

General Education: The Integrated Connections Curriculum

Connections Curricula

For Northland College students, the foundation of their academic studies is established through one of the College's Connections curricula—[*Superior Connections*](#), [*Growing Connections*](#), or [*Natural Connections*](#). Students elect to complete one of these curricula when they enter the College, and the courses required for their chosen Connections curriculum account for approximately one-third of the courses they will complete at the College. Academic major requirements and elective courses typically account for the other two-thirds.

All of the Connections curricula—*Superior*, *Growing*, and *Natural*—are designed to assure that students develop:

- foundational skills in communication, quantitative reasoning, and personal wellness;
- a breadth of disciplinary learning characteristic of a liberally educated individual;
- an understanding of human and cultural diversity; and
- an appreciation for the relationship between humans and the natural world that prepares graduates to live lives that are sensitive to the needs of an ecologically sustainable future.

The teaching of writing and speaking skills is integrated into the Connections blocks that are required in all of the Connections curricula; students are also required to complete two courses designated as writing intensive. Writing intensive courses at Northland provide (a) explicit attention to the writing process and to the form of written documents; (b) opportunities for students to receive feedback on drafts or completed writing assignments; and (c) opportunities for students to revise or incorporate feedback in future writing assignments. In writing intensive courses, writing assignments account for approximately sixty percent of the final course grade.

The Connections curricula are structured to demonstrate the value of integrated, multidisciplinary approaches to understanding the world. After completing a Connections curriculum, students understand the strengths and limitations of specific academic disciplines and are prepared to think systemically and creatively about complex questions.

Superior Connections

Superior Connections is a curriculum integrated thematically by a focus on the Lake Superior watershed. Students who enroll in *Superior Connections* develop expertise in the natural and human histories of the watershed, and then use this expertise to study and engage a variety of complexly interconnected environmental and cultural issues. The program incorporates a number of field trips in its courses, including a one-month journey around Lake Superior. Students emerge from *Superior Connections* empowered by experiences of connectedness to make meaningful contributions to the watersheds and communities in which they will live.

Students must apply to participate in *Superior Connections*; they complete the program as a cohort of approximately twenty students.

Superior Connections Curriculum Requirements

Fall Semester—1st Year

XNN 115 Natural Setting of Lake Superior

- [BIO 128 - Natural History and Conservation in the Lake Superior Watershed](#) **4 Credits**
- [GSC 112 - Geoscience Issues of Lake Superior](#) **4 Credits**

XHH 115 Lake Superior Lives & Stories

- [ENG 126 - Confluences: Reading and Writing in the Lake Superior Watershed](#) **4 Credits**
- [NAS 160 - Lake Superior Ojibwe](#) **4 Credits**

Winter Semester—1st Year

- [SCD 225 - Sustainable Development in the Lake Superior Watershed](#) **4 Credits**

May Term—1st Year

- [IDS 180 - Lake Superior Circumnavigation](#) **4 Credits**

Prior to Graduation

- Two courses from different disciplines that emphasize ways of knowing characteristic of the social sciences **6-8 credits**
- One course that focuses on human or cultural diversity, OR one non-NAS course that emphasizes ways of knowing characteristic of the Humanities **3-4 credits**
- One Quantitative Reasoning Course **3-4 Credits**

Courses that satisfy ways of knowing (Humanities, Social Science, Natural Science) or quantitative reasoning requirements for the Connections program are identified in individual course descriptions found in the College catalog or through the Course Search function on My Northland.

Courses that focus on human or cultural diversity are identified in a list provided below.

Students who complete the Superior Connections curriculum are eligible to declare an environmental studies minor.

Total Superior Connections: 36-40 Credits

Growing Connections

Growing Connections is a curriculum that focuses on the history, theories, and practices of sustainable agriculture. Participants in *Growing Connections* work closely with faculty mentors and regional farmers in classrooms, labs, and fields to develop an interdisciplinary understanding of food systems and of the role that agriculture plays in human culture and ecological health.

Students complete the Growing Connections curriculum as a cohort of approximately twenty students.

