



UMKC Essentials builds the foundation for your four-year degree. Through this general education curriculum you will develop skills in written and oral communication, math and the U.S. and Missouri constitutions – and so much more. This curriculum has three essentials:

THE FIRST SEMESTER EXPERIENCE

The First-Semester Experience, a class all incoming students take in their first 15 hours, is a guided tour to student success. It's about making connections, exploring career options and understanding what it means to be a Roo.

- » In weekly **Impact Seminars**, students learn about the university and how to engage with faculty.
- » Students also participate in **small group discussions** of big ideas, academic programs and career paths, guided by a Peer Academic Leader and faculty member. The groups are organized into meta-major cohorts: Life and Health Sciences; Arts, Culture and the Human Experience; Individual and Group Behavior; Interdisciplinary and Exploratory Students; and Numbers/Function/Science/Technology.
- » **Co-curricular activities** will connect you to the campus and community: social events, academic and career planning programs, diversity and inclusion events, research, field trips and volunteering.

CAMPUS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

You'll learn in labs, archives and studios on campus as well as in the Kansas City community and possibly even around the nation and globe. A peer leader will mentor you.

A **Peer Academic Leader** from your meta-major will guide your small group discussions in your FSE and will meet with you one on one throughout the semester. This upperclass mentor will help you get the best start possible.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS COURSES

These courses will have you asking – and answering for yourself – life's big questions as you develop the creativity and problem-solving skills that the job market seeks. The best part? These courses are designed around YOU.

The classes span academic disciplines, laying the foundation for your education as you tackle challenging problems, build communication and critical-thinking skills, and prepare to be an informed citizen and thrive in complex workplaces. You'll learn ways of knowing by asking and answering questions for yourself.

Some course examples:

- » Critical Thinking in the Arts and Humanities
Learn to analyze artifacts (texts) to discern meaning
- » Critical Thinking in the Natural and Physical Sciences
Apply science to explain natural and physical phenomena
- » Critical Thinking in the Behavioral and Social Sciences
Learn how to study human thought and behavior
- » Culture and Diversity
Develop a critical consciousness of self and society
- » Civic and Urban Engagement
Investigate and help solve a community problem

UMKC Essentials is ESSENTIAL to your unique and meaningful college experience.

