# Colonnade Explorations Proposal Form: Natural and Physical Sciences

*Explorations* courses introduce students to discipline-specific concepts, theories, methodologies, and practices that provide a variety of ways to know and understand the world. From artistic expression to scientific experimentation, students learn how various forms of disciplinary knowledge can be applied to solve problems, to understand social interaction, and to interpret human experience through language and image. (12 hours)

## Natural and Physical Sciences (Minimum of 6 hours from two different disciplines)

Students use the scientific perspective to gain basic understanding of the natural and physical world and the relevance of science to issues of personal and public importance. Courses examine scientific principles through different modes and scales of observation, development of theories and hypotheses, and data collection and interpretation. Hands-on experience provides an essential applied component in this category.

## Natural and Physical Sciences Colonnade Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods of science inquiry.
2. Explain basic concepts and principles in one or more of the sciences.
3. Apply scientific principles to interpret and make predictions in one or more of the sciences.
4. Explain how scientific principles relate to issues of personal and/or public importance.

## Kentucky Graduate Profile Academy Competencies

As part of a CPE initiative, WKU is participating in the Kentucky Graduate Profile Academy which has identified 10 competencies that all Kentucky college graduates should have. Since Colonnade offers students a common learning experience across the university, faculty need to identify which of these competencies students will develop in their class. The 10 competencies are as follows:

1. Communicate effectively.
2. Think critically to solve problems.
3. Apply quantitative reasoning.
4. Interact effectively with people from diverse backgrounds.
5. Engage in civic life to improve society.
6. Adapt to change while leading and supporting others.
7. Exhibit professionalism on the job.
8. Collaborate and work in teams.
9. Apply learning to chosen career.
10. Use information for decision making.

\*Courses do not have to incorporate ALL of these competencies but must incorporate at least one. Course proponents should identify those which logically fit into their format, material, etc.

## Approval Process

Faculty should fill out the proposal form in its entirety, attach a sample course syllabus, and then upload the document onto Course Leaf for approval. The steps for approval are as follows:

## New Colonnade Courses

1. Department - faculty should have their department vote on whether or not they approve the course.
2. College - course goes before the College Curriculum Committee.
3. Colonnade - once it has been approved by both the department and the College Curriculum Committee, it then goes to the Colonnade General Education Committee (CGEC).
4. University Curriculum Committee (UCC) - after it has been approved by the CGEC, it then goes before the UCC.
5. Senate Executive Committee (SEC) - following approval at the CGEC and UCC, the course then goes before the SEC.
6. University Faculty Senate - following SEC approval it goes before the full University Faculty Senate.
7. Provost - final approval is the Provost’s Office.

# Colonnade Explorations Course Proposal: Natural and Physical Sciences

## Proposal Date

## Basic Information

Proposal Contact Name:

E-mail:

College:

Department:

## Course Details:

1.1 Course prefix (subject area), number:

1.2 Course Title:

1.3 Credit hours:

1.4 Any Foundations pre-requisites?

1.5 Cross-listed and/or equivalent courses (prefix and number):

1.6 How often will this course be offered?

1.7 Is this an existing course? Y N

If yes, when was the last semester it was offered?

1.8 Proposed term of implementation?

1.9 Course Modality (In-person, hybrid, online):

1.10 Does this course include an applied/service-learning component?

## Course Overview

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1. Course Description (50-100 words)
2. If this is a NEW course, please explain how this course provides a multi-disciplinary learning experience that will appeal to a broad student audience beyond majors.
3. If this is an existing course, please explain how it will be adapted to appeal to a broad student audience.
4. Identify the Colonnade assessment artifact for this course. Please keep in mind that artifacts must demonstrate how students have met all of the Colonnade Learning Outcomes (CLOs) included in the course proposal and are measurable. Each student in the class should complete this assignment and faculty will submit them for assessment at the end of each semester. Each course should produce only ONE artifact that is completed by all students in the class.
5. Please explain how the assessment artifact demonstrates that students have met the Natural and Physical Sciences CLOs. Colonnade artifacts in the Natural and Physical Sciences category will be further evaluated by an assessment committee using a common rubric supplied by the Colonnade Directors to determine if the artifact demonstrates student proficiencies with the CLOs. The Colonnade artifact assessment rubrics are available on the Colonnade website.
6. Which of the 10 Kentucky Competencies are incorporated into this class? Please explain how they have been incorporated.
7. Does this course have a service/applied learning component? If so, please explain what it is and how it will help students meet the CLOs and 10 competencies. (NOTE: this is NOT a required component so courses that do not have a service-learning component can still be approved as an Explorations course.)

**This proposal form, and a sample course syllabus, must be uploaded to Course Leaf. The course syllabus must contain the Natural and Physical Sciences CLOs on the front page. Additionally, the artifact must be included in the syllabus.**