

Reimagining the Core Curriculum Working Group

Charge

The Core Curriculum Working Group, operating during the 2025-26 academic year, is established to conduct a comprehensive review of UTA's core curriculum in compliance with Texas State Bill 37 and in alignment with UTA's mission, vision, and strategic goals for student success and academic excellence. The group will critically examine the purpose, structure, and delivery of the core curriculum to ensure that it:

- Creates a shared learning experience and intellectual foundation for all undergraduate students,
- Enhances student learning and promotes a mission-aligned undergraduate experience,
- Supports timely academic progression, post-graduation preparation, and lifelong success, and
- Reflects best practices in general education design while maintaining compliance with state and accreditation requirements.

Scope of Work

The core curriculum ensures that our undergraduate students have broad exposure to knowledge in diverse aspects of the human experience. Ensuring the coursework required of all UTA undergraduate students is up to date, sufficiently broad, and remains aligned with UTA's mission is imperative and requires that our core curriculum be reviewed at regular intervals. The Working Group is asked to consider the various UTA student personas and UTA's mission, vision, and strategic plan as it undertakes the work below.

- Establish guiding principles that will help prioritize what is included in the general education core.
- Evaluate what role the core curriculum plays in strengthening the social mobility of our learners.
- Evaluate the learning objectives, curricular structure, and delivery of the core to ensure relevance, clarity, and coherence.
- Review the structure and content of the core curriculum for students in different academic majors to ensure that the core components are germane to and complementary of their academic major.
- Design the core to eliminate barriers to progression, especially for students changing majors.
- Review seat fill rates, class sizes, and number of sections of core courses to identify opportunities for efficiency improvements.
- Assess opportunities to strengthen transferability of credit, both into UTA and from UTA to other Texas institutions.
- Consider how prior and experiential learning may count toward core requirements.
- Consider what flexibility can be created so that emerging knowledge areas and learning objectives can be included in the core

- Research national models and incorporate emerging skills and learning objectives relevant to student success and workforce readiness.
- Formulate clear, evidence-based recommendations for core curriculum revisions that enhance student learning and strengthen alignment with UTA's mission.

SB 37 Requirements

The following are the requirements set forth in SB 37 regarding core curriculum. The Board of Regents has a deadline of January 1, 2027, to certify that UTA, and other system universities are in compliance. At least once every five years, the governing board of each institution of higher education shall conduct a comprehensive review of the general education curriculum established by the institution. In reviewing an institution's general education curriculum, the governing board shall ensure courses in the curriculum are (1) foundation and fundamental to a sound postsecondary education, (2) are necessary to prepare students for civic and professional life, (3) equip students for participate in the workforce and in the betterment of society, and (4) ensure a breadth of knowledge in compliance with applicable accreditation standards. In reviewing the general education curriculum, the governing board of the institution shall consider the potential costs the curriculum may impose on students, including for additional tuition, fees, and time a student must spend to complete an undergraduate degree program at the institution. Each institution of higher education shall annually submit to the governing board an update regarding any changes to the general education curriculum. The governing board may reserve the right to overturn any decision made by the institution. Members of the committee may include faculty employed full-time by the institution, institution administrators, community leaders, industry representatives, and other individuals selected by the governing board. Not later than January 1 of each year, a review is conducted, and the governing board of each institution shall certify the governing board's compliance with this section to THECB and each standing legislative committee and subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over higher education.