Growing Connections Curriculum Requirements

Fall Semester—1st Year

XHN 112 Growing Connections Fall

- [CHM 103 - General Chemistry: The Chemistry of Food](#) **4 Credits**
- [ENG 140 - Food for Thought: Reflecting upon Agrarian Life in America](#) **3 Credits**

Winter Semester—1st Year

XNS 115 Animals and Minerals in Agriculture

- [GSC 107 - Geology and Agriculture](#) **4 Credits**
- [OED 222 – Exploring the Human-Animal Connection](#) **4 Credits**

May Term—1st Year

- [IDS 243 - Sustainable Agriculture Practicum](#) **4 Credits**

Prior to Graduation

- Two courses from different disciplines that emphasize ways of knowing characteristic of the Humanities, OR one course focused on the needs of an ecologically sustainable future and one non-ENG course that emphasizes the ways of knowing characteristic of the Humanities **6-8 credits**
- Two courses from different disciplines that emphasize ways of knowing characteristic of the Social Sciences, OR one course focused on human or cultural diversity and one non-OED course that emphasizes ways of knowing characteristic of the social sciences **6-8 credits**
- One Quantitative Reasoning Course **3-4 Credits**

Courses that satisfy ways of knowing (Humanities, Social Science, Natural Science) or quantitative reasoning requirements for the Connections program are identified in individual course descriptions found in the College catalog or through the Course Search function on My Northland.

Courses that focus on human and cultural diversity or on the needs of an ecologically sustainable future are identified in a list provided below.

Students who complete the Growing Connections curriculum are eligible to declare an environmental studies minor.

Total Growing Connections: 34-39 Credits

Natural Connections

Natural Connections is a curriculum that allows students to explore a variety of themes or questions. Students completing *Natural Connections* may select blocks of courses that focus on different themes or questions each semester, or they may select blocks of courses that explore the same question or theme across two semesters. Faculty teams dedicated to *Natural Connections* curriculum provide multi-disciplinary perspectives on the themes or questions of the different blocks, and students develop sophisticated understandings of the complexities inherent in each.

Natural Connections Curriculum Requirements

1) Students pursuing *Natural Connections* must complete ...

- two courses from different disciplines that emphasize ways of knowing characteristic of the **Humanities**; (6-8 Credits)
- two courses from different disciplines that emphasize ways of knowing characteristic of the **Natural Sciences**; (6-8 Credits)
- two courses from different disciplines that emphasize ways of knowing characteristic of the **Social Sciences**; (6-8 Credits)
- one course that focuses on **the needs of an ecologically sustainable future** (3-4 credits)
- one course that focuses on **human or cultural diversity** (3-4 credits)
- one **quantitative reasoning** course; (3-4 Credits)
- one **experiential** course or a three/four credit **internship** (3-4 Credits)
- two writing intensive courses, which may be fulfilled through courses required above or by taking additional courses (0-8 credits)

Courses that satisfy ways of knowing (Humanities, Social Science, Natural Science) or quantitative reasoning requirements for the Connections program are identified in individual course descriptions found in the College catalog or through the Course Search function on My Northland.

Courses that focus on the needs of an ecologically sustainable future or on human and cultural diversity as well as writing intensive courses are identified in lists provided below.

2) In addition, *Natural Connections* students must complete one Connections block in their first year and a second Connections block prior to graduation.

Connections blocks are identified in course schedules by course codes that begin with X. For a current listing of Connections blocks, use the Course Search function on My Northland to view schedules for a specific semester or term.

Typically, *Natural Connections* students fulfill some of their ways of knowing requirements (Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, see #1 above) through their Connections blocks (#2 above), but they may also take individual courses to fulfill disciplinary requirements if desired.

Students who complete the Natural Connection program by taking at least two courses at the 300-level or higher and who take an additional course focused on the needs of an ecologically sustainable future may declare an Environmental Studies minor.

Total Natural Connections: 30-48 Credits

Connections Curriculum Equivalencies

Students who enroll at Northland with college credits earned at other institutions may fulfill some or all of the Connections curricula requirements through transfer equivalencies. This includes both first-time freshmen who earned college credit while in high school and transfer students. Individual transfer evaluations will indicate which requirements, if any, have been met through these equivalencies.

AP and CLEP tests can be utilized to fulfill Natural Connections course requirements; however, they do not fulfill the block requirements

Students who fulfill some or all of their Connections requirements through equivalencies may not be eligible to declare an environmental studies minor.

Repeating Connections Blocks & Courses

A Connections block consists of a title, or X, course and two academic classes, which are the content courses. Students must successfully complete both content courses to receive credit for the block. If students withdraw from one or both of the two content courses during the term, they will automatically be withdrawn from the title, or X, course, which will appear as a “W” on the transcript. If students fail one or both of the two content courses, they will receive a grade of unsatisfactory in the title, or X, course, which will appear as a “U” on the transcript.

