board of Regents’ statewide general education requirements. Students can transfer awarded general education credits from another institution to LSU (and these courses might not be linked to an ILC proficiency).

Where do students go for more information?

They watch this [video](#), go to the ILC [website](#) or [email](#) ILC.