
Undergraduate Programs

This section focuses on the general requirements for the baccalaureate degree and on academic policies and regulations that apply specifically to undergraduate students. For information on core curriculum requirements, see “University Core Curriculum Programs” in this catalog. For information on the Texas Success Initiative, see “Admission.” For information on specific majors and on college baccalaureate requirements, please refer to the chapters on specific colleges.

BACHELOR’S DEGREES

The University offers the following undergraduate degrees: Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, and Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

University Minimum Requirements

General University requirements for baccalaureate degrees are:

Total Hours

A minimum of 120 semester hours of credit must be completed successfully. Some curricula or combinations of fields may require more.

Upper-division Hours

A minimum of 45 semester hours of upper-division credit (courses numbered in the 3000 and 4000 series) is required.

Grade Point Average

A minimum grade point average of 2.0 (C) on a 4 point scale in all work taken and a minimum grade point average of 2.0 in the major field of study at this University are required. Specific academic programs may require a higher grade point average in the major.

Residence Requirement

A minimum of 36 hours of upper-division course work required for graduation must be successfully completed in residence at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to obtain a baccalaureate degree. A minimum of 12 hours of these 36 hours must be in the major. Hours earned through credit by examination may not be used to fulfill the residence requirement. Hours earned through credit by examination at another institution will likewise not affect the residence requirement calculation.

General Education Requirement

To fulfill the general education requirement, a student must successfully complete the University core curriculum (or the equivalent as described below) and meet the foreign language and computer literacy requirements. In addition, all students who enter the University as full-time, first-year students must complete the First-Year Seminar requirement.

University Core Curriculum Requirement

The 45 hour University core curriculum, described in the “University Core Curriculum Programs” section, includes courses that satisfy the state statutory requirements for core curricula and the state statutory requirements in history and in government or political science. (To receive a bachelor’s degree, a student must have successfully completed 6 semester hours in government or political science, including consideration of the U.S. Constitution and state constitutions, with special emphasis on that of Texas. Additionally, the student must have credit for 6 semester hours in American history, of which up to 3 hours may be in Texas history.)

Undergraduate transfer students have several means of fulfilling the core curriculum requirement.

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1. A student may satisfy specific core curriculum requirements by taking the approved core curriculum transfer courses that are listed in Appendix B. Courses equivalent to A&M-Corpus Christi's core curriculum courses are identified by their common course numbers.
2. If a student successfully completes a core curriculum of 42 or more semester credit hours at a Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognized institution of higher education in Texas, and that core curriculum meets the specified "component area" requirements below, that block of courses may be transferred to this university and substituted for the core curriculum here. The student will not be required to take any additional core curriculum courses at this institution. The State of Texas has specified the following component area requirements:

6 Credit Hours	Communication (English Rhetoric/Composition)
3 Credit Hours	Mathematics
6 Credit Hours	Natural Science
3 Credit Hours	Visual and Performing Arts
3 Credit Hours	Humanities
6 Credit Hours	U.S. History
6 Credit Hours	Political Science (U.S. and Texas Government)
3 Credit Hours	Social/Behavioral Science
6 Credit Hours	Additional courses from the above categories and/or Institutionally Designated Option
3. If a student transfers from a Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognized public institution in Texas without having completed a 42 or more semester credit hour core curriculum, A&M-Corpus Christi will accept any completed "component area requirement" of the transferring schools' core curricula as fulfillment of the equivalent requirement here. (For example, a student who has completed the transferring school's visual and performing arts core curriculum requirement will be considered to have completed A&M-Corpus Christi's visual and performing arts core curriculum requirement.)
4. A student who transfers from a Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognized private or out-of-state institution will receive academic credit for each of the acceptable courses that he or she has successfully completed in the core curriculum of the sending institution as long as these courses meet the state of Texas criteria for core curricula. Following receipt of credit for these courses, the Office of the University Registrar will determine the equivalency of those courses to the courses in A&M-Corpus Christi's core curriculum. The student may be required to satisfy further course requirements in the core curriculum at A&M-Corpus Christi. Core curricula completed at Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognized private or out-of-state institutions will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

For further clarification see "Transfer Credit Policies" in the "General Academic Policies and Regulations" section of this catalog.

