
University Core Curriculum Programs

The Core Curriculum Program and the First-Year Learning Communities Program together make up the University Core Curriculum Programs.

Overview of University Core Curriculum

The University core curriculum is a 45-semester-hour program of study that is required of undergraduates to provide them with a foundation for further study and learning. Students will be involved with core curriculum course work through the junior year. (Undergraduate transfer students have several ways of fulfilling the core curriculum requirement. For details, please see “General Education Requirement” in the section entitled “Undergraduate Programs.”)

Each course in the core curriculum has been reviewed and approved on the basis of its potential to contribute to the achievement of the following core goals:

1. To introduce students to the content and methods of a *broad range of disciplines* (e.g., natural sciences, social sciences, fine arts);
2. To help students develop *intellectual skills* (including reading, writing, speaking, listening, mathematical competency, and critical thinking) which are essential for learning in various disciplines, and for continued learning in life outside of the University;
3. To provide four *perspectives*: a) the individual in relation to the larger society and the world, with emphasis on understanding contrasting views; b) the principles and ethics that govern human interaction in society and the production of goods and services; c) the phenomena of the physical world and the relationship of the individual and society to it; d) the relationships among abstract quantities.
4. To help students *recognize connections* between different disciplines and perspectives.

Achieving the goals listed above prepares students for academic work in the majors, enables them to develop their own goals, values and perspectives, and helps them become reflective, productive citizens.

University Core Curriculum Courses

The core curriculum courses are listed below.

English Composition (6 sem. hrs.)

ENGL 1301 Composition I*

ENGL 1302 Composition II*

U. S. History (6 sem. hrs.) **

HIST 1301 U.S. History to 1865

HIST 1302 U.S. History Since 1865

Political Science (6 sem. hrs.)

POLS 2305 United States Government and Politics

POLS 2306 State and Local Government

Natural Science (6 sem. hrs.) Select two from:

ASTR 1311 Introduction to Space Science

BIOL 1406 Biology I

BIOL 1407 Biology II

CHEM 1305 Introductory Chemistry

CHEM 1311 General Chemistry I

CHEM 1312 General Chemistry II

ESCI 1401 Environmental Science I: Introduction to Environmental Science

ESCI 1402 Environmental Science II: Systems and Applications

GEOL 1403 Physical Geology

GEOL 1404 Historical Geology

PHYS 1401 General Physics I

- PHYS 1402 General Physics II
 PHYS 2425 University Physics I
 PHYS 2426 University Physics II
 Mathematics (3 sem. hrs.) - Select one from:
 MATH 1314 College Algebra
 MATH 1324 Business Mathematics
 MATH 1325 Business Calculus
 MATH 1442 Statistics for Life
 MATH 1470 Introduction to Modeling
 MATH 2413 Calculus I

- Oral Communication (3 sem. hrs.)
 COMM 1315 Public Speaking

- Economics (3 sem. hrs.) - Select one from:
 ECON 2301 Macroeconomic Principles
 ECON 2302 Microeconomic Principles

- Social Science (3 sem. hrs.) - Select one from:
 PSYC 2301 General Psychology
 SOCI 1301 Human Societies

- Literature (3 sem. hrs.) - Select one from:
 ENGL 2332 Literature of the Western World: from the Classics to the Renaissance
 ENGL 2333 Literature of the Western World: from the Enlightenment to the Present
 ENGL 2334 Themes and Genres in English Literature
 ENGL 2335 Themes and Genres in the Literatures of the Americas
 SPAN 3307 Spanish Literature I
 SPAN 3308 Spanish Literature II
 SPAN 3309 Spanish American Literature I
 SPAN 3310 Spanish American Literature II

- Fine Arts (3 sem. hrs.) - Select one from:
 ARTS 1301 Art and Society
 ARTS 1303 Art History Survey I
 COMM 1305 Film and Culture
 MUSI 1306 Understanding and Enjoying Music
 MUSI 1307 Elements of Musical Style
 THEA 1310 The Art of the Theatre

- Philosophy (3 sem. hrs.)
 PHIL 3340 Foundations of Professional Ethics

The core curriculum includes 45 hours. Some degree plans, however, require the selection of core courses that may lead up to 3 additional hours (for example, courses with credit labs).

