

Core Curriculum Requirements

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- Basic Skills Policy (p. 7)

The Texas Core Curriculum is an essential element in the educational process that results in professional success, personal growth, and responsible citizenship. In this process, students have the opportunity to acquire knowledge, learn reasoning and communication skills, examine their goals, values, and potentialities, and develop an enduring commitment to learning through both formal and informal educational experiences.

The Core Curriculum program at A&M-Commerce embodies the characteristics and purposes of the University. With both professional and liberal arts programs, A&M-Commerce recognizes general education as a necessary component in the development of all students. The general education which takes place in the Core Curriculum program is, therefore, not only compatible with specialization, but is the context in which specialization occurs.

The Student Learning Outcomes, or SLOs, for the Undergraduate Core Curriculum are

1. Critical Thinking - Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. Oral/Visual Communication - Students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Empirical/Quantitative Reasoning - Students will be able to interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data and/or observable facts.
4. Teamwork - Students will be able to work together toward a shared purpose relevant to the course or discipline with a sense of shared responsibility for meeting that purpose.
5. Personal Responsibility - Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
6. Social Responsibility - Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

Through the analysis of artifacts produced by the courses that are part of the undergraduate Core Curriculum, faculty from across the university are able to gather and synthesize data on the learning of the outcomes listed above.

The breadth and depth offered by Core Curriculum is necessary to the meaningful and informed study of any major field. Though the courses are required, they are not to be regarded as inconveniences, but rather as the intellectual foundation upon which a university education is built.

Specifically, the Core Curriculum program

- stresses breadth and provides a person with opportunities to perceive the integration of knowledge;
- involves the study of liberal arts and science;
- encourages understanding of our heritage as well as respect for other people's cultures;
- develops mastery of linguistic, analytical, and computational skills that are necessary for lifelong learning; and
- fosters development of such personal qualities as appropriate acceptance of ambiguity, empathy and acceptance of others, and expanded understanding of self.

The Texas Core Curriculum requires students to complete thirty-six hours of coursework from a broad variety of disciplines across eight *Foundational Component Areas*. Another six hours that meet requirements for any one of the Foundational Component Areas are also required, but institutions are allowed to select those six hours to meet institutional priorities and mission. This six hour element of the Texas Core Curriculum is called the *Component Area Option*. Completion of the Core Curriculum, either from the current block of courses offered at Texas A&M University-Commerce, or through Generic Transfer Equivalent Courses transferred in must total forty-two semester hours. In both cases it is essential that students recognize that individual courses are not necessarily interchangeable. Certain science courses, for example, are intended for those majoring in science. Depending upon major, different math courses might be more applicable or even preferred by departments. Students considering Core Curriculum courses should consult with the appropriate advising personnel or offering departments as a part of making an informed choice prior to enrollment.

Foundational Component Areas (36 SCH)

(010) Communications (6 SCH)

Students must complete two semesters of English composition. Communication courses focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. Courses in communication promote the Texas state Core Objectives of critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and personal responsibility.

ENG 1301	College Reading & Writing
ENG 1302	Written Argument/Research

(020) Mathematics (3 SCH)

6

3

Students must complete a minimum of one college level mathematics course. Mathematics courses focus on quantitative literacy in logic, patterns, and relationships. Courses in mathematics promote the Texas state Core Objectives of critical thinking, communication, and empirical and quantitative skills. Mathematics courses should be selected based upon completion of the appropriate prerequisites. Math courses also are often very major-specific—in other words, one size does not fit all. All students should refer to the catalog and seek the advice of a professional advisor about the appropriate math selections for their major.

MATH 1314	College Algebra
MATH 1324	Math for Business Applications I
MATH 1325	Mathematics for Business Applications II
MATH 1332	Contemporary Mathematics
MATH 1342	Elementary Statistical Methods
MATH 2312	Pre-Calculus
MATH 2413	Calculus I

(030) Life and Physical Sciences (6 SCH)

6

Students must complete six hours of life and physical science. Courses in this category focus on describing, explaining, and predicting natural phenomena using the scientific method. Courses in the life and physical sciences promote the Texas state Core Objectives of critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative skills, and teamwork.

