



PATHWAYS

TO GENERAL EDUCATION

What is Pathways?

Pathways is the general education curriculum at Virginia Tech. As a central component of the undergraduate experience, the Pathways curriculum will allow you to examine the world from multiple perspectives and integrate your knowledge across various disciplines. Along with the coursework required for your major, you will complete credits from nine Pathways concepts (seven core concepts and two integrative concepts).

Core Concepts

You will complete a total of 45 credits across seven Pathways core concepts. The number of credits required per concept is listed below.

① Discourse

9 credits

6 Foundational (1f) +
3 Advanced (1a)

**② Critical Thinking
in the Humanities**

6 credits

**③ Reasoning in the
Social Sciences**

6 credits

**④ Reasoning in the
Natural Sciences**

6 credits

**⑤ Quantitative and
Computational Thinking**

9 credits

6 Foundational (5f) +
3 Advanced (5a)

**⑥ Critique and Practice in
Design and the Arts**

6 credits

3 Design (6d) +
3 Arts (6a)

**⑦ Critical Analysis of Identity
and Equity in the United States**

3 credits

(may be double-counted with
another core concept)

Integrative Concepts

Each Pathways course also meets at least one integrative concept, ensuring that you complete your general education with competency in both ethical reasoning and intercultural and global awareness.

Ethical Reasoning

Throughout

Intercultural and Global Awareness

Throughout

How do you fulfill your Pathways requirements?

There are a number of options for satisfying your Pathways requirements. You may have already fulfilled credits through high school AP/IB courses or transfer credits. Some of the required coursework for your major will likely also fulfill Pathways credits. For the remainder, you may choose individual courses or complete a compatible Pathways minor (see the following pages).

Visit the Pathways website to search for classes by concept or to view an alphabetical list of Pathways courses: <https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/about/pathways-guides.html>.

PACKAGING SYSTEMS AND DESIGN MAJOR

Fulfill your General Education requirements while earning a minor!

Which general education requirements are satisfied by your major?*

- Discourse (1f & 1a)
- Reasoning in the Social Sciences (3)
- Reasoning in the Natural Sciences (4)
- Foundational Quantitative and Computational Thinking (5f)

But what about your other requirements?

- Critical Thinking in the Humanities (2)
- Advanced Quantitative and Computational Thinking (5a)
- Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts (6d & 6a)
- Critical Analysis of Identity & Equity in the US (7)

*Requirements may vary slightly based on your year of entry; consult the checklist or your advisor to confirm.

A Pathways minor can help you fulfill the requirements that are not met within your major!*

Use the table below to find which minors best complement your gen ed needs. On the following pages, you can find just two of many possible examples of how your major and a Pathways minor can work together to fulfill your requirements. Have specific questions about meeting your requirements? Reach out to your advisor!

*Note: Any courses in your core degree requirements can count towards your minor requirements, but cannot count towards your Pathways requirements.

Minor	Pathways Concepts in Minor*							# of Credits in Minor		
Adaptive Brain & Behavior	1a	2	3	4			7	18		
Appalachian Cultures & Environments	1a	2	3	4	5f	6d	6a	7	18	
Biodiversity Conservation		2	3	4	5f	6d		7	18	
Blue Planet	1a	2	3	4	5f	5a		7	20	
Civic Agriculture & Food Systems	1a	2	3	4		6d	6a	7	18	
Climate & Society	1a	2	3	4	5f	5a			18	
Data & Decisions	1a	2	3		5f	5a			18	
Disabilities Studies		2	3			6d		7	21	
Ecological Cities	1a	2	3	4	5f	5a	6d	6a	7	18
Ecosystems for Human Well-Being	1a	2	3	4				7	18	
Event & Experience Management		2	3			5a	6d	6a	7	18
Global Business Practices to Improve the Human Condition	1a	2	3		5f	5a		7	21	
Global Food Security & Health	1a		3	4				7	19	
Health Communication	1f	1a	2	3		5f		7	21	
Housing and Society		2	3	4	5f	5a	6d		7	18
Innovation	1a	2	3		5f	6d			18	
Integrated Security	1a	2	3	4	5f	5a		7	18	
Language Sciences	1a	2	3		5f	5a		7	18	
Materials in Society	1a	2	3	4		5a	6d		7	18
Organizational Leadership	1a	2	3		5f	6d	6a	7	18	
Pathways to Sustainability	1a	2	3	4		6d	6a	7	18	
Peace Studies & Social Justice	1a	2	3	4	5f	5a		7	18	
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics	1a	2	3	4		6d		7	18	
Science, Technology, & Law	1a	2	3					7	18	
Strategic Communication	1f	1a		3		5f	6d	6a	7	18
Technology, Humans, and Environment	1a	2	3	4	5f	6d		7	18	
Visual Arts & Society	1a	2	3			6d	6a	7	18	

*Table lists all possible concepts that could be met within the minor; students are guaranteed to fulfill at least three concepts, and potentially more depending upon electives.



PATHWAYS GENERAL EDUCATION

You can explore each of these minors in more detail at <https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors.html>.

