



# Tracking Cougar Curriculum



April 2014

## 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)

## TEAMWORK

Teamwork is one of the core objectives for all undergraduate degrees in the state of Texas. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) defines teamwork as the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. Team building activities can be used by instructors to develop teamwork awareness and skills that are demonstrable in classroom projects and transferable later to the workplace. Strong teamwork skills enable more in-depth learning and superior performance outcomes by allowing students to benefit from each others' strengths. Team building activities embedded in discipline curriculum reinforce discipline specific student learning outcomes while students build teamwork skills. Both the instructional activity and the assessment contribute to student understanding and development of the skills required for the Teamwork objective. Examples of Teamwork assignments and assessments across all core disciplines that address the required Teamwork objective can be found on the Curriculum intranet page. Below are examples from the Creative Arts Foundational Component Area (FCA).

### CREATIVE ARTS FCA

**Activity:** Per individualized professor/associate professor assignment, students will work as a group for a team result, including activities whose goal is to reach a group consensus; make a group artwork; create a group presentation, or any other group activity related to an art event, art aesthetic, within the class or as an extra curricular Collin activity.

**Assessment:** Students write a reflective paper on their role in the group process. In addition, students complete the Teamwork Rubric for group members, assessing task performance and collaboration skills.

#### MUSI 1306 (Thanks to Aaron West for this example.)

**Activity:** The class is broken into groups of four. The four students must attend a western art music concert of their choosing. The group has to work together to determine a group leader, where and when they will attend, and about which aspect of the performance they will write. In the end, each group will produce a document that details various aspects of the performance.

**Assessment:** Students write a reflective paper discussing their role in the group process. In addition, students complete the Teamwork Rubric for group members, assessing task performance and collaboration skills.

#### DRAM 1310 (Thanks to Shannon Kearns-Simmons for this example.)

**Activity:** Producing Project Final - Students work collaboratively on reading quizzes that cover two of four required plays. Part I of the quiz requires answering plot/character questions together and Part 2 requires conceptualizing a production of this play through teamwork (deciding location, time period, costume, makeup, lighting, sound, set and props designs).

**Assessment:** Peer ratings using the Teamwork Rubric to evaluate individual task performance and collaboration skills. In addition, an individual 2-page, written response to Teamwork Component of the Producing Project Final, to include:

1. Describe your overall experience working as part of your team.
2. Discuss how you felt you and others contributed to team meetings.
3. Discuss your personal successes or challenges in facilitating the completion of this assignment.
4. Discuss your personal contributions outside of team meetings.
5. Discuss how you fostered a constructive team climate, and discuss any other ways you would like to do this more successfully in the future.
6. Discuss how you responded to conflict within the group. Include how you could approach this aspect for greater success in future team projects.
7. Explain how you can apply positive team work qualities to future projects and in real life situations.