

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Please note that these requirements apply to students entering Vesalius College during the academic year 2011/12. Students who entered in previous years are bound by the requirements in the catalogue for their year of entry unless specific changes have been implemented that apply to the requirements of that entry year or they shift over entirely to the requirements of a subsequent catalogue.

General Requirements for Bachelor's Degree

In order to graduate, students must have:

- Earned 180 ECTS credits or more, at least 90 of which must be taken at Vesalius College. Unless granted special permission, students should be registered at Vesalius College in the semester preceding graduation
- Achieved a grade point average of at least 2.0 for all of the courses taken at the College (cumulative GPA requirement)
- Achieved a grade point average of at least 2.0 for all of the courses taken in the student's chosen major field (major GPA requirement)
- Met all requirements of the core curriculum as described either in the catalogue for their year of admission to the College or in the current catalogue
- Met all requirements of the chosen major field as described either in the catalogue of their year of admission to the College or in the current catalogue. At least half of the 120 ECTS in major requirements and electives must be completed at Vesalius College

Meeting the degree requirements is the student's responsibility. Note that the student's choice of catalogue requirements must be the same for the core curriculum and the major.

Students who graduate with no disciplinary sanction on record are awarded their degree with honours as follows:

Summa Cum Laude (cumulative GPA of at least 3.8)

Magna Cum Laude (cumulative GPA of at least 3.6)

Cum Laude (cumulative GPA of at least 3.4)

The graduation diploma is a numbered official document issued by Vesalius College. Legally it can only be issued ONCE-no replacement document is possible. It is signed by the Chairman of the Board of Vesalius College, the Dean and the Chairman of the Academic Standards Committee. Each diploma records the student's name, the degree earned and the date of graduation. It is only possible to issue diplomas twice a year (at the end of May and the end of December). A graduate's diploma will be available for collection IN PERSON.

ECTS credit system

The European Credit Transfer System was created in the 1990s to facilitate movement among institutions of higher education in Europe. ECTS credits are calibrated to the student workload required to complete them. They reflect the quantity of work each course requires in relation to the total quantity of work required to complete a full year of academic study at the institution, that is, lectures, practical work, seminars, private study and examinations or other assessment activities. In ECTS 60 credits represent one year of study. ECTS credits are allocated to courses and are awarded to students who successfully complete those courses by passing the examinations or other assessments. At Vesalius College a year's work involves ten courses, each of which counts for 6 ECTS units.

The GPA

The grade point average (GPA) is a summary measure of a student's academic performance. Calculating the GPA is straightforward. Letter grades are first translated into numerical equivalents according to the following scale:

A	4.0	B+	3.3	C+	2.3	D+	1.3	F	0.0
A-	3.7	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0		
		B-	2.7	C-	1.7				

The numerical equivalents are summed, then divided by the number of courses. To take an example, suppose that a student's grades for a semester were A-, C+, B-, D+ and C. The semester grade point average would be calculated as $(3.7+2.3+2.7+1.3+2.0)/5 = 12/5 = 2.40$. There are several different grade point averages:

Semester GPA	based on the grades for one semester
Cumulative GPA	based on the grades for all courses taken to date
Major GPA	based on the grades only for courses in the major field

Core Curriculum Requirements

The Core Curriculum develops skills and attitudes essential to the College's distinctive programme of undergraduate education. Students must take 10 courses counting for a total of 60 ECTS units:

- Two courses in academic writing and critical thinking (HUM 111E, HUM 112E)
- One course in statistics (STA 101E)
- Seven free electives

The courses in **academic writing and critical thinking** teach skills that are crucial for later work in the student's major field. Inter-disciplinary readings, research and discussion broaden and enhance the student's experience and understanding outside

the chosen field of study. Students may not take courses at the 300-level until they have successfully completed all requirements for HUM 112E.

