

# Understanding the University Studies Program

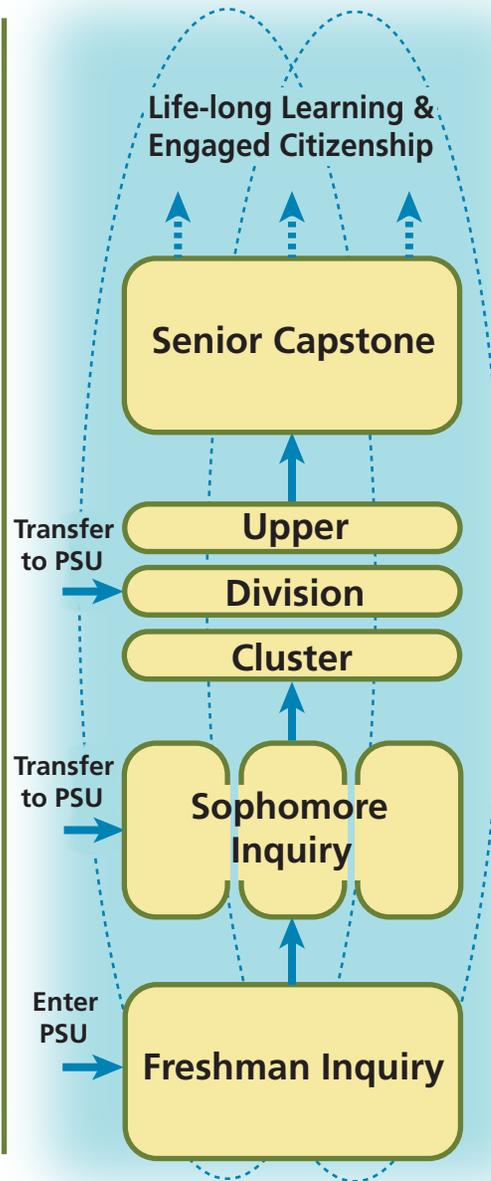


## Why University Studies?

**The future matters.** University Studies wants PSU's graduates to be engaged citizens and lifelong learners who are not only poised for success in the workplace, but who are also prepared to grapple with the challenges that face our society.

**Innovative learning.** Most universities have a required general education program. At Portland State, our interdisciplinary core curriculum is called University Studies (UNST). In UNST, students discuss big ideas, ask questions, and examine assumptions. We expect students to be active participants in their education. As a result, we combine hands-on, student-centered learning with content from a wide variety of academic disciplines. We also study students' experience in order to support their learning and success. These practices help students thrive, and the UNST curriculum enriches the learning that occurs in the other classes and activities at Portland State.

**Transferable skills.** UNST equips students with the core skills and perspectives to be successful throughout life. These include an ability to communicate effectively, to think creatively and critically, to be curious about the diversity of the human experience, and to wrestle with understandings of ethics and social responsibility. These are the **Four Goals** of the UNST curriculum, and employers report that they desire graduates with mastery in each of these areas.



## Senior Capstone:

As the culmination of UNST, Capstone courses connect the classroom to the community by immersing teams of students in service-learning projects that address real-world issues. **MORE INFO**

## Upper Division Cluster:

Composed from a variety of academic fields and linked to a single SINQ theme, Cluster courses build upon the knowledge and the core skills that students developed in FRINQ and SINQ courses. **MORE INFO**

## Sophomore Inquiry (SINQ):

These thematic, focused inquiry courses introduce students to the key concepts, questions, research methods, and other content that will be further explored in the Upper Division Cluster. **MORE INFO**

## Freshman Inquiry (FRINQ):

This year-long, interactive, and theme-based course uses an interdisciplinary approach to examine topics and show how content can be understood from different academic and personal perspectives. **MORE INFO**

## Questions?

Come by and visit us in Cramer Hall, 117, or you can reach us at:

AskUNST@pdx.edu  
503-725-5890

