The goal of a Brandeis education is to prepare students to be engaged, successful and impactful in their chosen fields, in local and national issues, and as global citizens. The new Brandeis General Education curriculum will provide core knowledge and skills through a set of curricular themes that build through first year experiences and major specializations. Students will acquire the ability to think critically across disciplines and in historical perspective, adapt to and create new technologies, communicate effectively, and analyze and assess information and evidence. Students will apply their knowledge and skills to seek innovative solutions to the critical problems of our times and will acquire the tools needed to lead balanced and successful lives.

21st Century Changes and Challenges: Envisioned as a first year experience, 21st Century Changes and Challenges will use the exploration of a complex problem of contemporary society to introduce students to the core features of the Brandeis general education curriculum. Emphasizing historical investigation and interdisciplinary perspectives and skills, students will gain experience in analysis of complex information, writing and oral communication while developing an educated and nuanced approach to solving problems. This requirement will provide an interdisciplinary common, shared experience in the first year of college study. Possible course topics might include: The Opioid Epidemic; Immigration in a Global World; Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability; Health Inequalities; Cybersecurity, Surveillance, and Privacy in a Digital Age; Inequality in Educational Systems; Science and Society: Human Genome Project and/or the Microbiome.

Foundational Literacies: Requirements in Foundational Literacies will complement and expand upon the literacies introduced in the 21st Century first year experiences. These requirements include essential learning goals that define undergraduates as writers, communicators, researchers, artists and critical thinkers across the entire liberal arts landscape. A first year writing seminar and a course promoting quantitative reasoning skills will remain as general education requirements and will provide the basis for more advanced work. As students progress in their academic careers, they will expand their core skills in writing, oral communication and a newly defined digital literacy component in their major areas of study. The movement of these requirements into majors and areas of specialization will allow students to gain skills in contexts that will prepare them for success beyond the university.

Schools of Thought: As students progress through a major it is important that they gain specialized skills and knowledge without becoming narrow in interest or approach. The Schools of Thought requirements reflects the university’s affirmation that all liberal arts graduates should become broadly acquainted with the approaches, perspectives, insights, and methodologies of a variety of disciplines. All students will complete at least one course
in each of Brandeis’s four Schools of Arts and Sciences: Creative Arts, Humanities, Science, Social Science.

**Health, Wellness, and Life Skills:** The goal of this set of requirements is to provide students with the tools to successfully balance and succeed in social, professional, community, and global commitments. Health, Wellness and Life Skills is a new non-credit structure in which students will complete modules or gain experiences in four areas: *Navigating Health and Safety* (including possible instruction in alcohol and drug education, sexual assault prevention, self-defense, CPR, First Aid); *Life Skills* (with modules and experiences in financial literacy, career development, team building and/or negotiation skills, crisis management); *Mind and Body Balance* (with instruction in areas such as nutrition, stress management, faith and spirituality); and *Physical Fitness* (with the goal of using physical education modules to help set habits of activity early in life). Students who complete these requirements will gain confidence and resiliency by learning how to navigate difficult and potentially dangerous situations, gaining a solid foundation in the skills of everyday life, and establishing productive habits of mind and body.

**Global Citizenship:** In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, Brandeis students are encouraged to actively explore social, political, cultural and linguistic diversity and difference in the US and in the world. Students will take courses in three areas. For studies focused on the US, *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Studies in the US (DEIS-US)* courses will prepare students to engage with dynamics, developments, and divisions within U.S. society, and to explore the historical and contemporary experiences, interests, and perspectives of a wide range of groups and institutions that have shaped life in the United States. In the *Diversity and Difference in the World (DDW)* requirement, students will focus on the social, cultural, political, and/or economic diversity of the human experience within the global/transnational context, and engage in the study of peoples in countries outside the U.S., their histories, arts, cultures, politics, economies, and religions. Extending our students’ ability to engage globally, the *World Languages & Cultures* requirement will provide an “intermediate” proficiency in speaking, writing and reading and comprehension in a language other than English. This requirement will enhance an understanding of the challenges of cross-cultural communication and grant access to diverse bodies of knowledge through sources in languages other than English.