The course in **statistics** teaches important skills in the interpretation of quantitative information. The emphasis of the course is on analytical reasoning and empirical inquiry.

Free electives are entirely at the student's choice. They may be used to explore fields of study outside the major, to deepen work in the major field, or to develop language or other skills.

Major Requirements

In addition to the core curriculum, students study one field of knowledge in depth. This is their major, in which they will take 20 courses for a total of 120 ECTS units. The majors available at the College are business, communications and international affairs. All three majors are designed to prepare students for continued study at the Master's level.

Each major has a number of courses that are required of all students in the major. These **major requirements** provide the basic knowledge and skills needed to do further work in the subject. They may also involve work in supporting disciplines.

Each major also offers the student room for choice. **Major electives** can be used to sample a variety of topics and to develop areas of personal and eventual professional interest. Major electives can also be chosen to compose a concentration, i.e., a field of specialisation within the major area. Students are not required to do a concentration, but those choosing to do so should declare their concentration by the end of the first semester of the second year (SY2) at the latest. Note that the same course cannot be used to meet the requirements for two different concentrations.

The basic schema for each major may be subject to further specification and/or minor modifications as the new programmes and courses are implemented.

Business

Students majoring in Business at Vesalius College learn how businesses are organised and managed, how they generate value and how they operate in the larger economic, social, legal and political context. In addition, the programme nurtures essential skills including working in teams, collecting and analysing quantitative information, writing and speaking effectively, as well as using information technology confidently. The Business major is organised so that students are first given a fundamental background in the core elements of business including: economics, accounting and finance, operations and marketing. They may also select an area of concentration such as Economics, International Management, Technology Management, Management Science, Marketing or European Studies.

Core Courses	60 ECTS credits
Critical Thinking and Academic Writing I & II (HUM 111E, HUM 112E)	12
Statistics: STA 101E	6
Free Electives	42

Major Requirements	90 ECTS credits
Business:	60
BUS 101E, 111E	
BUS 211E, 231E, 241E, 242E, 251E	
BUS 321E, 361E	
BUS 391E or 392E (Capstone)	
Economics:	18
ECN 101E	
ECN 201E, 211E	
Mathematics:	6
MTH 140E	
Statistics:	6
STA 201E	

Major Electives **30 ECTS credits**

For students taking concentrations please see the course choices below. For students not taking a concentration, major electives should be chosen with the following rules:

At least two 200- or 300- level BUS or ECN courses that are not taken as a major requirement

Two other courses chosen either from 200- or 300-level BUS or ECN courses or from the following options:

CMM 242E, 271E, 302E, 341E, 345E
 HIS 213E
 HON 393E
 INT 381E
 LAW 301E
 POL 231E, 311E, 332E, 333E

Other courses may be counted as major electives only with the written approval of the Business Curriculum Committee.

Concentrations

A concentration is defined as at least 24 ECTS credits (4 Vesalius courses) of 200- and 300-level major electives. At least two courses should be at the 300-level.

Concentrations are optional: students may choose to graduate without one, selecting their major electives freely from the list given above.

1. Economics concentration:
 Two of the following courses:
 ECN 213E, 214E, 223E, 271E, 301E, 303E, 307E, 311E, 334E, 353E

Academic requirements

Two other course chosen either from five given above or from the following options:

HON 393E
POL 311E

2. International Management concentration:

Two of the following courses:

BUS 201E, 212E, 213E, 301E, 302E, 312E, 325E, 362E, 391E, 392E,
ECN 223E, 271E, 301E, 303E, 307E, 334E
INT 381E

Two other courses chosen either from the eleven courses given above or from the following options:

CMM 271E, 302E, 322E
HON 393E
LAW 301E
POL 231E, 311E, 332E, 333E

3. Technology Management concentration:

Two of the following courses:

BUS 201E, 213E, 351E, 353E, 392E
ECN 214E, 311E
INT 381E

Two other courses chosen either from the six courses given above or from the following options:

CMM 321E, 345E
HON 393E

4. Management Science concentration:

Two of the following courses:

BUS 362E
ECN 303E, 353E
MTH 203E

Two other courses chosen either from the five courses given above or from the following options:

HON 393E

5. Marketing concentration

Two of the following courses: BUS 201E, 212E, 312E, 391E, 392E

Two other courses chosen either from five courses given above or from the following options:

CMM 206E, 242E, 302E, 341E, 342E
HON 393E
INT 381E

6. European Studies concentration

Two of the following courses:

BUS 301E,
ECN 271E, ECN 334E

Two other courses chosen either from the three courses given above or from the following options:

CMM 261E, 346E, 352E, 361E
HIS 213E

HON 393E
 INT 381E
 POL 231E, 332E, 333E, 336E

Note: Thematic Europe-related courses offered in the summer may also qualify as major electives within the European Studies Concentration, upon approval by the Business Curriculum Committee.

Communications

For students interested in studying journalism, public relations, lobbying, media policy and management, advertising or scriptwriting, the Vesalius College Communications major and the city of Brussels make for an ideal combination.

Throughout the programme students develop a conceptual understanding of communication and its social, economic, political and cultural dimensions. They learn the function and organisation of political institutions and business industries as well as the social responsibilities of professional communicators. In addition to a conceptual approach, students are trained in essential practical skills including researching, evaluating, organising, writing, editing and presenting information for a variety of audiences.

Furthermore, as Brussels is one of the largest global communications centres and home not only to the world's largest press corps, the European Union and NATO but also to a multitude of political organisations and international businesses, students studying Communications at Vesalius College have many valuable learning opportunities which are not available elsewhere. They can take internships at one of many organisations to support their specific professional ambitions in addition to developing contacts and a professional network that will be invaluable as they advance with their career. During their studies, students may also choose from four available concentrations.

Finally, students are also prepared for continued study at the graduate level in various communication fields including journalism, human communication, mass communication, business communication, political communication, intercultural communication, film studies, European communications studies, media studies and cultural studies.

Core Courses

60 ECTS credits

Critical Thinking and Academic Writing I & II (HUM 111E, HUM 112E)	12
Statistics: STA 101E	6
Free Electives	42

Major Requirements

90 ECTS credits

Economics: ECN 101E	6
Politics: POL 101E	6
Research Methods: SOC 203E	6
Communications:	72

Academic requirements

CMM 101E, 102E, 104E, 105E
CMM 203E, 205E, 242E, 251E, 271E
CMM 310E, 341E
CMM 391E or 392E

Major Electives

30 ECTS credits

Any of the 200- or 300- level CMM courses not listed as major requirements may be taken as major electives. Should students wish, a maximum of 2 major electives may be taken from the following options in other disciplines:

BUS 211E, 213E, 231E, 251E, 301E, 302E
INT 381E
POL 212E, 251E, 252E, 311E, 313E, 314E,
POL 315E, 317E, 332E, 333E

Other 200- or 300- level courses may count as major electives only with the written approval of the Communications Curriculum Committee.

Students opting to use major electives for a concentration should choose from the courses listed below.

Concentrations

A concentration is defined as at least 24 ECTS credits (4 Vesalius courses) of 200- and 300-level major electives. Concentrations are optional: students may choose to graduate without one, selecting their major electives freely.

