

UH CORE CURRICULUM – UH Core Component Area Definitions and Core Objectives

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.

Guidelines:

The Texas Core Curriculum is a 42 semester credit hour (SCH) core curriculum for all undergraduate students in Texas. All bachelor's degrees from the University of Houston require completion of the Texas state-mandated 42 hour Core Curriculum. Approved courses must meet the definition and four out of six corresponding Core Objectives (except Mathematics, which requires only three) specified in one of the foundational component areas.

		CODE	SCH	CT	COM	EQS	TW	SR	PR
Foundational Component Area (10 - 80)	Communication	10	6	CT	COM		TW		PR
	Mathematics	20	3	CT	COM	EQS			
	Life & Physical Sciences	30	6	CT	COM	EQS	TW		
	Language, Philosophy, & Culture	40	3	CT	COM			SR	PR
	Creative Arts	50	3	CT	COM		TW	SR	
	American History	60	6	CT	COM			SR	PR
	Government/Political Science	70	6	CT	COM			SR	PR
	Social & Behavioral Sciences	80	3	CT	COM	EQS		SR	

Component Area Option (90)	Mathematics/Reasoning	90	3	CT	COM	EQS			
	Writing in the Disciplines	81	3	CT	COM	*	*	*	*
	Total Credit Hours		42			*Must select additional objective(s) in alignment with associated Foundational Component Area above			

Core Objectives

- **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

Foundational Component Areas

• **Communication** - 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. 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.

Required Core Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Team Work, Personal Responsibility

• **Mathematics** - 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: Critical Thinking, Communication, Empirical and Quantitative Skills

• **Life and Physical Sciences** - 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: Critical Thinking, Communication, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Team Work

• **Language, Philosophy and Culture** - 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: Critical Thinking, Communication,

• **Creative Arts** - 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: Critical Thinking, Communication, Team Work, Social Responsibility

• **American History** - 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.

Required Core Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility, Personal Responsibility

• **Government/Political Science** - 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: Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility, Personal Responsibility

• **Social and Behavioral Sciences** - 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: Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility, Personal Responsibility

• **Component Area Option** - Courses used to complete the Component Area Option must meet the definition and criteria specified in one or more of the foundational component areas above. The Core Objectives required in the corresponding foundational component area apply to each course used to fulfill the Component Area Option. At the University of Houston, there are two Core Component Area Options, Mathematics/Reasoning and Writing in the Disciplines.

- **Mathematics/Reasoning** (3 credit hours) - The University of Houston includes in its core curriculum courses that build students' skills in mathematical and logical thinking, including approved courses in mathematics, logic, computer science, and statistics.

Required Core Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Empirical and Quantitative Skills

- **Writing in the Disciplines** (3 credit hours) - The objective of a writing in the disciplines component of a core curriculum is to enable the student to communicate effectively in clear and correct prose in a style appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. Writing intensive courses require substantial writing (at least 3000 words, including at least one piece of work done outside of class and returned to the student prior to the end of the term with the instructor's written evaluation of grammar, style, and content).

Required Core Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, and at least one additional Core Objective that aligns with the associated Foundation Component Area (e.g. *Communication; Language, Philosophy and Culture*)