

# Residential College in the Arts and Humanities Curriculum Explained

120 credits required by MSU to graduate  
B.A. in Arts and Humanities



## Core Courses

RCAH requires 9 core courses. Many RCAH courses have multiple sections that allow students to pick and choose the things that they are interested in.

### Examples of RCAH 111 courses from Fall 2018:

**Section 1**  
Language Focus

*Intercultural Obligations:*  
This class examined the sociopolitical and economic reasons why the U.S. is one of the few countries where only one language is spoken, analyzing students' experiences of intercultural collaboration.

**Section 2**  
English Focus

*Telling Stories: Composing Knowledges in Transcultural Context:*  
This class looked at how culture shapes the way we view the world around us and how those perceptions are depicted in oral and written stories.

**Section 3**  
Fiction & Film Focus

*Edges & Intersections: How Writers Confront Cultural Contrast:*  
This class explored how culture contrasts, blends, and intersects in the work of essayists, fiction writers, and filmmakers.

**Section 4**  
Community Focus

*The Right to the City: Challenging Spatial Inequalities:*  
This class focused on social justice issues to develop understandings of urban struggles in a variety of settings around the world.

**Section 5**  
Multimedia Focus

*Transculturation in Michigan:*  
This class examined stories of converging cultures across many forms of media from cities and small towns all around us.



**Pathways** in RCAH allow students to focus on specific topics they are interested in. However, there will be overlap between interests.

- ARTS**: advanced methods of creating and critiquing one or more artistic disciplines
- HUMANITIES**: advanced methods in research, writing, and production of knowledge in the humanities
- LANGUAGE & CULTURE**: analysis, research, and writing about cultural and linguistic processes
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**: developing intercultural methods of collaboration and communication in local communities

### Examples of overlap within pathways:

- Community Engagement project could have art involvement
- Languages and Cultures could look at history and public policy
- Storytelling could be done through multiple media

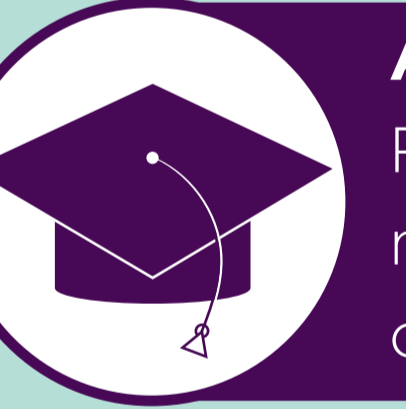


## Language Requirement

Students are required to be proficient in a language as part of the RCAH degree. This includes three options:

- Passing an oral language proficiency test
- Or...**
- Completing language courses up to at least one semester at the 300 level
- Or...**
- Participating in an approved language intensive education abroad program

*You are not limited to any specific language. From Arabic to Zulu and everything in between, you can take any one of the 30+ languages MSU offers.*



## Additions to Your Degree

RCAH classes are about half of the 120 credits needed to graduate. This means there is a lot of room for you to explore other things at MSU!

You could add another major:

- Studio Art
- Social Work
- Economics
- Or any of the 150+ majors available at MSU that you are interested in

You could add a minor:

- Entrepreneurship
- Theatre
- Defense Studies and Leadership
- Or any of the 120+ minors available to all MSU students

*With all the flexibility in the RCAH program, you can truly forge your own path!*

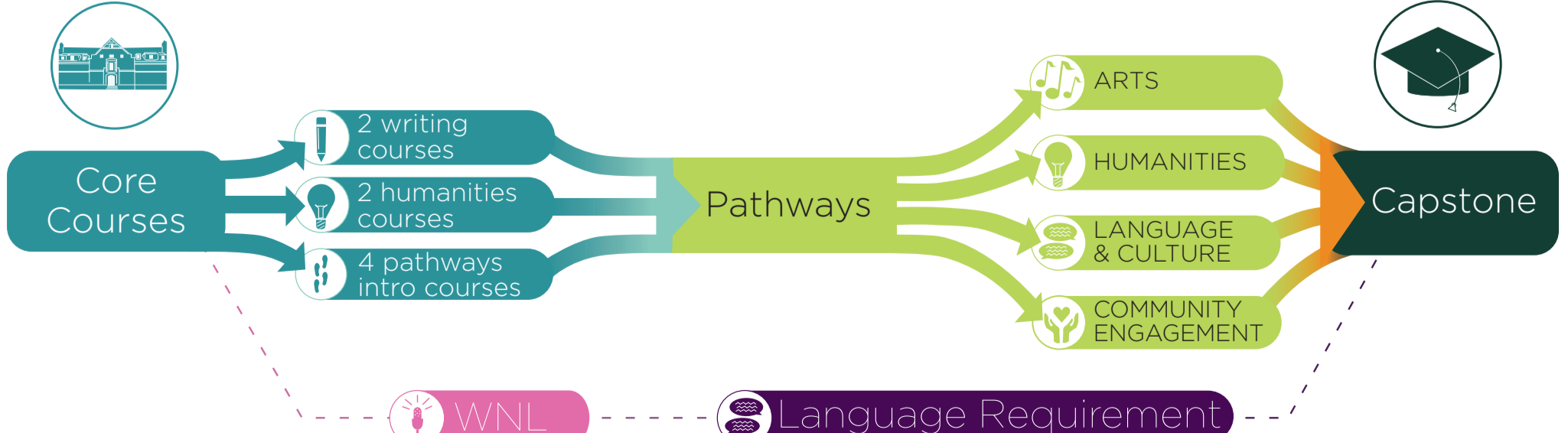
# Full Curriculum Guide Below:

## Residential College in the Arts and Humanities Curriculum Michigan State University

RCAH's unique and rigorous curriculum prepares students to create a better world by exploring diverse ideas, engaging in hands-on creative practices, and working with the community around them.



### Curriculum Guide



**Core Curriculum**  
The RCAH core curriculum consists of two writing courses, two humanities courses, and four courses that introduce students to the four elective pathways —arts, humanities, language and culture, and community engagement. The core curriculum blends history, ethics, culture, and the arts with selected topics and projects.

**Pathways**  
The Elective Pathways allow students to dive more deeply into one area of the curriculum. Students select 8 upper-level courses (5 RCAH courses and at least 3 courses taken outside of RCAH) and an experiential learning component to customize a program that serves their academic and career goals.

**Language Requirement**  
Students complete the RCAH Language Proficiency requirement in one of three ways:  
• Passing an oral language proficiency test.  
• Completing language courses up to at least one semester at the 300 level.  
• Participating in an approved language-intensive education abroad program.

**Wednesday Night Live**  
Wednesday Night Live (WNL) is the signature all-college events program of RCAH, featuring speakers, artists from around the corner and around the country. Students meet the College Colloquium requirement by attending 12 WNL events during the course of their degree.