Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences
Northwestern University

Approved Distribution Courses - 2025-2026
Area II - Formal Studies
updated 1/13/2026

Be sure to read these important notes:

The information below pertains to students who started at Northwestern Spring 2023 or earlier. Students who started taking classes at Northwestern after Spring 2023 should refer to the Foundational Disciplines pages:
https://weinberg.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/degree/post-spring-2023-degree/foundational-disciplines/

Prerequisites. Many approved distribution courses are advanced courses with one or more prerequisites. Prerequisites are listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and in course descriptions available through the Registrar's webpage. Make sure you have the prerequisites for a course before you decide to enroll.

Interdisciplinary courses. Some interdisciplinary courses are approved for inclusion in more than one distribution area. *These courses are listed in bold and italics below* , and all relevant areas are indicated in the "area(s)" column. If you take such a course, you can choose in which eligible area to count it.

When courses are offered. This list includes all courses approved for distribution credit for the indicated academic year. The Registrar's Office maintains lists of distribution courses to be offered each quarter, as well as Yearly Course Planners showing each department's planned course offerings for the year. **Some approved courses may not be offered.**

Lists of approved courses from other years:
https://www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/degree/distribution-requirements/approved-courses.html

Registrar's Website: www.registrar.northwestern.edu

dept/pgm	number	course title	area(s)
BIOL_SCI	337	Biostatistics	II
BIOL_SCI	338	Modeling Biological Dynamics	II
COG_SCI	202	Evaluating Evidence	II
COG SCI	207	Introduction to Cognitive Modeling	II
COMP_SCI	110	Introduction to Computer Programming	II
COMP_SCI	111	Fundamentals of Computer Programming	II
COMP_SCI	150	Fundamentals of Computer Programming 1.5	II
CSD	304	Statistics in Communication Sciences and Disorders	II
EARTH	211	Data Analysis in Earth and Environmental Sciences	II
EARTH	361	Scientific Programming in Python	II
EARTH	363-1	Geographical Information Systems - GIS Level 1	II
GEN MUS	252	Introduction to Music Theory I	II
GEN MUS	253	Introduction to Music Theory II	II

LING	260	Formal Analysis of Words & Sentences	II
LING	270	Meaning	II
LING	330	Research Methods in Linguistics	II
LING	331	Text Processing for Linguists	II
LING	334	Introduction to Computational Linguistics	II
LING	341	Language Typology	II
LING	342	Structure of Various Languages	II
LING	360	Fundamentals of Syntax	II
LING	370	Fundamentals of Meaning	II
LING	371	Reference	II
MATH	100	Quantitative Reasoning (distribution requirement credit applies only to MATH 100-0 and not to the half-unit summer course, MATH 100-BR)	II
MATH	202	Finite Mathematics	II
MATH	211	Short Course in Calculus	II
MATH	218-1	Single-Variable Calculus with Precalculus	II
MATH	218-2	Single-Variable Calculus with Precalculus	II
MATH	218-3	Single-Variable Calculus with Precalculus	II
MATH	220-1	Single-Variable Differential Calculus	II
MATH	220-2	Single-Variable Integral Calculus	II
MATH	226-0	Sequences and Series	II
MATH	228-1	Multivariable Differential Calculus for Engineering	II
MATH	228-2	Multivariable Integral Calculus for Engineering	II
MATH	***327***	***Mechanics for Mathematicians***	***I,II***
MATH	385	Probability and Statistics for MMSS	II
MATH		Completing any one course offered by the Department of Mathematics numbered 230-1 or higher with a grade of C- or better satisfies the Weinberg College Formal Studies (Area II) distribution requirement.	II
NICO	101	Introduction to Programming for Big Data (0.67 units) -- *see note below*	II
	102	Project for Introduction to Programming for Big Data (0.33 units). NOTE: *Students must complete both NICO 101 and 102 for 1 credit towards Formal Studies*	
PHIL	150	Elementary Logic I	II
PHIL	151	Scientific Reasoning	II
PHIL	250	Elementary Logic II	II
PHYSICS	311-1	Mathematical Tools for the Physical Sciences - I	II
PHYSICS	311-2	Mathematical Tools for the Physical Sciences - II	II
POLI SCI	210	Introduction to Empirical Methods in Political Science	II
POLI SCI	212	Evaluating Evidence	II
POLI SCI	312	Statistical Research Methods	II

PSYCH	201	Statistical Methods in Psychology	II
PSYCH	301	Research Methods in Psychology	II
PSYCH	333	Psychology of Thinking	II
PSYCH	380	Advanced Statistics & Experimental Design	II
SLAVIC	341	Structure of Modern Russian	II
SOCIOL	226	Sociological Analysis	II
SOCIOL	303	Analysis and Interpretation of Social Data	II
SPANISH	281	Spanish Phonetics and Phonology	II
STAT	201	Introduction to Programming for Data Science	II
STAT	202	Introduction to Statistics and Data Science	II
STAT	210	Introduction to Probability and Statistics	II
STAT	228	Series and Multiple Integrals	II
STAT	232	Applied Statistics	II
STAT		Any 300-level Statistics course (except 390, 398, or 399) can count as one credit of the Area II requirement.	II