Four credit hour science courses are intended for students majoring in science, engineering, or agriculture fields, as well as some within the College of Education and Human Services. These students should complete TWO four credit hour (three hour lecture and one hour lab) science courses. Selecting the wrong science courses can delay completion of key pre-requisites and graduation.

Three credit hour and one credit hour (labs) courses for the life and physical science component area are intended for students not majoring in science, engineering, or agriculture fields. These courses are marked with an asterisks "*" below and are either designed specifically for non-science majors or open to non-science majors. When the course is a lab, it is permissible for non-science majors to take the lab apart from the three hour lecture. Science majors must take both a lecture and a lab if choosing from this list of courses. The same lecture and lab course may not be repeated (unless failed) in order to meet the six hour life and physical science Core Requirement.

All students should seek the assistance of a professional advisor when choosing science courses to meet their Core Curriculum Requirements (p. 1).

Non-Science Major Life and Physical Science Courses

ANS 1319	Introduction to Animal Science
ASTR 120	Life in the Universe
ASTR 260	Archaeoastronomy *
ASTR 203	Stars and the Universe for STEM Majors
ASTR 1103	Introductory Astronomy Lab
ASTR 1303	Stars and the Universe *
ASTR 1304	Solar System *
BSC 1309	Human Biology: Structure and Function *
BSC 1409	Hum Bio: Struct/Funct
CHEM 1105	Introductory Chemistry Laboratory I *
CHEM 1107	Introductory Chemistry Laboratory II *
CHEM 1305	Introductory Chemistry I *
CHEM 1307	Introductory Chemistry II
ENVS 103	Natural Disasters
ENVS 1301	Introduction to Environmental Science
GEOL 1303	Physical Geology
GEOL 1304	Historical Geology
IS 1315	Integrated Science I
IS 1317	Integrated Science II
PHYS 131	Introduction to Musical Acoustics: The Science of Sound
PLS 1107	Introduction to Plant Science Lab
PLS 1115	Introduction to Horticulture Laboratory
PLS 1307	Introduction to Plant Science
PLS 1315	Introduction to Horticulture

Science Majors Life and Physical Science Courses

ANS 1319	Introduction to Animal Science
ASTR 260	Archaeoastronomy *

ASTR 203	Stars and the Universe for STEM Majors
ASTR 1103	Introductory Astronomy Lab *
ASTR 1303	Stars and the Universe *
ASTR 1304	Solar System *
BSC 1406	Introductory Biology I
BSC 1407	Introductory Biology II
BSC 1411	Botany
BSC 1413	Zoology
BSC 2401	Hum Anatomy/Physiology I
BSC 2402	Hum Anatomy/Physiology II
CHEM 1105	Introductory Chemistry Laboratory I *
CHEM 1107	Introductory Chemistry Laboratory II *
CHEM 1111	General and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory I
CHEM 1112	General and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory II
CHEM 1305	Introductory Chemistry I *
CHEM 1307	Introductory Chemistry II *
CHEM 1311	General and Quantitative Chemistry I
CHEM 1312	General and Quantitative Chemistry II
CHEM 1411	General and Quantitative Chemistry I
ENVS 103	Natural Disasters
GEOL 1404	Historical Geology
GEOL 1403	Physical Geology
PHYS 1401	College Physics I
PHYS 1402	College Physics II
PHYS 2425	University Physics I
PHYS 2426	University Physics II
PLS 1107	Introduction to Plant Science Lab *
PLS 1115	Introduction to Horticulture Laboratory *
PLS 1307	Introduction to Plant Science *
PLS 1315	Introduction to Horticulture *

(040) Language, Philosophy, and Culture (3 SCH)**3**

Students must complete three hours of Literature, Philosophy, and Culture. Courses in this category focus on how ideas, beliefs, and other aspects of human culture affect human experience. Literature, Philosophy, and Culture courses promote the Texas state Core Objectives of critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and personal responsibility.

