

CORE
CURRICULUM

"Core curriculum" means the curriculum in liberal arts, humanities, and sciences and political, social, and cultural history that all undergraduate students of an institution of higher education are required to complete before receiving an academic undergraduate degree.
Education Code 61.821(1)

Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core curriculum of no less than 42 semester credit hours, including specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core curriculum shall be consistent with the common course numbering system approved by the Coordinating Board and with the statements, recommendations, and rules issued by the Coordinating Board. An institution may have a core curriculum of other than 42 semester credit hours only if approved by the Coordinating Board. *Education Code 61.822(b)*

The Coordinating Board, with the assistance of advisory committees composed of representatives of institutions of higher education, shall develop a recommended core curriculum of at least 42 semester credit hours, including a statement of the content, component areas, and objectives of the core curriculum. At least a majority of the members of any advisory committee shall be faculty members of an institution of higher education. An institution shall consult with the faculty of the institution before nominating or recommending a person to the Coordinating Board as the institution's representative on an advisory committee. *Education Code 61.822(a)*

Each college's core curriculum must be designed to satisfy the exemplary educational objectives specified for the component areas of the "Core Curriculum: Assumptions and Defining Characteristics" adopted by the Coordinating Board; all lower-division courses included in the core curriculum must be consistent with the "Texas Common Course Numbering System"; and must be consistent with the framework identified in Charts I and II below. Chart I specifies the minimum number of semester credit hours required in each of five major component areas that a core curriculum must include (with sub-areas noted in parentheses). Chart II specifies options available to colleges for the remaining 6-12 semester credit hours.

CHART I

Colleges must select 36 semester credit hours of the core curriculum according to the parameters described below:

	Component Area	Required Semester Credit Hours
	Communication (English rhetoric/composition)	6
	Mathematics (logic, college-level algebra equivalent, or above)	3
	Natural Sciences	6

	Humanities & Visual and Performing Arts, which must include:	6
	Visual/Performing Arts	(3)
	Other (literature, philosophy, modern or classical language/ literature and cultural studies*)	(3)
	Social and Behavioral Sciences, which must include:	15
	U.S. History (legislatively mandated)	(6)
	Political Science (legislatively mandated)	(6)
	Social/Behavioral Science	(3)
	Total Minimum Requirements	36

* Humanities application of language skills includes a study of literature in the original language, and/or the cultural studies related to a modern or classical language.

CHART II

To complete the required 42-semester-credit-hour core curriculum, colleges shall select an additional 6 semester credit hours from one or more of the following:

	Component Area	Possible Additional Semester Credit Hours (6 Total)
	Communication (composition, speech, modern language/communication skills*)	Up to 6
	Mathematics (finite math, statistics, calculus, or above)	Up to 3
	Natural Sciences	Up to 3
	Humanities (literature, philosophy, modern or classical language/literature and cultural studies**) & Visual and Performing Arts	Up to 3
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Up to 3
	Institutionally Designated Option (may include additional semester credit hours in the categories listed above, computer literacy, health/ wellness, kinesiology, capstone or interdisciplinary courses, etc.)	Up to 6
	Total Additional Hours	6

* Communication application of a modern language means the basic proficiency skills acquired during introductory courses and including a working competency in grammar, writing, speaking, and listening/comprehension in a foreign language.

** Humanities application of language skills includes a study of literature in the original language, and/or the cultural studies related to a modern or classical language.

19 TAC 4.28 (a), (b)

CORE CURRICULA The College may adopt a core curriculum in excess of 42 semester credit hours, but no more

LARGER THAN 42 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS

than 48 semester credit hours, if the courses in excess of 42 semester credit hours are selected from the first five component areas of Chart II of 19 TAC 4.28(b), relating to the Core Curriculum excluding additional credit in the Institutionally Designated Option, and are approved by the Board.

No college may adopt a core curriculum of more than 42 semester credit hours without approval by the Coordinating Board if the courses in excess of 42 semester credit hours are selected from component areas other than the first five component areas of Chart II of 19 TAC 4.28(b). The Coordinating Board may approve a core curriculum under this section if:

1. It has been previously approved by the Board;
2. The College has provided to the Coordinating Board a narrative justification of the need and appropriateness of a larger core curriculum that is consistent with its role and mission; and
3. No proposed upper-division core course is substantially comparable in content or depth of study to a lower-division course listed in the "Texas Common Course Numbering System."

