

Tracking Cougar Curriculum



October 2015

How COMMON IS THE TEXAS COMMON CORE?

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 and Culture (3)
- Life and Physical Sciences (6)
- Mathematics (3)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (3)
- Component Area Option [distributed across the components] (6)

CAB ACTIONS September 2015

- No actions to report at this time

In support of student transfer and course applicability, the Collin College Curriculum Office has established a statewide core curriculum and core curriculum assessment database. This database includes the 2014 core curriculum and assessment plans of 85 public colleges and universities, 50 of which are 2-year institutions. Initial review has revealed the following information.

Core Curriculum: The number of unique core courses at Texas public institutions range from 28 to 488. The median is 79 while the average is 89.5. Five institutions have more than 145 core courses. Texas A&M has 268 and University of Texas has 488. Only one 2-year institution is among the five—Dallas County Community College District with 146 courses. The Collin College core curriculum includes 93 core courses.

Thirty-four courses are found in common at more than half of the institutions; 16 of these courses are shared by 75% or more of all institutions (see table). No core courses from the Life & Physical Sciences Component are found among these most commonly shared courses. Collin College includes all of these 16 most common courses in its core curriculum.

Core Course	Percent of Institutions	Core Course	Percent of Institutions
ENGL 1301 Composition I	100%	ECON 2301 Principles of Macroeconomics	92%
ENGL 1302 Composition II	100% ¹	MUSI 1306 Music Appreciation	88%
HIST 1301 US History I	100%	MATH 1314 College Algebra	88%
HIST 1302 US History II	100%	ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation	86%
GOVT 2305 Federal Government	100%	DRAM 1310 Introduction to Theater	84%
GOVT 2306 Texas Government	92% ²	ECON 2302 Principles of Microeconomics	81%
PSYC 2301 General Psychology	96%	MATH 1324 Math for Business & Social Sciences	81%
SOCI 1301 Introduction to Sociology	95%	MATH 2413 Calculus I	78%

¹ The course or its equivalency is found in one or more core foundational components, but not necessarily 010 Communications.

² The institutions that do not offer GOVT 2306 offer Texas government in combination with other government content.

Assessment Plans: Assessment plans across the state include direct measures of student learning. The most common model applies adapted VALU-based rubrics to student artifacts. Two-thirds of colleges use blind reviews and one-third use instructor or discipline ratings of the artifacts. Collin College is included in the blind review category.

Most assignments used for core curriculum assessment are generated by the course instructors. About one-third of the colleges require approval to ensure alignment of the assignments with the rubrics in use. Every type of artifact is used, including recorded presentations, sculpture, paintings, and service learning projects. One institution maintains “Live Presentation rating teams” to rate oral communication projects.

College-wide standing assessment committees most often coordinate the data collection and receive or generate the results. However, action planning for improvement is more varied, occurring within disciplines, departments, colleges, component committees, core subcommittees, or the larger, standing assessment committees.

At Collin College, action plans for improvement are created through a combination of approaches. The Core Objectives Assessment Team (COAT) initiates the improvement planning process. If assessment results indicate a need for improvement in some aspect of the assessment process, COAT takes on the responsibility. If assessment results focus on needed improvements in student performance, COAT shares the information college-wide and requests each discipline to make the adjustments its faculty believe will enhance student learning in the identified area of needed improvement.