AFAM 200	Introduction to African American Studies
CID 1301	Foundations of Cultural Competence
COMS 1311	Studies in Human/Communication
CID 2301	The Human Experience
ENG 200	Popular Literature and Culture
ENG 202	Marginalized Literatures
ENG 205	Humor in the Humanities
ENG 2326	Intro to Literature
ENG 2331	Lit of Western World
GDRS 200	GLB/Introduction to Gender Studies
HIST 264	A Nation Divided: American History
HIST 265	A World Divided: Global History
LALS 101	Introduction to Latin American & US Latino Studies
MMJ 1307	Mass Communication in Society
MMJ 1335	Studies in Electronic Communications
PHIL 1301	Intro to Philosophy
PHIL 331	History of Philosophy I
PHIL 332	History of Philosophy II

PHIL 360	General Ethics
PHIL 362	Aesthetics

(050) Creative Arts (3 SCH) 3

Students must complete three hours of coursework in Creative Arts. Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. Creative Arts courses promote the Texas state Core Objectives of critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and teamwork.

ART 1301	Art Appreciation
ART 1303	History of Art I
ART 1304	GLB/History of Art II
ENG 432	History and Aesthetics of Film
ENG 434	Literature and Film
MUS 1308	Introduction to Music Literature
MUS 1310	History of Rock and Roll
MUS 1315	World Music
PHO 1301	Photography Appreciation
THE 1310	Intro to Theatre

(060) American History (6 SCH) 6

State law mandates six hours of American History survey. Courses in this category focus on the consideration of past events and ideas relative to the United States. Courses in this category promote the Texas state Core Objectives of critical thinking, communication, social responsibility and personal responsibility.

HIST 1301	History of the United States through Reconstruction
HIST 1302	History of the United States From Reconstruction

(070) Government/ Political Science (6 SCH) 6

State law mandates six hours of US and Texas government. 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 in this category promote the Texas state Core Objectives of critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and personal responsibility.

At A&M-Commerce, the two course sequence PSCI 2305/PSCI 2306 meets this requirement. Other two course sequences are offered elsewhere. Mixing a course from other sequences into the PSCI 2305/PSCI 2306 sequence can delay graduation.

All students should seek the assistance of a professional advisor when choosing political science courses to meet their Core Curriculum Requirements (p. 1).

PSCI 2305	United States Government and Politics
PSCI 2306	Texas Government and Politics

(080) Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 SCH) 3

Students must complete three hours of coursework in Social and Behavioral Science. Courses in this category focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Social and Behavioral Science courses promote the Texas state Core Objectives of critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative skills, and social responsibility.

AEC 2317	Agricultural Economics
ANTH 2351	World Cultures: Perspectives from Anthropology
COB 1301	Introduction to Business
ECO 1307	Economics of Personal Finance
ECO 2301	Prin Macro Economics
ECO 2302	Principles of Micro Economics
HHPH 331	Nutrition
PHIL 2303	Logic
PSY 211	Diversity
PSY 2301	Introduction to Psychology
PSY 2306	Psychology of Sexual Behavior
PSY 2315	Psychology of Adjustment
SOC 1301	Introduction to Sociology
SOC 1306	Contemporary Ideas

(090) Component Area Option (6 SCH) 6

At A&M Commerce the Component Area Option consists of two elements depending on the student's admit-type. All first-time full-time freshmen will take either CID 1300 or CID 2301. Students who also must take a developmental Math and/or English course will enroll in CID 1300 during their first year. All other first-time full-time freshmen will enroll in CID 2301. All first-time full-time freshmen will also take an additional three hours in their Degree Pathway. All other students not falling under the first-time full-time admit type will take six hours in the Component Area from the Degree Pathway. Some degree plans require specific courses to meet programmatic requirements. In these cases, students may need a second course in the Degree Pathway. See your advisor for more information. Advisors should choose the option that most quickly expedites students through the Core Curriculum Requirements (p. 1).

