Kalamazoo College's unique K Plan encourages students to become “At Home in the World” by providing a curriculum that allows them to:

- develop life-long learning and communication skills;
- explore disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields;
- identify and pursue an intellectual passion, personal aspiration, or career path; and
- forge a customized, coherent education by integrating classroom and experiential learning, study abroad, and co-curricular activities into a unified whole.

The general education curriculum that supports the K Plan features breadth across the liberal arts, a strong global and intercultural focus, widespread participation in meaningful study abroad and service-learning, rigorous majors, capstone experiences including Senior Individualized Projects for all students, and a dedication to integration of the entire K experience. Three Shared Passages Seminars serve as both preparation for, and integration of, the rich, transformational components of the K Plan. Emphasizing student ownership of the educational experience, this curriculum encourages students to develop both an ability to think creatively and analytically about a variety of issues and ideas, as well as to bring unusual depth and passion to their particular field of interest.

**Degree Requirements**

The rich and multifaceted K Plan curriculum is balanced by a set of graduation requirements designed to encourage student agency and intentionality in students' curricular exploration and integration.

- Three Shared Passages Seminars:
  - First-year seminar emphasizing writing, critical thinking, effective communication, and intercultural understanding
  - Sophomore (or junior) seminar addressing cultural issues and intercultural understanding
    - [Alternate: students may substitute 2 cultures courses for the sophomore seminar]
  - Senior disciplinary or interdisciplinary seminar emphasizing integration of prior learning experiences
- Foreign language: Proficiency through the intermediate level (103 or 201)
- Senior Individualized Project (1 or 2 units)
- PE/Wellness Unit (5 activities)
- Completion of a major
- Residency, Unit, and GPA Requirements:
  - 36 units, plus 5 PE/Wellness activities (1 unit)
  - 2.00 cumulative GPA

[Unchanged from the ‘08-’09 Catalogue, except to drop LACC requirement and to drop requirement of 24 units at C- or better (per separate vote of faculty on 12 January 2009). Simplified residency/unit requirements will probably be proposed in the near future.]

Students should choose a wide-ranging set of courses, in consultation with their advisors, to expand their horizons and complement their major. Students are also encouraged to integrate the following key elements of the K Plan into their own learning experience:

- Study abroad
- Service-learning
- Disciplinary and integrated, interdisciplinary minors
- Student research
- Career development internships and externships
- Guild participation
Note about Skills:
Development of skills such as writing, oral communication, cultural understanding, critical thinking, creative expression, reflection, quantitative reasoning, information literacy, and research skills will take place across the curriculum: in seminars, in many general education courses, and in the major. Majors may require liberal arts cognates to supplement or complement the learning that happens within the major, whether that be skill development, concept understanding, or related content.

Degree Requirement Details and Policies

Shared Passage Seminars:
All students take three Shared Passage Seminars. First-year seminars, completed during the fall quarter of the first year in residence, prepare students for further work at the College by focusing on foundational skills, such as writing, oral expression, information literacy, and critical thinking; introducing global or intercultural ideas; and encouraging students to reflect on and integrate their high school experiences and transition to college. While diverse with regard to topic, these seminars are intentionally comparable in terms of the amount of written work expected, the importance of feedback on and regular revision of written work, and the maintenance of a participatory, discussion-oriented atmosphere.

Sophomore (or sophomore/junior) seminars delve more deeply into cultural issues and intercultural understanding, preparing students for study abroad and living in a global world. Students may substitute two cultures courses for the sophomore seminar. [See Note 1 below.]

Senior seminars, whether disciplinary or interdisciplinary, focus on integrating students' Kalamazoo College experiences and preparing them for future lives beyond K. Disciplinary seminars integrate students' experiences inside and outside a particular major, while interdisciplinary seminars allow students from a variety of majors to apply diverse aspects of their Kalamazoo education to an interesting topic or problem.

Transfer students who have, prior to admission, already taken a first-year seminar or English composition course similar in content to the first-year seminar at Kalamazoo College may apply that course toward the first-year seminar requirement. The Registrar makes this determination as part of regular transcript analysis. Other transfer students should satisfy the requirement by taking a first-year seminar (if they qualify as a first-year student) or an approved substitute course. Students who do not pass the first-year seminar must substitute another writing-intensive course, which must be approved by the Dean of the First Year, before the start of the sophomore year.

Sophomore and senior seminars must be taken on the Kalamazoo College campus. Cultures courses taken as a substitute for the sophomore seminar may be taken on campus or on College approved off-campus programs. Students who do not pass the senior seminar must work with the chair of their major department or with the Dean of the Senior Class to identify an appropriate disciplinary or interdisciplinary substitution.

Notes for faculty about seminars (not for catalogue):
Note 1: The faculty should reevaluate the "cultures courses for sophomore seminar" substitution in three years, and decide whether to continue it based on the number and success of sophomore seminars being offered. It may decide at that time to continue the substitution for another limited time period, or indefinitely. The faculty should also evaluate the balance between disciplinary and interdisciplinary senior seminars at that time.
**Note 2:** The Dean of the First Year makes guidelines and resources available to faculty teaching first-year seminars. Similar guidelines and resources for sophomore and senior seminars should be developed over the next few years. The sophomore and senior seminars should satisfy a handful of key learning outcomes, but be primarily innovation-driven; that is, faculty creativity and experimentation are encouraged. Faculty and students are also encouraged to propose Liberal Arts Colloquium (LAC) events thematically linked to seminars (and seminars could require attendance at key LAC events).

**Exploration Across the Liberal Arts:**

The K Plan and its general education curriculum encourage student exploration within the liberal arts through a variety of unique opportunities, both on our campus and off. Students engage with new ideas, new experiences, new perspectives, and new places as they explore diverse disciplines, a variety of cultures, and possible careers. This exploration enables them to expand their intellectual horizons and to broaden their perspective on their particular field of interest. Before each registration period, students meet with their academic advisors to discuss their plans for pursuing an education that balances pursuing new interests, further developing and integrating existing interests, and studying at least one discipline in depth through a major. Students may also broaden their learning experience by studying a second discipline or an interdisciplinary field in depth through a major or minor.