First-Year Seminar Requirement

All students who enter the University as full-time first-year students are required to register for First-Year Seminar, UCCP 1101 and UCCP 1102, as part of a Tetrad or Triad. (See the "University Core Curriculum Programs" section of the catalog.) Those who fail to complete this requirement during the first year will be required to fulfill the requirement prior to graduation.

Foreign Language Requirement

At least two high school credits in one foreign language or American Sign Language OR two semesters of study with passing grades in a single foreign language or American Sign Language at the college level are required for graduation from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. This requirement may be met by earning a CLEP or AP score equivalent to

one year of college-level foreign language study. If students decide to meet this requirement by taking two semesters at this the University, an assessment test must be taken prior to registering in order to be placed in the appropriate language course. Information regarding the assessment tests and the foreign language courses that satisfy the university Foreign Language Requirement can be obtained from the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Liberal Arts “Baccalaureate Degree Requirements” section of the university undergraduate catalog, or their website: <http://cla.tamucc.edu/advdegplan.htm#College>.

International students who have successfully passed the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a score of 550 or higher or have successfully completed the English as a Second Language International (ESLI) course of study may elect to choose English as their second language to meet the above requirement. Additionally, international and naturalized students who have provided proof of completion of high school in a foreign language (their native language) and who have successfully completed the English Composition and Oral Communication components of the University Core Curriculum Program may choose English as their second language to meet this requirement. English is considered to be the first language for all other students.

Computer Literacy Requirement

It is essential that all students achieve computer literacy in order to function effectively in our globalized high-tech society. All students at the University are required to develop computer literacy prior to graduation. Each college has programs that include computer literacy as a requirement for graduation which can be satisfied with one or more discipline courses in a degree plan. In the rare case where a degree plan does not include computer literacy within a course or courses, the requirement may be satisfied by the completion of COSC 1315 Computer Literacy. The requirement may also be fulfilled by passing the A&M-Corpus Christi computer literacy test.

College Degree Requirements

In addition to the University requirements, a student must meet the specific requirements as determined by the college in which the degree will be awarded. Such requirements are outlined in the college sections of this catalog.

Second Bachelor's Degree

Students wishing to earn a second bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi must complete a minimum of 144 semester hours of credit, or 24 hours more than those counted toward the bachelor's degree that requires the higher number of credit hours. All university, college, and major requirements must be met for each degree (see the information on degree requirements in this chapter and in the sections for the relevant college and major). Students must complete all degree requirements under a particular catalog (see “Graduation Under a Particular Catalog” in the “Academic Policies” section of the catalog).

As for any student intending to have a degree conferred, students seeking multiple degrees who plan to participate in a graduation exercise and/or receive a diploma must notify the Office of the University Registrar by the deadline date indicated in the Class Schedule for the semester in which they plan to have the degree or degrees awarded.

Academic Major

A minimum of 24 semester hours in a defined course of study must be completed for a major. Specific majors may require completion of additional hours. See the college sections of the catalog for the specific requirements of particular majors.

Double Major

Colleges may provide the opportunity for a student to earn a double major while working toward his or her first undergraduate degree. Both majors must lead to the same baccalaureate degree (e.g., BA, BS, or BBA). A student who completes the requirements for a degree with a double major will be awarded ONE degree (with both majors indicated) and will receive ONE diploma. Because only one degree is granted for the double major, students

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must have completed the requirements for both majors before the degree can be awarded. Students wishing to pursue a double major must satisfy the following conditions:

- Meet all university and college requirements for each major,
- Successfully complete departmental requirements in each major (if the majors are in the same college) or successfully meet the major field of study requirements for each program as determined by each college (if the majors are in different colleges).

Academic Minor

To earn an academic minor, a student must meet the requirements mandated by the college offering the minor. At least 18 semester hours will be required in the area of the minor (excluding prerequisites); the maximum number of hours will be limited to 23. At least 6 hours of upper-level courses will be included. At least 9 semester credit hours in the area of the minor must be completed in residence at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The student must complete all prerequisites for required courses and must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.00 on a 4-point scale. Colleges may set higher GPA requirements.

The following rules apply regarding graduation with a minor:

1. A student may not count the same course for both major and minor requirements.
2. After applying for graduation, if a student fails to complete the requirements for the minor but meets the requirements for graduation, the student will be graduated without the minor.
3. A student may graduate with more than one minor if he/she meets all the requirements.