CID 1300	The Student and The University
or CID 2301	The Human Experience

Degree Pathway: One additional course chosen from lists below depending upon degree type. Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts (any field), Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences, and Bachelor of General Studies, CHOOSE ONE of the following:

AEC 2317	Agricultural Economics
AFAM 200	Introduction to African American Studies
ANTH 2351	World Cultures: Perspectives from Anthropology
ART 1301	Art Appreciation
ART 1303	History of Art I
ART 1304	GLB/History of Art II
CID 1301	Foundations of Cultural Competence
COB 1301	Introduction to Business
COMS 1315	Fundamentals of Public Speaking
COMS 1321	Business/Professional Speaking
ECO 1307	Economics of Personal Finance
ECO 2301	Prin Macro Economics
ECO 2302	Principles of Micro Economics
ENG 200	Popular Literature and Culture
ENG 202	Marginalized Literatures
ENG 205	Humor in the Humanities
ENG 432	History and Aesthetics of Film
ENG 434	Literature and Film
ENG 2326	Intro to Literature
ENG 2331	Lit of Western World
GDRS 200	GLB/Introduction to Gender Studies
HHPH 331	Nutrition
HIST 264	A Nation Divided: American History
HIST 265	A World Divided: Global History
MMJ 1307	Mass Communication in Society
MMJ 1335	Studies in Electronic Communications
MUS 1310	History of Rock and Roll
MUS 1308	Introduction to Music Literature
MUS 323	Music History: Early-1750
MUS 324	Music History: 1750-Present
PHIL 331	History of Philosophy I
PHIL 332	History of Philosophy II
PHIL 360	General Ethics
PHIL 362	Aesthetics
PHIL 1301	Intro to Philosophy
PHIL 2303	Logic
PHO 1301	Photography Appreciation
PSY 211	Diversity
PSY 2301	Introduction to Psychology
PSY 2306	Psychology of Sexual Behavior
PSY 2315	Psychology of Adjustment

SOC 1301	Introduction to Sociology
SOC 1306	Contemporary Ideas
THE 1310	Intro to Theatre
Students pursuing the Bachelor of Science (any field), Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of General Studies, CHOOSE ONE of the following:	
ANS 1319	Introduction to Animal Science
ASTR 120	Life in the Universe
ASTR 260	Archaeoastronomy
ASTR 1103	Introductory Astronomy Lab *
ASTR 1303	Stars and the Universe
ASTR 1304	Solar System
BSC 1309	Human Biology: Structure and Function
BSC 1406	Introductory Biology I
BSC 1407	Introductory Biology II
BSC 1409	Hum Bio: Struct/Funct
BSC 1411	Botany
BSC 1413	Zoology
BSC 2401	Hum Anatomy/Physiology I
BSC 2402	Hum Anatomy/Physiology II
CHEM 1105	Introductory Chemistry Laboratory I *
CHEM 1107	Introductory Chemistry Laboratory II *
CHEM 1111	General and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory I
CHEM 1112	General and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory II
CHEM 1305	Introductory Chemistry I
CHEM 1307	Introductory Chemistry II
CHEM 1311	General and Quantitative Chemistry I
CHEM 1312	General and Quantitative Chemistry II
CHEM 1411	General and Quantitative Chemistry I
COB 1301	Introduction to Business
ENVS 1301	Introduction to Environmental Science *
ENVS 103	Natural Disasters *
GEOL 1404	Historical Geology
GEOL 1303	Physical Geology
GEOL 1304	Historical Geology
GEOL 1403	Physical Geology
IS 1315	Integrated Science I
IS 1317	Integrated Science II
MATH 1314	College Algebra
MATH 1324	Math for Business Applications I
MATH 1325	Mathematics for Business Applications II
MATH 1332	Contemporary Mathematics
MATH 1342	Elementary Statistical Methods
MATH 2312	Pre-Calculus
MATH 2413	Calculus I
MATH 2414	Calculus II
PHYS 131	Introduction to Musical Acoustics: The Science of Sound
PHYS 1401	College Physics I
PHYS 1402	College Physics II
PHYS 2425	University Physics I
PHYS 2426	University Physics II
PLS 1107	Introduction to Plant Science Lab *
PLS 1115	Introduction to Horticulture Laboratory *

