

SFA Core Curriculum Application Process

1. Enter a course proposal into Curriculog. When entering the proposal into Curriculog there is a question that asks if you (the applicant) if you want the course to be considered for addition to the SFA Core Curriculum---Select this option.
2. In Curriculog--- include rationale for adding the course to a particular core curriculum component area.
3. The rationale should include how the course achieves the mission of the SFA Core Curriculum as well as how it adheres to the content description, core objectives, and semester credit hour requirements for a specific component area.
4. **Mission**
The core curriculum at Stephen F. Austin State University seeks to equip students with the broad intellectual foundations needed to live satisfying lives, to ready themselves for advanced study, to contribute significantly to society and to succeed in a diverse global community. In the service of these objectives, the mission of the core curriculum is to develop students' abilities to think in disciplined, critical, quantitative and creative ways, and to communicate effectively.
5. **See TAC** below for the definition of each core objective and which objectives must be addressed in each component area.

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=2&p_dir=&p_rloc=156429&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=156429&ti=19&pt=1&ch=4&rl=28&dt=&z_chk=1109108&z_contains=core%20curriculum](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=2&p_dir=&p_rloc=156429&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=156429&ti=19&pt=1&ch=4&rl=28&dt=&z_chk=1109108&z_contains=core%20curriculum) (this is the website were I copied the info below)

Texas Administrative Code

[Next Rule>>](#)

TITLE 19	EDUCATION
PART 1	TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
CHAPTER 4	RULES APPLYING TO ALL PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN TEXAS
SUBCHAPTER B	TRANSFER OF CREDIT, CORE CURRICULUM AND FIELD OF STUDY CURRICULA
RULE §4.28	Core Curriculum

[Historical](#)

[Texas Register](#)

(a) General.

(1) In accordance with Texas Education Code, §§61.821 - 61.832, each institution of higher education that offers an undergraduate academic degree program shall design and implement a **core curriculum**, including specific courses composing the curriculum, of no less than 42 lower-division semester credit hours.

(2) No upper-division course shall be approved to fulfill a foundational component area requirement in the **core curriculum** if it is substantially comparable in content or depth of study to a lower-division course listed in the Lower-Division Academic Course Guide Manual.

(3) Medical or dental units that admit undergraduate transfer students should encourage those students to complete their **core curriculum** requirement at a general academic teaching institution or public junior college.

(b) Texas **Core Curriculum**. Each institution of higher education that offers an undergraduate academic degree program shall develop its **core curriculum** by using the Board-approved purpose, core objectives, and foundational component areas of the Texas **Core Curriculum**.

(1) Statement of 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 in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

(2) **Core Objectives**. Through the Texas **Core Curriculum**, students will prepare for contemporary challenges by developing and demonstrating the following core objectives:

(A) Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information;

(B) Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication;

(C) Empirical and Quantitative Skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions;

(D) Teamwork: to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal;

(E) Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making; and

(F) Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

(3) Foundational Component Areas with Content Descriptions, Core Objectives and Semester Credit Hour (SCH) Requirements. Each institution's **core curriculum** will be composed of courses that adhere to the content description, core objectives, and semester credit hour requirements for a specific component area. The foundational component areas are:

(A) Communication (6 SCH).

(i) 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility.

(B) Mathematics (3 SCH).

(i) Courses in this category focus on quantitative literacy in logic, patterns, and relationships.

(ii) Courses involve the understanding of key mathematical concepts and the application of appropriate quantitative tools to everyday experience.

(iii) The following three Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, and Empirical and Quantitative Skills.

(C) Life and Physical Sciences (6 SCH).

(i) Courses in this category focus on describing, explaining, and predicting natural phenomena using the scientific method.

(ii) Courses involve the understanding of interactions among natural phenomena and the implications of scientific principles on the physical world and on human experiences.

(iii) The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, and Teamwork.

(D) Language, Philosophy, and Culture (3 SCH).

(i) Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience.

(ii) Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.

(iii) The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.

(E) Creative Arts (3 SCH).

(i) Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination.

(ii) Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.

(iii) The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Teamwork, and Social Responsibility.

(F) American History (6 SCH).

(i) 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.

(G) Government/Political Science (6 SCH).

(i) 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.

(ii) Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

(iii) The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.

(H) Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 SCH).

(i) Courses in this category focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human.

(ii) Courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.

(iii) The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, and Social Responsibility.

(4) Component Area Option (6 SCH).

(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, each course designated to complete the Component Area Option must meet the definition and Core Objectives specified in one of the foundational component areas outlined in paragraph (3)(A) - (H) of this subsection.

(B) As an option for up to three (3) semester credit hours of the Component Area Option, an institution may certify that the course(s):

(i) Meet(s) the definition specified for one or more of the foundational component areas; and

(ii) Include(s) a minimum of three Core Objectives, including Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, and one of the remaining Core Objectives of the institution's choice.

6. The syllabus uploaded into Curriculog should follow the Core Curriculum syllabus template (see handout).
7. The Core Curriculum Committee reviews applications to the core after dean approval in Curriculog. The SFA Core Curriculum Committee chair works with those applying to the core to set a day and time to present to the committee. This is typically in January. The format for the presentation is provided to applicants by the chair of the committee (see handout). This includes a presentation as well as a Q&A session.
8. The result of the committee vote on whether or not to approve or deny the proposal is submitted in Curriculog by the committee chair. Feedback from the committee to the applicant is also uploaded into Curriculog as an attachment.