19 TAC 4.29

EVALUATION OF CORE CURRICULA

Each college shall review and evaluate the college's core curriculum every five years and report the results of that evaluation to the Coordinating Board. The evaluation should include:

1. The extent to which the core curriculum is consistent with the elements of the core curriculum recommended by the Coordinating Board;
2. The extent to which the core curriculum is consistent with the Texas Common Course Numbering System;
3. The extent to which the core curriculum is consistent with the elements of the core curriculum component areas, intellectual competencies, and perspectives as expressed in Core Curriculum: Assumptions and Defining Characteristics adopted by the Coordinating Board; and
4. The extent to which the College's educational goals and the exemplary educational objectives of the core curriculum recommended by the Coordinating Board are being achieved.

Each college's evaluation report must contain the following:

1. A table that compares the College's core curriculum with the core component areas and exemplary educational objectives of the core curriculum recommended by the Coordinating Board;
2. A brief description of the purpose and substance of the College's core curriculum;
3. A description of the processes and procedures used to evaluate the College's core curriculum; and
4. A description of the ways in which the evaluation results are being or will be utilized to improve the core curriculum at the College.

Education Code 61.824; 19 TAC 4.30

FIELD OF STUDY CURRICULUM

The Coordinating Board, with the assistance of advisory committees composed of representatives of institutions of higher education, shall develop field of study curricula. Each advisory committee shall be equitably composed of representatives of institutions of higher education. Each university system or institution of higher education which offers a degree program for which a field of study curriculum is proposed shall be offered participation on the advisory committee for that particular field of study. At least a majority of the members of any advisory committee named under this section shall be faculty members of an

institution of higher education. An institution shall consult with the faculty of the institution before nominating or recommending a person to the Coordinating Board as the institution's representative on an advisory committee. *Education Code 61.823*

"Field of study curriculum" means a set of courses that will satisfy the lower division requirements for a bachelor's degree in a specific academic area at a general academic teaching institution. *Education Code 61.821(2)*

EVALUATION OF
FIELD OF STUDY
CURRICULA

Each college must review and evaluate its procedures for complying with field of study curricula at intervals specified by the Coordinating Board and shall report the results of that review to the Coordinating Board. These reports shall be submitted following the same timetable as the regular reports of core curriculum evaluations. *19 TAC 4.32(f)*

GOVERNMENT OR
POLITICAL
SCIENCE

The College shall provide a course of instruction in government or political science that includes consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. This course shall have a credit value of not less than six semester hours or its equivalent. The College shall not grant a degree or an academic certificate to any person unless the person has credit for such a course. The College may determine that a student has satisfied this requirement in whole or in part on the basis of credit granted to him by the College for a substantially equivalent course completed at another accredited college or university or on the basis of the student's successful completion of an advanced standing examination administered on the conditions and under the circumstances common for the College's advanced standing examinations. The College may grant as much as three semester hours of credit or its equivalent toward satisfaction of this requirement for substantially equivalent work completed by the student in the program of an approved senior R.O.T.C. unit. *Education Code 51.301*

AMERICAN OR
TEXAS HISTORY

The College shall not grant a degree or an academic certificate to any student unless the student has credit for six semester hours or its equivalent in American History. A student shall be entitled to submit as much as three semester hours of credit or its equivalent in Texas History in partial satisfaction of this requirement. The College may determine that a student has satisfied this requirement in whole or part on the basis of credit granted to him by the College for a substantially equivalent course completed at another accredited college or university, or on the basis of the student's successful completion of an advanced standing examination administered on the conditions and under the circumstances common for the College's advanced standing examinations. The College may grant as much as three semester hours of credit or its equivalent toward satisfaction of this requirement for work completed by a student in the program of an approved senior R.O.T.C. unit. *Education Code 51.302*

COUNSELING AND
SOCIAL WORK

The curricula of a counseling and social work degree or certificate programs shall:

1. Include information about methods of transmission and methods of prevention of HIV infection and information about federal and state laws, rules, and regulations concerning HIV infection and AIDS.
2. Give special attention to the physical, emotional, and psychological stress associated with the care of patients with terminal illnesses.

Education Code 51.919(e)

MEXICAN-
AMERICAN
STUDIES

The governing board of a public junior college district located in one or more counties with a substantial and growing Mexican-American population shall evaluate the demand for and feasibility of establishing a Mexican-American studies program or other coursework in Mexican-American studies at one or more junior colleges in the College District. With approval of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the governing board may establish a Mexican-American studies program or other coursework in Mexican-American studies at any of those colleges if the governing board determines that such a program or coursework is desirable and feasible. *Education Code 130.0102*

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This online presentation of your college district's policy concerning the stated subject material is an electronic representation of TASB's record of the college district's currently adopted policy manual. It does not reflect updating activities in progress nor is it a legally binding document. Please contact the office of the President or Chancellor for the official, legally binding generation of this and the other policies that pertain to your college district.