PACKAGING SYSTEMS AND DESIGN MAJOR



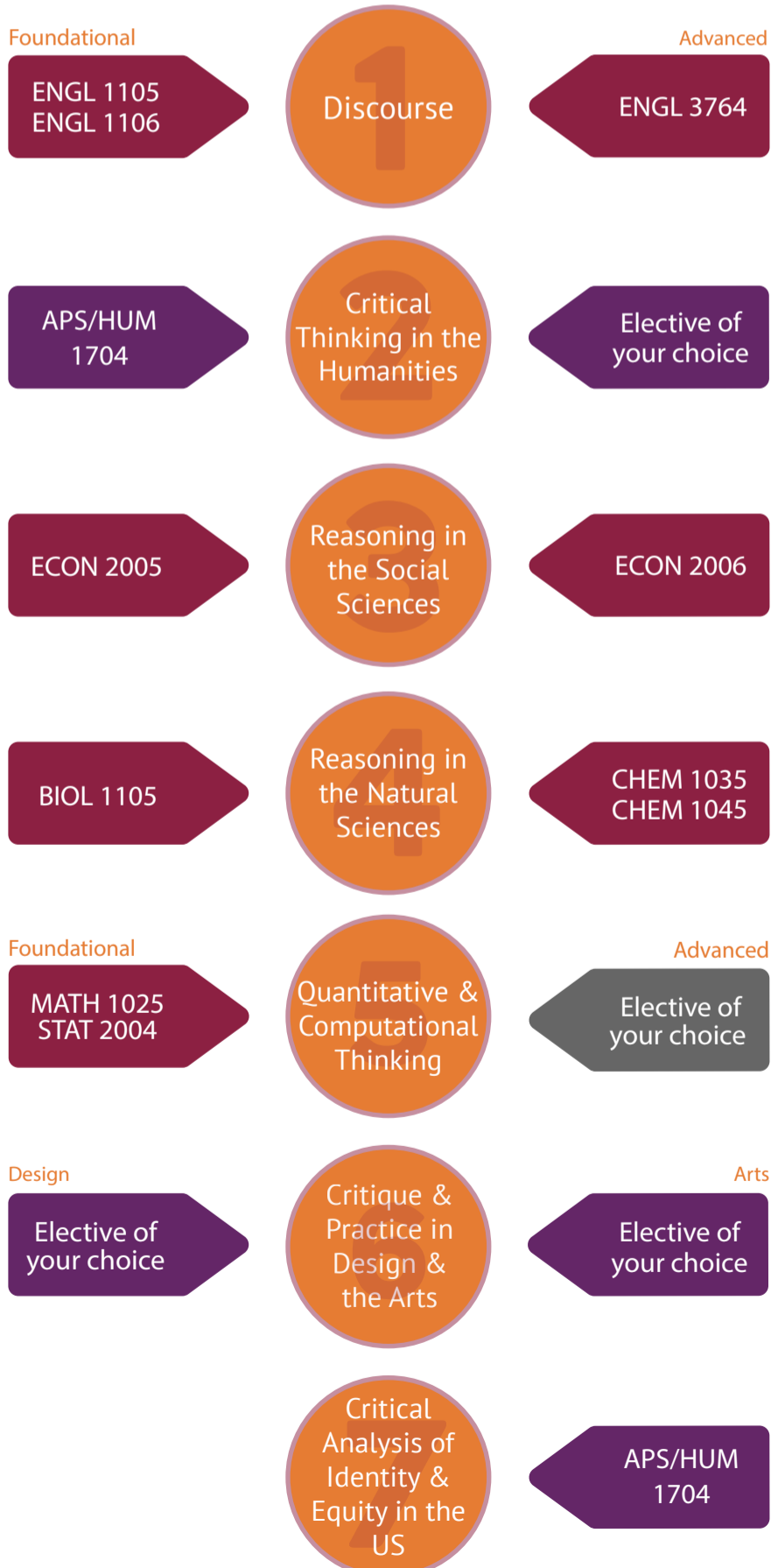
APPALACHIAN CULTURES AND ENVIRONMENTS PATHWAYS MINOR

Wondering how a Pathways minor can complement your PSD major? Using the Appalachian Cultures and Environments (APCE) minor as an example, the diagram below illustrates how your major and a minor can work together to meet your gen ed needs. Use the table on page 2 to identify other minors that interest you!

Pathways Requirements

Pathways requires you to complete credit hours across seven core concepts. If you're a PSD major, you will fulfill concepts 1, 3, 4, and 5 (foundational) in your program.

- Courses that satisfy major requirements
- Courses that satisfy minor requirements
- Electives outside of major and minor requirements



APCE Minor Requirements

The Appalachian Cultures and Environments minor includes a required 3-credit introductory course, 12 credits of electives (four courses from five areas), and a 3-hour required capstone course, for a total of 18 credit hours. Together, these required and elective courses offer numerous possible avenues for completing Pathways concepts 2, 6, and 7, as illustrated in the diagram to the left.



