

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Please note that these requirements apply to students entering Vesalius College during the academic year 2008/9. Students who entered in previous years may choose to be bound by all of 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.

General Requirements for Bachelor's Degree

In order to graduate, students must have:

- Earned 180 ECTS credits or more
- Met all the requirements of the chosen Bachelor's degree programme as specified either in the catalogue for their year of admission to the College or in the current catalogue
- 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)

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

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. On the ECTS system each course would thus involve 150-180 hours of work in and out of class.

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.

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)
- One course in a foreign language at the advanced intermediate level (LFR 104E, LDU 104E, European Standard B2 level), or the equivalent
- Three humanities and natural sciences courses, at least one at the 200- or 300-level and at least one in the humanities and at least one in the natural sciences
- Three 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.

While English is the working language of Vesalius College, knowledge of other **languages** in their oral and written forms, and as a vehicle of culture, is basic to the College's liberal arts philosophy. For this reason, as part of the Core Curriculum, all students are required to demonstrate intermediate-level knowledge (104 level) of a language other than English. Indeed, in a period of growing globalisation and multiculturalism, the College encourages its students to continue their language studies and achieve advanced competence or better in at least one additional language.

Students may obtain exemption from the foreign language requirement in several ways:

- A student with a secondary school diploma in a language other than English is deemed to have reached the required competence level.
- A student may present a certificate from a language institute recognised by the College proving that the required level of knowledge has been obtained.

Students who obtain exemptions must then take an additional free elective to meet the core curriculum requirements. They can, of course, use this free elective to pursue further study in French at a higher level.

All students with a secondary school diploma in English and with some prior knowledge of French or Dutch must, on entering the College, take a language placement test in French or Dutch. If they pass the test at the 104 level, they are judged to have met the language requirement and must take an additional free elective. If they place at other levels, from no knowledge to the 103 level, they must take the appropriate language courses in sequence up through the 104 level. This may involve using some of the free electives.

In the rare case where a student is incorrectly placed, the instructor will request that the student change levels. This change should normally occur during the first four weeks of the semester. Both instructors involved (current and new level) should sign the Drop/Add form, which the student must complete and submit to the Head of Academic Administration.

Permission to re-take the placement test in the same language may be granted only if the student has pursued further academic training (university level or equivalent) in the chosen language outside of the normal semester schedule. Such study must be approved in advance, in writing, by the Head of Academic Administration, and official proof of results must be submitted upon completion. In exceptional circumstances (e.g., unusual but valid academic reasons) non-academic language courses may also qualify the student to re-take the test, but no credits will be awarded for any change of level. In this case,

permission to re-take the test must be approved by the Head of Academic Administration and supported by the chair of the curriculum committee concerned.

In order to broaden their understanding of the world, all students must take at least three courses in the **humanities and natural sciences**. At least one course must be at the 200- or 300-level. At least one course must be in the natural sciences, which include courses with the codes BIO, PHY and SCI. At least one course must be in the humanities, which include courses with the codes ART, HUM (not including HUM 111E and HUM 112E), LIT and PHL (and HIS 261E). Other courses - for example, those taken in a summer session or at another university - may be used to meet the humanities and natural sciences requirement, subject to approval by the chair of the core curriculum committee. Students intending to do such courses elsewhere would be advised to seek approval in advance. Note that courses taken to fulfil the humanities and natural sciences requirement may not also be used to fulfil major requirements, for example, to serve as major electives.

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 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 second semester of the second year (SY2) at the latest.

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, European Studies or Marketing.

Core Courses	60 ECTS credits
Critical Thinking and Academic Writing I & II (HUM 111E, HUM 112E)	12
Language	6
Statistics: STA 101E	6
Humanities and Natural Sciences	18
Free Electives	18

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 not taking a concentration, the following courses may be taken as major electives:

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

LAW 301E

POL 231E, 311E, 332E, 333E

INT 381E
HON 393E

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

For students taking concentrations please see the course choices below.

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.

Economics

At least two of the following courses: ECN 271E, 301E, 307E, 311E, 334E

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

HON 393E
POL 311E

International Management

At least two of the following courses:

BUS 201E, 301E, 302E, 312E, 325E, 391E, 392E,
ECN 271E, 307E, 334E
INT 381E

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

HON 393E
CMM 271E, 302E, 322E
LAW 301E
POL 212E, 311E, 313E, 314E

Technology Management

At least two of the following courses:

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

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

HON 393E
CMM 321E, 345E

European Studies

At least 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:

HON 393E

CMM 261E, 346E, 352E

HIS 213E

POL 231E, 332E, 333E

INT 381E

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 (BUS) Curriculum Committee.

Marketing

At least two of the following courses: BUS 201E, 312E, 391E, 392E

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

HON 393E

CMM 206E, 242E, 302E, 341E, 342E

INT 381E

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
Language	6
Statistics: STA 101E	6
Humanities and Natural Sciences	18
Free Electives	18

Major Requirements	96 ECTS credits
Economics: ECN 101E	6
Politics: POL 101E	6
Research Methods: SOC 203E	6
Communications:	78
CMM 101E, 102E, 104E, 105E	
CMM 203E, 205E, 242E, 251E, 271E	
CMM 310E, 321E, 341E	
CMM 391E or 392E	

Major Electives	24 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	
LIT 241E, 242E	
POL 212E, 251E, 252E, 311E, 313E, 314E,	
POL 315E, 317E, 332E, 333E	
INT 381E	

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

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.

Journalism & Scriptwriting

At least two of the following courses: CMM 204E, 207E, 211E, 302E, 352E

One other course chosen either from four given above or from the following options: LIT 241E, LIT 242E

Internship: INT 381E

Political Communication

At least two of the following courses: CMM 231E, 261E, 302E, 322E

One other course chosen either from the four given above or from the following options: POL 212E, 251E, 252E, 311E, 313E, 314E, 315E, 317E, 332E, 333E, CMM 346E

Internship: INT 381E

Business Communication

At least 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

European Communication Studies

At least two of the following courses: CMM 261E, 302E, 346E, 352E

One other course chosen either from the four given above or from the following options: BUS 301E, ECN 271E, 334E; POL 231E, 332E, 333E

Internship: INT 381E

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

Language

6

Statistics: STA 101E	6
Humanities and Natural Sciences	18
Free Electives	18

Major Requirements **72 ECTS credits**

Politics:	42
POL 101E, 103E	
POL 211E, 212E, 251E or 252E	
POL 311E, 391E or 392E	
History:	
HIS 112E	6
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), 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 301E, 302E
 - ECN 201E, 211E, 271E, 307E, 311E, 334E
 - CMM 251E, 261E, 346E, 352E

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 (IACC). Students may opt to write an honours essay in lieu of a major elective.

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

Academic Requirements

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:

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

History

Four courses chosen from HIS courses at the 200 or 300 level that have not been taken as major requirements or the following course: POL 251E

Economics

Four courses from the following: ECN 201E, 211E, 271E, 307E, 311E, 334E

Communications

Four courses from the following: CMM 251E, 261E, 271E, 302E, 321E, 346E, 352E

European Studies

Four courses from the following: CMM 261E, 346E, 352E; ECN 271E, 334E; HIS 201E, 213E, POL 231E, 332E, 333E