3.2.1 For students matriculated in 2012 and after

USP offers a three-tier structure which builds upon each other in an intuitive manner, so that each prepares students for the interdisciplinary work they encounter in the subsequent tiers.

A USP student must read and pass (48MCs):

- 3 compulsory foundation modules worth 12 MCs
  - Writing and Critical Thinking
  - Quantitative Reasoning Foundation
  - University Scholars Seminar

- 8 inquiry modules worth 32 MCs
  - Four modules in the Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS) domain
  - Four modules in the Sciences and Technologies (S&T) domain

- 1 reflection module worth 4 MCs

Students must also fulfill one Singapore Studies requirement and at least one Independent Study Module (ISM).

Foundation Tier – consists of three modules. The first tier hopes to nurture a solid series of skills that will equip students for the interdisciplinary work they will encounter in the subsequent tiers.

The foundation modules comprise of Writing and Critical Thinking (WCT), Quantitative Reasoning Foundation (QRF) and University Scholars Seminar (USS), and these three modules are compulsory. The WCT module must be read in their first or second semester of enrollment in USP while the QRF module must be completed by the third semester. USS is a year-long module which spans over two semesters.

Inquiry Tier – consists of eight modules balanced equally between the two domains. Students take interdisciplinary modules in two domains, Humanities & Social Sciences (H&SS) and Sciences & Technologies (S&T). The overall goal of the second tier is to promote interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary inquiry, so that students can make intellectual connections outside of their majors. The curriculum is thus designed to encourage students in broad intellectual inquiry beyond their chosen majors, and incorporates the requirement to take at least one independent study modules (ISMs) on topics of their choice.

All USP students will take four modules in the H&SS and four modules in the S&T domains, including one ISM but no more than three.

We encourage students to have international experience, and indeed we aim to have all of our students undergo some form of study, whether formal or informal, outside Singapore. We thus allow the
substitution of USP modules in a number of cases. Students going on USP and their faculties’ Student Exchange Programmes, subject to approval, can substitute two modules per semester. Those on a Double Degree Programme (between USP partner faculties), USP Cultural Immersion Programmes in India, and on one-year NUS Overseas College (NOC), can gain exemptions up to four modules in total. In each case, we consider that the intellectual experiences the students undergo, whether broadening across disciplines, cultural facility in a new academic environment entrepreneurship, partially fulfill the goals of the Inquiry tier modules in stimulating broad-based inquiry. In order to preserve the sense of USP as a learning community, however, we impose an overall requirement of eight USP modules across the three tiers (i.e., at least eight (of the total 12) USP modules must be USP taught modules.)

**Reflection Tier** - consists of one module, the senior seminar. In this module, the issues of a particular topic are developed through seminar discussions, readings and paper assignments in such a way as to allow students to reflect on the conditions of their own disciplinary knowledge and the assumptions fostered in disciplinary training, and to develop their own theoretical framework the nature of intellectual discourse in general rather than just within their own disciplines. The third tier thus builds both on the broadening of inquiry in the second tier, and upon the disciplinary knowledge that students have gained within their major.

Please refer to [http://usp.nus.edu.sg/curriculum/academic-requirements](http://usp.nus.edu.sg/curriculum/academic-requirements) for details and updates of academic requirements for the different cohorts.