* Students should complete ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302 early in their academic careers—at the very latest, by the end of the sophomore year. Students who transfer into the University without equivalent credit should complete these courses as soon as possible.

** Students may take Texas History (HIST 3331) for either HIST 1301 or HIST 1302. Texas History is a 3000-level course, and is recommended only for juniors and seniors.

The First-Year Learning Communities Program

All full-time A&M-Corpus Christi students are expected to enroll, in each of their first two semesters, in specially selected groups of 3 or 4 classes known as Triads and Tetrads. The students and teachers within each Triad or Tetrad form a learning community. The same group of students takes all of the classes within a given Triad or Tetrad together, which gives them many opportunities to work together, get to know each other, and learn together. The teachers in each learning community also work with each other to develop connections among the classes.

All of the Triads and Tetrads include a First-Year Seminar (UCCP 1101 or UCCP 1102) and a First-Year Writing class (ENGL 1301 or ENGL 1302). These are small classes of 25 students or less. In addition, Triads include a large lecture class (such as History or Sociology), and Tetrads include two large lecture classes. The classes within each Triad (or Tetrad) are “linked,” in the sense that students enroll in all three classes (or four classes in a Tetrad) at once. For example, students might enroll in a Triad that includes:

- First-Year Seminar (UCCP 1101 or UCCP 1102)
- English Composition (ENGL 1301 or ENGL 1302)
- Human Societies (SOC 1301)

A Tetrad that the University frequently offers consists of the following courses:

- First-Year Seminar (UCCP 1101 or UCCP 1102)
- English Composition (ENGL 1301 or ENGL 1302)
- U.S. History to 1865 (HIST 1301)
- U.S. Government and Politics (POLS 2305)

First-Year Seminar

First-Year Seminar (FYS) immerses students in an active learning environment to help students develop their ability to learn through study, discussion, cooperation, and collaboration. FYS teachers attend the large Triad/Tetrad lecture classes with their students and help their students to explore the interconnections among the Triad/Tetrad courses, develop their critical thinking and information literacy skills, and clarify their personal values and goals. Enrollment in the FYS (as well as in the First-Year Writing classes) is held to a maximum of 25 students because small-class environments help students form learning communities and develop their intellectual skills. First-Year Seminar, therefore, plays a central role in developing the learning communities, and enabling students to be successful at the University level.

Full-time first-year students are required to enroll in a First-Year Seminar during each of their first two semesters. Certain exceptions exist, however, for transfer students and part-time students. Students who become full-time A&M-Corpus Christi students after having completed less than 12 semester hours are required to take UCCP 1101 and UCCP 1102. Students who become full-time A&M-Corpus Christi students after having completed 12-23 semester hours are required to take only one First-Year Seminar. They may take either UCCP 1101 or UCCP 1102. Students who become full-time A&M-Corpus Christi students after having completed 24 or more semester hours are exempt from the First-Year Seminar requirement. However, students must substitute other hours of undergraduate-level coursework in order to meet minimum semester credit hour requirements for graduation.

Transfer Students and the University Core Curriculum Programs

Transfer students may contact a transfer counselor in the Academic Advising Transition Center, located in the Student Services Center, or call (361) 825-2257 or 2258 for general transfer information. Transfer students who have not officially declared an academic major may receive academic advising from the Academic Advising Transition Center. Students who have declared a major will be advised through their college’s academic advising center.

For a list of transfer courses that will fulfill specific core curriculum requirements, please see the appendix entitled “Lower-Division Transfer Courses: Common Courses.”

Students transferring credit hours to A&M-Corpus Christi from other institutions may have various means of fulfilling the core curriculum requirement. Please see “General Education Requirement” in the section entitled “Undergraduate Programs” for details.

First-Year Seminar Course Descriptions

All course descriptions are located in the section titled “Course Descriptions,” which is located near the back of the catalog. Within that section, First-Year Seminar course descriptions may be found under “University Core Curriculum Programs (UCCP).”