University Core Curriculum

The Texas A&M Core Curriculum, in compliance with the Texas Core Curriculum, provides students with a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develops principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advances intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. The Core Curriculum enhances the individual degree program and university graduation requirements, and all three areas must be met by every student.

Given the rapid evolution of necessary knowledge and skills and the need to take into account global, national, state, and local cultures, the core curriculum ensures that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. The core curriculum acts to enrich and broaden the University’s tradition of providing thorough preparation in each student’s academic major and preparing students for a lifetime of learning.

The University Core Curriculum requirements are described in the section that follows. These requirements must be met by every student entering Texas A&M University on or after the 2014 fall semester. Students entering earlier will be guided by the core curriculum in the catalog upon which they entered the university. Individual degree programs may require that specific courses from the core curriculum be used to satisfy core curriculum requirements. Please check with individual program advisors for details. Students transferring course credit to satisfy the Core Curriculum requirements should refer to the Texas Common Course Numbering System (see Appendix B on page 990).

The core curriculum focuses on the development of six skills that have been shown to be effective in preparing students for the job market and their role in a diverse world and democratic society.
• **Critical Thinking Skills** — to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

• **Communication Skills** — to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

• **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** — to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

• **Teamwork** — to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

• **Personal Responsibility** — to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

• **Social Responsibility** — to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Students develop and practice these skills in the context of 42 semester credit hours assigned to eight Foundational Component Areas, each made up of a selection of courses that meet the definition provided by the Texas Core Curriculum. The courses that comprise each of these Foundational Component Areas can be found at core.tamu.edu.

**Communication – 6 SCH**

Courses in this category focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effective of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. Courses involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. The following skills will be addressed in the courses that comprise this area: critical thinking, communication, team work, and personal responsibility.

**Mathematics – 6 SCH**

Courses in this category focus on quantitative literacy in logic, patterns, and relationships. Courses involve the understanding of key mathematical concepts and the application of appropriate quantitative tools to everyday experiences. The following skills will be addressed in the courses that comprise this area: critical thinking, communication, and empirical and quantitative.

**Life and Physical Sciences – 9 SCH**

Courses in this category focus on describing, explaining, and predicting natural phenomena using the scientific method. Courses involve the understanding of interactions among natural phenomena and the implications of scientific principles on the physical world and on human experiences. The following skills will be addressed in the courses that comprise this area: critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative, and team work.

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1 Applicable courses are listed in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board course inventory as meeting either the Mathematics or the Component Area Option Foundational Component Area.

2 Applicable courses are listed in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board course inventory as meeting either the Life and Physical Sciences or the Component Area Option Foundational Component Area.
Language, Philosophy and Culture – 3 SCH
Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience. Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures. The following skills will be addressed in the courses that comprise this area: critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and personal responsibility.

Creative Arts – 3 SCH
Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art. The following skills will be addressed in the courses that comprise this area: critical thinking, communication, team work, and social responsibility.

American History – 6 SCH
Courses in this category focus on the consideration of past events and ideas relative to the United States, with the option of including Texas History for a portion of this component area. Courses involve the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role. The following skills will be addressed in the courses that comprise this area: critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and personal responsibility.

Government/Political Science – 6 SCH
Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations. The following skills will be addressed in the courses that comprise this area: critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and personal responsibility.

Social and Behavioral Sciences – 3 SCH
Courses in this category focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture. The following skills will be addressed in the courses that comprise this area: critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative, and social responsibility.