

Tracking Cougar Curriculum



April 2013

THE NEW CORE, ASSESSMENT AND YOU

Texas General Education Core Objectives

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills
- Teamwork
- Personal Responsibility
- Social Responsibility

Foundational Component Areas

(with credit hours)

- American History (6)
- Communication (6)
- Creative Arts (3)
- Government / Political Science (6)
- Language, Philosophy & Culture (3)
- Life and Physical Sciences (6)
- Mathematics (3)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (3)
- Component Area Option [distributed across the components] (6)

In May, CAB will recommend course options for each of the eight disciplinary components comprising the 42 credit hour, state-mandated core.

As part of this mandate, all core courses will teach Critical Thinking and Communication Skills. In addition, core courses are required to teach additional core objectives assigned to their respective components by the THECB (see left).

At Collin, the discipline faculty have identified the student learning outcomes (SLO) for each course where the component core objectives will be taught. Discipline faculty then developed learning and assessment activities for each SLO, aligned with the core objective.

The new Texas Core will be effective in Fall 2014. Both SACSCOC and THECB mandate that Collin must periodically assess and report the degree to which Collin's students achieve the general education core objectives.

The core participates in the Collin College 5-year Program Review process. Collin's faculty Core Objective Assessment Team (COAT) oversees the core

assessment process. COAT has developed a rubric for each core objective. During each long semester, COAT designates specific sections of core courses to submit student work for evaluation.

Watch for CAB Core Recommendations posted to CougarWeb in late May

As part of their college service during the summer, COAT members serve on a faculty assessment team to evaluate these student works using the rating rubrics. The core assessment data will be combined by the Institutional Effectiveness Office so that Deans and Discipline Leads can provide results to faculty during the Fall Discipline meetings. Faculty are encouraged to augment interpretation of the COAT data with their own classroom experiences and observations as they determine what the data mean and how to use it to improve student learning.

The state has indicated that it does not want the core objectives analyzed at the course or component level, but rather institution-wide. Core assessment is

not evaluating students, courses or faculty. Results of this process look across the institution at each core objective.

General Education Core assessment is an evolving, faculty-led process. This continuous improvement effort rolls the traditional classroom level assessment and improvement processes up to the institutional level, so we can look across our institution and undertake the challenge of improving general education outcomes to ready our students for baccalaureate study and/or the workforce.

CAB ACTIONS April 2013

- Culinary Arts: Program/course revisions
- Pastry Arts: Program/course revisions
- Hospitality & Food Service:

Hotel/Restaurant Management Certificate-new capstone, course sequencing and reduction of overall credit hours;

Meetings & Event Management -Course revisions

- Continuation of Core Review

Full minutes are posted on the Curriculum Office's intranet site.