

III Registration for General Foundation Subjects

(Common Foundation Subjects and Specific Foundation Subjects)

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Common Foundation Subjects

Common Foundation Subjects comprise five categories of courses: Multidisciplinary Subjects, Physical Education, Foreign Languages (i.e., English, The Second Foreign Languages, Japanese), Information Literacy, and Art. Each course objective is stated below. For information on how to register for Common Foundation Subjects, please refer to the following pages.

Objectives

Multidisciplinary Subjects	<i>Multidisciplinary Subjects</i> help first-year students adapt to new learning environments and to autonomously start setting their career goals. Furthermore, it will ensure a solid intellectual foundation to advance to specialized fields by thinking about the way of learning and relation with oneself from a wide variety of viewpoints.
Physical Education	<i>Physical Education</i> encourages students to undertake the lifelong development of sports techniques; acquire knowledge and learn practical approaches for maintenance and improvement of health and physical strength; embody the spirit of fair play as a member of society; and understand other perspectives and communication skills. To foster a sound body, spiritual wealth, and strong frame of mind, students engage in a variety of skills practice based on sports science.
Foreign Languages	<i>Foreign Languages</i> help students develop the practical ability to use foreign languages in scholarly research settings through fostering academic intelligence and commensurate linguistic skills. As students improve their linguistic awareness by learning multiple languages, they become aware of cultural, social, and conceptual diversities and learn to become multidimensional thinkers in the world.
Information Literacy	<i>Information Literacy</i> helps students understand the basic concepts of information and computers and their position in society, as well as learn the rules and ethics of the Internet society. It helps students understand the basic concepts of data collection, management, and analysis, as well as develop their ability to make objective decisions based on the data.
Art	<i>Art</i> provides opportunities for students to acquire broad artistic knowledge, sharpen his or her aesthetic sensitivities, and obtain pleasure from art as self-expression. <i>Art</i> encourages students to develop a rich and balanced sense of humanity appropriate for students studying at a comprehensive academic university.

1 Multidisciplinary Subjects

(1) Framework for Multidisciplinary Subjects

Multidisciplinary Subjects offer the following subjects.

(a) First Year Seminar

The course is designed for First-year students to smoothly adapt to the educational system and campus life at the university, to acquire the study goals and motives, and to establish themselves autonomously.

(b) Invitation to Arts and Sciences

This course explains the formation, spread, and development of the field of study in a university as well as the relationship with other studies by considering specific problems. In addition, it helps better understand the significance of the specializations we intend to major in and the positioning of these specializations in colleges and schools.

(c) Multidisciplinary Subjects for the Undergraduate Degrees

It is a group of subjects that considers various ways of thinking and living in society and the world to strengthen students' motivation for their own study at the university from a broad perspective. By taking this course, students will be able to prepare their own academic foundation. This group of subjects includes contents such as deepening of thinking about learning, career-support, cross-cutting contents; promoting self-analysis and self-establishment; and cultivating the adaptability to social life. There are courses for first-year students and courses for upper-year students.

(2) Number of Credits Required for Graduation and Standard Academic Year for Registration

In Multidisciplinary subjects, students should obtain 3 or more credits in sum, 1 credit from “First Year Seminar,” 1 credit from “Invitation to Arts and Sciences,” 1 credit or more from “Multidisciplinary Subjects for the Undergraduate Degrees.”

“First Year Seminar” and “Invitation to Arts and Sciences” are normally taken in the year of enrollment. However, regarding “Multidisciplinary Subjects for the Undergraduate Degrees,” you need to acquire 1 or more credit by taking a course appropriate for your grade until graduation.

First Year Seminar 1 credit (required)	Invitation to Arts and Sciences 1 credit (required)	Multidisciplinary Subjects for the Undergraduate Degrees 1 or more credits (required)※
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※As a choice of graduation requirements for Core Electives or Free Electives, some schools and colleges can take a certain number of credits. Be sure to check the course regulations of each school and college to see if it can be taken as a graduation requirement.

(3) Course Schedule

“First Year seminar” is set up according to the timetable for each school and college; “Invitation to Arts and Sciences” is set up for Fall A module, Online (Asynchronous). “Multidisciplinary Subjects for the Undergraduate Degrees” is not set up for fixed timetables.

Please select and take courses according to the guidance given in each school and college.

(4) Reminder for Course Registration

Change of classrooms of the Multidisciplinary Subjects

As the number of large classrooms is limited, we may change classrooms when the number of registrants is decided. Regarding the change of classroom, we will post it on the Bulletin Board (TWINS). Please ensure to check it before attending the course.