A student who holds a bachelor's degree from this University and who wishes to complete requirements for a minor may do so by completing all course work in the minor and by fulfilling any other requirements mandated by the college offering the minor within five years of graduation. A notation indicating that all requirements for each minor have been completed will be added to the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi transcript; the transcript *will not state* that a minor has been *awarded*. If the requirements for a minor are satisfied following degree conferral, credits earned during the satisfaction of the minor have no effect on the GPA of the previously awarded degree.

Addition of a Major

A student who holds a bachelor's degree from this University and who wishes to complete requirements for an additional major within the same degree may do so by completing all course work in the major field with a minimum GPA of 2.00 on a 4-point scale, and by fulfilling any other requirements mandated by the college offering the major.

A notation indicating that all requirements for each major have been completed will be added to the student's transcript. The transcript *will not state* that a major has been *awarded*.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Recency of Credit

No restriction on recency of credit is made for undergraduate work. Lower-division and transfer hours applied toward the baccalaureate degree should provide those competencies necessary for entry into the upper-division level.

Correspondence and Extension Credit

No more than 15 semester hours of extension-center and correspondence study credit may be applied toward a bachelor's degree. Not more than 6 semester hours of this 15 may be in correspondence study. No more than 6 semester hours of upper-division extension and correspondence credit may be applied toward a degree. All work transferred is subject to approval, as suitable for the student's degree plan, by the student's college dean or designee.

Placement Process

New undergraduates and transfer students are placed into mathematics classes on the basis of their scores on standardized tests (SAT, ACT, THEA, etc), their high school record, or their previous college level mathematics credits. Students without test scores or math grades in their records, or those hoping for a higher mathematics placement may take a challenge exam. The exam is offered regularly by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Call 825-2459 for details and to schedule taking the exam.

For brief information on the foreign language placement test, see “Foreign Language Requirement” earlier in this chapter.

Maximum Course Load

An undergraduate student may not register for more than 18 hours of course work in a regular semester, or more than 7 hours of course work in a single session of summer school, without the approval of the appropriate administrator:

1. For a student with 30 or more semester credit hours and a declared major, the request must be approved by the dean of the college in which the student is majoring.
2. For a student with fewer than 30 semester credit hours, or for a student with 30-59 semester hours but without a declared major, the request must be approved by the Director of the Academic Advising Center. Also, a student who is required to pass the THEA or approved alternative examination, and who has not yet done so, must have the approval of the Director of the Academic Advising Transition Center to register for more than the maximum course load.

Repetition of a Course

Undergraduate students may repeat courses at this University under the following circumstances:

1. Courses specifically designated as repeatable for credit in the Undergraduate Catalog (such as variable topic courses) are calculated in the grade point average in the same manner as separate courses.
2. Undergraduate students may also repeat any undergraduate course at this University in order to replace a grade. A failing grade for a repeated course will not affect credit already earned or subsequently earned for that course. The first time the course is repeated, the initial grade received in the course will remain on the transcript, but only the better of the first two grades will be used to calculate the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi grade point average. A notation will be placed on the transcript after the course to indicate that it has been repeated. In the case of additional repeats, the second grade and all subsequent grades are included in computing the A&M-Corpus Christi hours attempted, grade points earned, and grade point average. Except as noted above in #1, a student may not receive credit for any given course more than once. The Office of the University Registrar conducts audits of student records as needed and prior to graduation. When repeating a course more than once, the student should seek advice from his or her college dean, faculty mentor or academic advisor, as appropriate, prior to registering for the course. Students may be charged an additional fee for each course taken for the third or more times. (See “Tuition and Fees” for details.)
3. Once a student has been awarded a degree at this University, he/she may not repeat a course for the purpose of changing the grade on the official transcript of any course taken as part of that degree.

Scholastic Probation, Suspension, Dismissal

Scholastic Probation and Removal from Probation. An undergraduate student whose cumulative A&M-Corpus Christi grade point average (GPA) falls below 2.0 on academic work done at the University is placed on scholastic probation. A student is removed from scholastic probation after completing a semester or summer term at A&M-Corpus Christi during which a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or greater is achieved.