If students wish to earn credit for a block from which they have withdrawn or in which they have received an unsatisfactory grade, they must repeat the entire block—the title course and both content courses. Students are not required to do this, and may instead choose to complete a different block to fulfill the requirements of the Connections curriculum. If students wish to repeat only a content course that they failed or withdrew from, they may do so only if that course is offered independent of a block format in a future semester. Repeating a single-content course will not result in credit for the block as a whole, and the grade on the original title course will not be changed.

Students with concerns regarding the completion of their Connections curriculum should contact the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for assistance.

Human & Cultural Diversity Courses

BUS 415 Multicultural Aspects of Organizational Development
EDU 376 Strategies for Teaching Diverse Learners
ENG 217 Contemporary Third World Literature
ENG 228 Literature of the Arab World
ENG 233 Women of the Third World

ENG 372 Nature in Latin American Literature
GSC 262 World Regional Geography
GWS 265 Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies
GWS 266 Ecofeminism
GWS 331 Feminist Theory
GWS 343 Queer Ecologies
HIS 101 United States History to 1865
HIS 102 United States History since 1865
HIS 111 History of World Civilizations to 1500
HIS 112 History of World Civilizations since 1500
HIS 209 Gender in the United States Landscape
HIS 260 Gender in Modern Europe
HIS 263 History of the Middle East
HIS 264 Middle East History and Politics
HIS 266 American Material Culture
HIS 270 The Holocaust
HIS 315 American Foodways
HIS 357 Gender in Total War
HUM 220 Soviet Art and Music
IDS 276 Middle East Sustainability
IDS 284 Central American Culture, History, and Language
MLG 205 Intermediate Spanish I
MLG 206 Intermediate Spanish II
MUS 205 Story of Jazz
MUS 206 History of Rock and Roll
MUS 217 Music in World Culture
NAS—ALL COURSES
OED 210 Inclusive Outdoor Education
OED 221 Group Process and Leadership
OED 222 Exploring the Human-Animal Connection
OED 279 Access and Diversity
PSY 233 Social Psychology
PSY 236 Political Psychology
PSY 331 Ecopsychology
REL 230 Asian Religions and Philosophies
REL 231 Buddhism
REL 234 Japanese Religious History
REL 330 Islam
REL 331 Zen Buddhism
SCD 110 Introduction of Sustainable Community Development
SCD 230 The Political Process
SCD 235 Forces of Change
SCD 320 History of Planning and Development
SCD 335 Organizing Communities
SCD 422 Capitalism, Justice & Sustainability
SCD 350 Gender and Economic Development
SOC—ALL COURSES

Needs of an Ecologically Sustainable Future Courses

ART 306 Art Collaborations with Nature
BIO 128 Natural History and Conservation in the Lake Superior Watershed
BIO 234 Ecology
BIO 245 Mammalogy
BIO 328 Vegetative Communities of Northern Wisconsin
BIO 370 Applied Conservation Biology
BIO 374 Tropical Ecology and Conservation
BIO 410 Conservation Biology
CHM 103 General Chemistry: The Chemistry of Food
CHM 105 General Chemistry: Chemistry in Social Context
CHM 108: General Chemistry: Responding to Climate Change
CHM 110 General Chemistry
CHM 210 Chemistry of Natural Waters
CHM 220 Organic Chemistry I
CHM 221 Organic Chemistry II
CHM 225 Ecological Quantitative Analysis
CHM 240 Inorganic Chemistry
CHM 245 Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate
CHM 326 Atmospheric Chemistry
CHM 449 Kinetics and Transport
CHM 462 Advanced Experimental Chemistry Capstone
ECN 310 Environmental Economics
ECN 460 Economics of Sustainability
ENG 126 Confluences: Reading and Writing in the Lake Superior Watershed
ENG 140 Food for Thought: Reflecting upon Agrarian Life in America
ENG 160 Natural Disasters in Literature and Film
ENG 211 Humanity and Nature in Literature
ENG 234 Science Fiction and Societal Collapse
ENG 240 Pens & Paddles in the North Woods
ENG 318 Nature Writers
ENG 372 Nature in Latin American Literature
ENG 377 Green Romanticism
GSC 107 Geology and Agriculture
GSC 112 Geoscience Issues of Lake Superior
GSC 140 Natural Hazards
GSC 222 Sediments and Soils
GSC 233 Earth Resources
GWS 266 EcoFeminism
GWS 343 Queer Ecologies
HIS 209 Gender in the United States Landscape
HIS 241 American Environmental History
HIS 242 European Environmental History
HIS 315 American Foodways
HIS 325 Nature and Nation: Environment, Art, Ideology
IDS 276 Middle East Sustainability
IDS 278 Applied Peace and Sustainability