2 Physical Education

(1) Framework for Physical Education

Course Structure		Course Overview
Required Courses	Skills Practice For 1st year	Students must take a Fall semester course, 0.5 credits, as well as the intensive course, the Wellness Sport course, 0.5 credits. In this manner, students can complete 1.0 credit in total. The Wellness Sport course will be scheduled at the C module in the Fall semester at the same academic year.
	Skills Practice (Year-long) For 2nd year	2nd year students will take, a year-long (Spring AB and Fall AB modules) course, 1.0 credit.
Core Electives	Skills Practice (Year-long)	Year-long courses, 1.0 credit
	Intensive Skills Practice	On- or off-campus courses for all students, 0.5–1 credits
	Lectures	Semester- or year-long lecture or seminar courses
	Seminar	

Note: Core Electives: All students are welcomed to choose from a wide variety of optional courses.

(2) Credits and Student Academic Years for Registration

Students must earn 2 credits from Required Physical Education Courses.

	Required Courses		Core Electives Counted toward Graduation
	Credits	Standard Academic Year for Registration	
All English Programs	2.0	1 – 2	Applicable

Note: For the Bachelor's Program in Interdisciplinary Engineering, the course of study differs from other Programs. Details will be explained at the orientation.

(3) Reminder for Course Registration

- In principle, students must earn 1 credit (0.5 credits in the spring semester and 0.5 credits in the fall semester) in each year of study for Physical Education (required courses). However, if a student fails to acquire the credits in a given year, he/she must repeat the course in the following year or later. In this case, students must start with the required courses offered in the standard year of study. Students cannot take courses for the fall semester unless they have earned credits for the spring semester (except for students who enroll for the fall semester; See (g) for details).
- For academic departments that require 2.0 credits from Physical Education, the standard is to take 1.0 credit of Basic Physical Education (required course in the first year) and 1.0 credit of Applied Physical Education (required course in the second year).
- For academic departments that require 3.0 credits from Physical Education must take Basic and Applied Physical Education, and 1.0 credit of Advanced Physical Education (either a full-year course, Semester courses, or an intensive course) in their third year or later. If the required credits are earned through intensive courses, students must take one 1-credit course or two 0.5 credit courses. (0.5 credits from a full-year course and 0.5 credits from an intensive course cannot be counted as 1.0

credit of required credits.)

(d) The credits earned from Core Electives in Physical Education cannot be counted nor converted as Required Courses credits.

(e) Students' preferences for course choices are considered as priority. However, because of limitations on course capacities, there is no guarantee that students will be able to register for their first choice. To select a subject, students must register themselves in the class drawing system. Further details will be posted on the Bureau of Physical Education and Sports website. For class content, please refer to the Bureau of Physical Education and Sports's "List of Open Class Subjects" and the common physical education syllabus posted on the Bureau of Physical Education and Sports website.

(f) Orientation and Course Registration

When taking a Physical Education course, students must review information from the Sport and Physical Education Center in advance. For required skills practice courses, students must log-in to the class drawing system and enter subject preferences, which is required to determine the subject of Physical Education. For more information about course registration, please refer to the [Common Physical Education Registration Flowchart] in the following Bureau of Physical Education and Sports website: https://www.sappec.tsukuba.ac.jp/?page_id=2447

(g) Course Registration for Students Admitted in the Fall Semester

Students admitted in the fall semester should take a required skills practice course (0.5 credits) in the fall semester during their 1st year. In addition, they should take an intensive required skills practice course (0.5 credits) that is open only for students admitted in the fall semester. Thus, they will receive 1 credit in total. Classes to be taken after the 2nd year will be the same as those for other students.

(h) Registration for Trim Exercise Courses

The Trim Exercise course is a course for students who need significant accommodation for activity participation due to an illness or injury.

In registering for the Trim Exercise course, students must meet a Trim Exercise instructor and gain an approval for registration. For more information, consult with the Academic Service Office or the Sport and Physical Education Counselling Room on the 2nd floor of the Sport and Physical Education Center.

(i) Other

There may be some additional charge involved in the program.

3 Foreign Languages

(1) Definition and Classification of Courses

(a) The University of Tsukuba defines languages other than the first language (i.e., mother tongue) of the student as “foreign languages”; therefore, courses for such non-native languages are offered as foreign language courses for Common Foundation Subjects.

(b) The University of Tsukuba classifies foreign language courses into three types: 1) “the first foreign language” classified as a required course by all colleges; 2) “the second foreign language” discretionarily offered as Required Courses, Core Electives, or Free Electives by each college; and 3) Japanese as a Second Language for international students, etc., discretionarily offered as Required Courses, Core Electives, or Free Electives by each college.

(c) As for Program Required Courses, all colleges that offer an English Program specify Japanese as the first foreign language and English as the second foreign language. In the case that Japanese or English is the student’s first language, the University of Tsukuba adopts educational measures for students to select other (non-native) languages and take substitute courses.