PLS 1307	Introduction to Plant Science
PLS 1315	Introduction to Horticulture
Total Hours	42

*

Indicates courses either designed specifically for non-science majors or open to non-science majors. When the course is a lab, it is permissible for non-science majors to take the lab apart from the three hour lecture. Science majors must take both.

Texas A&M University-Commerce will honor core curriculum courses from other Texas public institutions and apply those toward completion of the A&M-Commerce core curriculum.

Whether students are transferring or starting and finishing with A&M-Commerce, completion of the core curriculum is a graduation requirement. Students should seek the help of their success coach or professional advisor in selecting appropriate courses to meet these requirements.

For information on the Texas Common Course Numbering System visit the website at: <https://www.tccns.org/>

Basic Skills Policy

A&M-Commerce shall assess the academic skills of each entering undergraduate student to determine the student's readiness to enroll in freshman-level academic coursework. This assessment may not serve as a condition of admission to the University.

Students found to be not ready for college-level work as determined by the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) exam will be enrolled in the appropriate developmental courses to prepare them for college-level work. Beginning Fall 2018, Texas state law requires that developmental courses be offered concurrently with coordinating college-level courses. This is known as the Co-requisite Model.

Co-requisite Model in English: Upon completion of the developmental education sequence in English, students must enroll and remain enrolled in ENG 1301 until completion; students will be simultaneously enrolled in both ENG 100 and ENG 1301 concurrently.

Students not requiring developmental work in English must be continuously enrolled in ENG 1301 until successfully completed.

Students in the College of Innovation and Design that are not college ready must begin the ENG 100 and ENG 1301 co-requisite during their first term of enrollment and remain enrolled in English until this requirement has been met.

Co-requisite Model in Math: Developmental Pathways in Mathematics will be chosen according to major. If a student is determined to be in a "NON-Algebra intensive" major that does not require College Algebra, MATH 1314, or Business Math, MATH 1324, then that student will be enrolled in MATH 120 concurrently with either Contemporary Math, MATH 1332, or Elementary Statistical Methods, MATH 1342, depending on major requirements. If a student is determined to be in an "Algebra-intensive" major that requires either MATH 1314 or MATH 1324, then that student will be enrolled in Intermediate Algebra, MATH 131, concurrently with either MATH 1314 or MATH 1324, depending on major requirements. Enrollment in the co-requisite model will continue until the developmental course is successfully completed. For examples of majors that are Algebra-intensive, refer to the description of the major or speak with a professional advisor.

Students not requiring developmental work in Mathematics must be continuously enrolled in either MATH 1314, 1324, 1332, or 1342 (depending on the requirements of the major) until successfully completed.

Upon completion of the developmental education sequence in Mathematics, students majoring in programs housed in the College of Business (COB), the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS), the College of Science and Engineering (CoSE), and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CASNR) must begin the appropriate college Math sequence for their programs. COB, CoSE, and CASNR students must be continuously enrolled in Mathematics until their Core Curriculum Math requirements have been met.

Students in the College of Innovation and Design (CID) who are not college ready in both English and Math should complete their English requirements first. Upon completing English, CID students must begin the co-requisite Math sequence within the next two terms and be continuously enrolled in Mathematics until their requirements have been met. Students in other colleges will be encouraged to complete college Mathematics in as timely a manner as possible.

Students subject to this Basic Skills Policy who request to drop English or Math will require approval from the Dean of the College of Innovation and Design.

Each Advising Team will maintain an advising hold on students to insure compliance.

Contact the Dean of the College of Innovation and Design with questions at 903-886-5878.

Grades for developmental courses will be listed as "R" grades. The "R" means that the grade is developmental and does not count in the GPA.