PACKAGING SYSTEMS AND DESIGN MAJOR

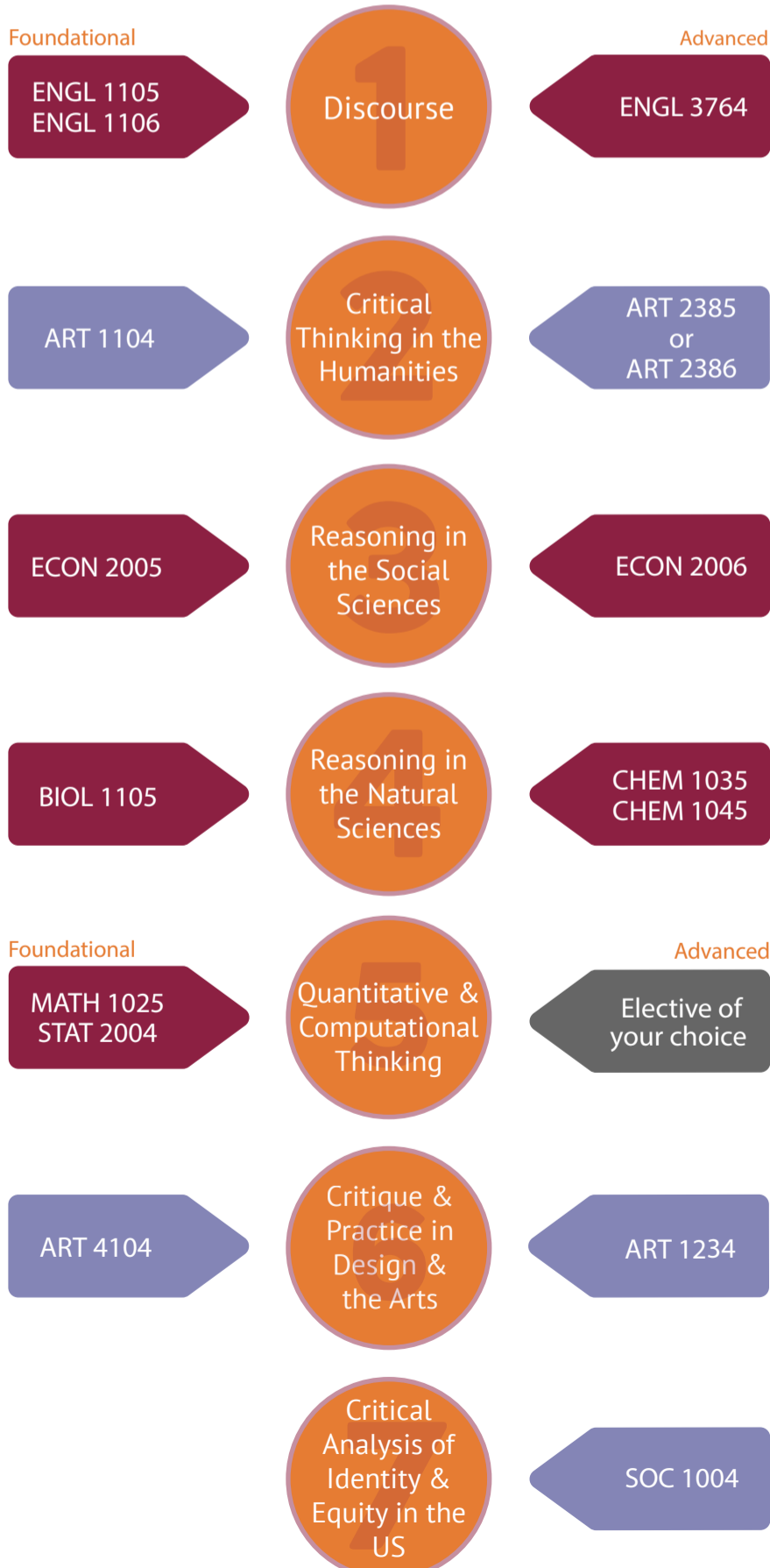
+ VISUAL ARTS AND SOCIETY PATHWAYS MINOR

Wondering how a Pathways minor can complement your PSD major? Using the Visual Arts and Society (VAS) minor as an example, the diagram below illustrates how your major and a minor can work together to meet your gen ed needs. Use the table on page 2 to identify other minors that interest you!

Pathways Requirements

Pathways requires you to complete credit hours across seven core concepts. If you're a PSD major, you will fulfill concepts 1, 3, 4, and 5 (foundational) in your program.

- Courses that satisfy major requirements
- Courses that satisfy minor requirements
- Electives outside of major and minor requirements



VAS Minor Requirements

The Visual Arts and Society minor includes 9 hours of required introductory courses, 6 credits of electives, and a 3-hour required capstone course, for a total of 18 credit hours. Together, these required and elective courses offer the opportunity to fulfill Pathways requirements in concepts 2, 6, and 7. The diagram to the left illustrates just one possible path for completing the minor and fulfilling your Pathways requirements.