IDS 373 Humans and the Environment
MET 300 Climate and Climate Change
MTH 106 Environmental Mathematics
MTH 207 Biometry
MTH 230 Mathematical Modeling
MUS 263 Music and Nature
NAS 315 American Indian Environmental Perspectives
NRS 215 Natural Resources Policy
NRS 225 Fisheries and Wildlife Techniques
NRS 325 Stream and Watershed Ecology
NRS 345 Ecological Restoration
NRS 346 Applied Restoration Ecology
NRS 347 Sustainable Forest Management
NRS 348 Wildlife Ecology and Management
NRS 349 Fisheries Science and Management
NRS 358 Wetlands
NRS 361 Forest Mensuration
NRS 363 Fire Ecology and Management
NRS 365 Conservation of Large Carnivores
NRS 370 Living with Wildlife: Wildlife Conservation Policy in Africa
NRS 425 Silviculture and Harvest
NRS 464 Wolf Ecology, Management, & Research
NRS 480 Integrate Ecosystem Management
OED 105 Introduction to Outdoor Education
OED 222 Exploring the Human Animal Connection
OED 224 North Woods Pathways
OED 261 Environmental Education Curriculum Review
OED 279 Access & Diversity
OED 328 Wilderness Writers and Philosophers
PHL 226 Environmental Ethics
PHL 262 Environmental Philosophy
PHL 266 Environmental Aesthetics
PHL 360 Concepts of Nature
PSY 331 Ecopsychology
PSY 345 Cognition in the Wild
PSY 431 Ecopsychology II: Applied
REL 270 Religion and Nature
SCD—ALL COURSES
SOC 341 Sociology of the Environment
WRI 273 Writing the Environmental Essay

Writing Intensive Courses

BIO 128 Natural History and Conservation in the Lake Superior Watershed
BIO 480 Biology Senior Seminar
EDU 337 Fall Practicum
EDU 338 Winter Practicum
ENG—ALL COURSES except ENG 180 Public Speaking

GSC 107 Geology and Agriculture
GSC 112 Geoscience Issues of Lake Superior
GWS—ALL COURSES
HIS 101 United States History to 1865
HIS 102 United States History since 1865
HIS 209 Gender in the United States Landscape
HIS 221 History of Medieval Europe
HIS 234 Ideology in the 20th Century
HIS 241 American Environmental History
HIS 242 European Environmental History
HIS 260 Gender in Modern Europe
HIS 266 American Material Culture/Objects in Everyday Life and History
HIS 315 American Foodways
HIS 320 The Enlightenment
HIS 321 The French Revolution
HIS 325 Nature and Nation: Environment, Art, Ideology
HIS 357 Gender in Total War
IDS 180 Lake Superior Circumnavigation
IDS 480 Senior Seminar
NAS 215 Native American Women's History
NAS 333 Native American World Views
MET 125 Introduction to Meteorology
MET 364 Synoptic Meteorology
MTH 496 Mathematics Senior Capstone Seminar
NRS 348 Wildlife Ecology and Management
NRS 363 Fire Ecology & Management
NRS 480 Integrated Ecosystem Management
PHL 266 Environmental Aesthetics
PHL 270 Philosophy of Science
PHL 282 Contemporary Western Philosophy
PHL 330 Philosophy of Language
PSY 110 General Psychology
PSY 203 Life Span Developmental Psychology
PSY 231 Ecopsychology
PSY 233 Social Psychology
PSY 234 Theories of Personality
PSY 236 Political Psychology
REL 231 Buddhism
REL 241 Religion in America
REL 258 Religion and Nature
SCD 110 Introduction to Sustainable Community Development
SCD 215 Collapse and Sustainability
SCD 220 Sustainable Community Planning
SCD 225 Sustainable Development in the Lake Superior Watershed
SCD 230 The Political Process
SCD 235 Forces of Change
SCD 320 The History of Planning and Development
SCD 332 Rethinking Economic Development
SCD 335 Organizing Communities
SCD 355 The Just City in Practice

SCD 422 Capitalism, Justice, and Sustainability
SCD 430 Sustainable Development Theory
SCD 481 Applied Research Practicum
SCD 497 Capstone
SOC 226 Social Movements
SOC 301 Mass Media & Popular Culture
SOC 302 Sociology of Culture
SOC 336 Social Inequality
SOC 370 Social Science Research Methods
SOC 374 Human Rights & Social Justice
SOC 381 Undoing Racism
SOC 448 Sociological Theory
SOC 488 Sociology/Social Justice Capstone
WRI—ALL COURSES