

## Fall 2014 (New) TWU Core Curriculum Overview [General Education]

### New Texas Core Curriculum

#### Purpose:

*“Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.”*

The 2014 Texas Core Curriculum will be comprised of two major components:

#### I. Foundational Component Areas (FCAs):

- ◆ **Communication** (6 SCH)– Courses in this category focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. Course involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. *[Required Core Objectives: CTS, CS, TW, and PR]*
- ◆ **Mathematics** (3 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 experience. *[Required Core Objectives: CTS, CS, and EQS]*
- ◆ **Life & Physical Sciences** (6 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. *[Required Core Objectives: CTS, CS, EQS, and TW]*
- ◆ **Language, Philosophy, & 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. *[Required Core Objectives: CTS, CS, SR, and PR]*
- ◆ **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. *[Required Core Objectives: CTS, CS, TW, and PR]*
- ◆ **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 individual communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role. *[Required Core Objectives: CTS, CS, SR, and PR]*
- ◆ **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. *[Required Core Objectives: CTS, CS, SR, and PR]*
- ◆ **Social & 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. *[Required Core Objectives: CTS, CS, EQS, and SR]*
- ◆ **Component Area (Institutional) Option** (6 SCH) – Institution may determine Core courses that will fulfill this FCA based on requirement of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

## II. Core Objectives (COs):

- ◆ **Critical Thinking Skills (CTS)**– to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information;
- ◆ **Communication Skills (COMS)** – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication;
- ◆ **Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)** - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in formed conclusions;
- ◆ **Teamwork (TW)** - 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 (PR)** – to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making; and
- ◆ **Social Responsibility (SR)** – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

## III. Required Core Objectives for each Foundational Component Area:

Foundational Component Areas	Core Objectives
Communication	CTS, COMS, TW, PR
Mathematics	CTS, COMS, EQS
Life & Physical Science	CTS, COMS, EQS, TW
Language, Philosophy & Culture	CTS, COMS, SR, PR
Creative Arts	CTS, COMS, TW, SR
American History	CTS, COMS, SR, PR
Government/Political Science	CTS, COMS, SR, PR
Social & Behavioral Sciences	CTS, COMS, EQS, SR
Component Area Option (Institutional Option)	CTS, COMS, 1 additional core objective

Each Core course must (1) align with the Foundational Component Area as defined, and (2) the course student learning outcomes (SLOs) must directly align with the required Core Objectives of the FCA.

- ✓ Course description aligns with selected Foundational Component Area (FCA)
- ✓ Course-level student learning outcomes (SLOs) align with state-mandated Core Objectives for the designated FCA
- ✓ SLOs are specific, observable, and measurable
- ✓ SLOs clearly describe what students will be able to do (performance-based)

## IV. Assessment of the Core

Core assessment will occur at the *institutional level*. All Core Objectives will be assessed using the same methodology. Assessment measures will be course-embedded in order to assess *authentic* performance of students in relation to each of the six Core Objectives. All assessments will be direct measures of assessment.

Core Objectives will be assessed using student products/artifacts (i.e., papers, projects, performances, presentations, labs, exams, etc.) and common rubrics (TWU modified VALUE Rubrics) developed for each Core Objective to be assessed. Each professor/instructor will assess targeted sections or students in order to obtain an appropriate sample size.