1. Journalism & Scriptwriting Concentration
Three of the following courses:
CMM 204E, 207E, 302E, 352E, 343E
Internship: INT 381E
2. Political Communication concentration
Two of the following courses:
CMM 231E, 261E, 302E, 322E, 361E
One other course chosen either from the five given above or from the following options:
CMM 346E
POL 212E, 251E, 252E, 311E, 313E, 314E, 315E, 317E, 332E, 333E
Internship: INT 381E
3. Business Communication concentration
Two of the following courses:
CMM 206E, 302E, 345E, 346E
One other course chosen either from the four given above or from the following options:
BUS 211E, 213E, 231E, 251E, 301E, 302E
Internship: INT 381E
4. European Communication Studies concentration
Two of the following courses:
CMM 261E, 302E, 346E, 352E, 361E

One other course chosen either from the five given above or from the following options:

BUS 301E
 ECN 271E, 334E
 POL 231E, 332E, 333E, 336E

Internship: INT 381E

Note: Thematic Europe-related courses offered in the summer may also qualify as major electives within the European Communication Studies Concentration, upon approval by the Communications Curriculum Committee.

International Affairs

As home to numerous political organisations, Brussels is at the centre of European and world events. Students enrolled in the International Affairs major at Vesalius College are exposed to, and learn from, these events as they happen.

Throughout the programme, students develop a theoretical framework from which to interpret and understand the complex dynamics of international political, social and economic interaction. They also develop strong quantitative and qualitative research skills and practice applying them to real-life case studies.

To develop such theoretical understanding and practical skills, students are exposed to a broad range of subjects including history, sociology, political science, economics and political economy. They may also select a concentration in Politics, Economics, History, Communications or European Studies to further specialise in an area of their interest.

Core Courses 60 ECTS credits

Critical Thinking and Academic Writing I & II (HUM 111E, HUM 112E)	12
Statistics: STA 101E	6
Free Electives	42

Major Requirements 72 ECTS credits

Politics:	36
POL 101E, 103E	
POL 212E; 251E or 252E	
POL 311E; 391E or 392E	
History:	
HIS 112E; 214E or 215E	12
Economics:	
ECN 101E	6
Law:	
LAW 301E	6
Methods:	
HIS 271E or SOC 203E	6
Sociology:	
SOC 101E	6

Major Electives

48 ECTS credits

Approved Major Electives:

Any 200- and 300-level POL and HIS course not listed as a major requirement. (Where alternative requirements are listed (HIS 271E or SOC 203E; POL 251E or POL 252E; POL 391E or POL 392E, HIS 214E or HIS 215E), students may take one as a major requirement and the other as a major elective.)

Internship: INT 381E

Honours Essay: HON 393E

From other majors:

BUS 212E, 301E, 302E, 313E

CMM 251E, 261E, 346E, 352E, 361E

ECN 201E, 211E, 213E, 271E, 301E, 307E, 311E, 334E

Note: Students may take 200- and 300-level courses offered during the Vesalius summer session as Major Electives upon approval of the International Affairs Curriculum Committee. Students may opt to write an Honours Essay in lieu of a Major Elective (see last paragraph of this section).

Concentrations

A concentration is defined as at least 24 ECTS credits (4 Vesalius courses) of 200- and 300-level major electives. At least two courses should be at the 300 level. Concentrations are optional-students may choose to graduate without one, selecting their major electives freely, keeping in mind that some courses have prerequisites that may require using free electives.

Students in International Affairs can choose from five possible concentrations:

1. Politics
Four courses chosen from POL courses at the 200 or 300 level that have not been taken as major requirements or the following courses:
HIS 202E, 213E, 261E, 301E, 321E
2. History
Four courses chosen from HIS courses at the 200 or 300 level that have not been taken as major requirements and POL 251E if not taken as a major requirement
3. Economics
Four courses from the following:
ECN 201E, 211E, 213E, 271E, 301E, 307E, 311E, 334E
4. Communications
Four courses from the following:
CMM 251E, 261E, 271E, 302E, 321E, 346E, 352E, 361E
POL 213E

5. European Studies
Four courses from the following:
CMM 261E, 346E, 352E, 361E
ECN 271E, 334E
HIS 201E, 213E
POL 231E, 332E, 333E, 336E

Note: Thematic Europe-related courses offered in the summer may also qualify as major electives within the European Studies Concentration, upon approval by the International Affairs Curriculum Committee.