(2) Foreign Languages Offered

(a) Foreign Language Courses offered in English (Mainly Offered to English Program Students)

Japanese	Japanese 101 – 401 (Fall), Japanese 102 – 402 (Spring)*
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*Students must take a Fall course first, followed by a Spring course of a higher level, for example Japanese 101 followed by Japanese 102.

(b) Foreign Language Courses offered in Japanese (Offered to All Students)

A variety of foreign language courses are offered in Japanese, including English, German, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Korean. English Program students may enroll in these courses if they have adequate Japanese language skills.

(3) Number of Credits Required for Graduation

(a) As for the first and second foreign languages, the number of credits required for graduation from the English Program is as follows (Japanese language classes for English Program students account for 2 credits per course):

	First Foreign Language		Second Foreign Language	
	Credits	Language	Credits	Language
All English Programs	4.0	Japanese	Depends on each school and college.	

(b) Students whose first language is Japanese or English should take foreign language courses in accordance with the registration guidance offered by each school and college, as described above in

Section (1) Definition and Classification of Courses.

(c) If a student has near-native proficiency in Japanese or English as the result of having completed secondary education in that language—whether through study abroad or other circumstances—the student should inform the college chair or school dean of their current language proficiency and plan course registration according to the chair’s or dean’s instructions.

(d) After having completed the required Foreign Language Courses, students can register for additional foreign language courses as Free Electives in the established range of graduation requirements. As for the maximum limit of credit approval, please see the page for the Course Registration Criteria.

(4) Notes on Course Registration

(a) Course Placement

Students registering for Japanese language courses will be assigned to the class of their appropriate level based on their performance on a placement test taken before coming to Japan, cf. Letter sent to the students by the respective Academic Service Offices. Students may not take classes at a level other than that assigned. The details of course placement will be announced later.

(b) Exceptional Measure for Course Registration of Foreign Languages

If students demonstrate sufficient proficiency in foreign languages through course placement exams, qualification tests, or other assessments, all or part of their required Foreign Language courses may be substituted with other courses from the General Foundation Subjects list. Each school and college sets its own standards for course registration and provides registration guidance. Please follow their specific instructions.

(c) Retaking Courses

Students who fail to earn credits must retake the same language courses. When retaking courses, students must obtain approval from their course instructors.

4 Information Literacy

(1) Structure of “Information Literacy” and Acquisition Unit

As a compulsory subject, 4 credits of “Information Literacy” comprise 1 credit for Information Literacy (Lectures), 1 credit for Information Literacy (Exercises), and 2 credits for Data Science.

□Composition of “Information Literacy” and the number of credits

Subject	Course Name	Credits	Credits in Total	Course Number	Standard Academic Year for Registration			
					1	2	3	4
Information Literacy	Information Literacy (Lectures)	1	4	6190101	○			
	Information Literacy (Exercises)	1		6490102	○			
	Data Science	2		6590102	○			

(2) Notes on the course

- (i) In principle, “Information Literacy” is a subject to be taken in the first year.
- (ii) “Information Literacy (Exercises)” and “Data Science” will be conducted in rooms where entry control devices are installed. Students should bring their student ID needed to enter these rooms.

5 Art

(1) Course Objectives

It is the nature of all human beings to feel, express, and share beauty. Yet, aesthetic standards and qualities vary depending on educational opportunities and experiences. Art is considered to be a crucial part of a liberal arts program at universities around the world. However, this has not been the case in universities here in Japan. A sense of balance and ability for self-expression gained through art education becomes almost indispensable in terms of developing harmonious and sustainable societies. Since its foundation, the University of Tsukuba's academic programs in art have played a leading role in the art field in Japan and have produced many distinguished art experts. The University continues to further develop this tradition by providing excellent academic courses in Art. The School of Art and Design offers courses to inspire students to understand cultural activities, acquire skills in art appreciation, and foster active participation in the realm of art across a wide range, including Aesthetics, Fine Arts, and Communication Art and Design.

(2) Course Overview

The School of Art and Design offers courses from the programs listed below. Course structures include workshops and practical training.

Workshops on Oil Painting

Workshops on Japanese-style Painting

Workshops on Sculpture

Practice: Calligraphy A, B, C

Practice: Picture Book (Open in odd numbered year)

Workshops on Art & Design Produce Studio. 1, 2, 3

(3) Reminder for Course Registration

- (i) To improve educational quality, Art Courses involving workshops and practical training limit the number of students for each course. Therefore, course instructors may adjust the number of students to avoid overcrowding.
- (ii) Some classes that involve practical training may require students to obtain special insurance.