

Starting in Fall 2021, undergraduate students can use individualized cognates to fulfill the Areas of Knowledge general education requirement. Here are some frequently asked questions regarding the new individualized cognate option.

- Who can use an individualized cognate?
 - Any undergraduate student can use an individualized cognate to fulfill the Areas of Knowledge general education requirement.
- Which courses can be used in an individualized cognate?
 - Any course in CaneLink that has an associated area of knowledge. A list of approved courses can be found [here](#).
- Can a course be used to satisfy the requirements of more than one cognate that a student uses to fulfill the Areas of Knowledge requirement?
 - No. A course may not be used to satisfy the requirements of more than one cognate that a student uses to fulfill the Areas of Knowledge requirement. This rule applies whether the Area of Knowledge requirement is being met by a major, minor, thematic cognate, or individualized cognate.
- Can my advisor approve a course to count in an individualized cognate?
 - No. Only courses that have an Area of Knowledge attribute in CaneLink can be counted toward an individualized cognate. There are no exceptions.
- How many individualized cognates can I take?
 - There are no limits on the number of individualized cognates you can use to fulfill the Areas of Knowledge requirement.
- How do I sign up for an individualized cognate?
 - When you meet with your advisor, you need to declare the specific individualized cognate you want to take:
 - AT_0080 Individualized Cognate in A&H
 - PS_0070 Individualized Cognate in P&S
 - ST_0026 Individualized Cognate in STEM
 - Once officially declared, the system will apply any eligible courses you have completed toward the individualized cognate in the DPR.
- How can I find courses that can be used in individualized cognates?
 - To check if an individual course can be used in an individualized cognate:
 - Go to the CaneLink Course Catalog, click on the undergraduate course you want to check. If it states Arts and Humanities, People and Society, or STEM next to Course Attributes in the Details section, then it can be used in an individualized cognate. If Course Attributes aren't listed, then it doesn't qualify.
 - To search for courses, use the CaneLink Student Center.
 - A list of approved courses can also be found [here](#).
- If a course has multiple areas of knowledge course attributes in CaneLink, can I use it to fulfill more than one Area of Knowledge requirement?
 - No. A student may only use a course toward one Area of Knowledge requirement whether it be through a major, minor, thematic cognate, or individualized cognate.
- If a course is eligible to fulfill both the Quantitative Skills requirement and the Areas of Knowledge requirement, can I double count it?
 - No. A student may only use a course once to fulfill a general education requirement.
- How can transfer courses be counted toward individualized cognates?
 - After the transfer courses have been approved for transfer and given a UM course number equivalent, if that course number has an area of knowledge attribute in CaneLink (or is included on the transfer [course list](#)), then it can be used toward the individualized cognate. The course number must match exactly with what is applied to your UM transcript.