

7.31.03

To: Sheryl Kappus

From: Leslie Cannon

RE: Comments on Geo Forum's Recommendations

I have carefully reviewed Geo Forum's recommendations (they did a terrific job) and have a couple of observations. The comments on the expansion of the core will follow the comments on the text part of the document. For this review I compared the core of Texas A&M, as they are pretty much the norm. (Several months ago, I researched and reported to you what courses were accepted towards core across Texas.)

Page 3 of 27 Note section #2 and #3: We are having a problem with core completion—it seems we are raising the bar without looking closely at our student body and its needs in transferability. We don't need to add additional core area exemplary learning objectives. Likewise, raising expectations placed on our students beyond those prescribed, which for many students are already high, could lessen our core completion rate even more.

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Additional Recommendation 1: I believe Geo Forum is confused. They do not seem to be understanding that some programs have been approved to have Program Specific Core Requirements. These requirements supercede the general core curriculum for those programs. They should not be referred to as "extra-major requirements." With regard to the italicized non-core courses in the degree plans, we removed the italics from all of them in the current catalog. (We just discovered that two popped back in. Karen made a note to remove in next year's edition.)

Additional Recommendation 2: This is not hard to implement. We could annotate the courses much like we have done this year with the (W) for the WECM courses in the course description part of the catalog. In addition, I don't see how listing "any 1000-level or higher math..." is any different than what we are currently doing by stating "MATH1xxx" and "MATH2xxx." Likewise, I don't understand why its of great confusion for faculty and staff, and even for students to figure out that a 3 credit course could be taken to meet a 1 credit hour PHED/DANC requirement, should the student want to take a specific 3 credit hour course. However, we do need to do a better job of identifying the core courses in the course description section.

Additional Recommendation 3: I agree with dropping the COSC 1300 from the core.

Additional Recommendation 4: Excellent recommendation.

Additional Recommendation 5: Excellent recommendation.

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Additional Recommendation 6: This is incorrect. Dental Hygiene is now in compliance. Nowhere in SACS and THECB does it state that we must have the entire core in each of our programs. They do specify 15 hours of general education with at least one course in each of three categories, which must be in each program. GIPWE requires three additional competencies, which may be met throughout the existing curriculum or by adding a course, which covers the required competency. I do, however agree with the reduction of core requirements recommended in this section.

Minority Reports –In the interest of having completers and of permitting college students to direct their education following the tradition of a liberal arts education, I strongly urge you not to adopt either of these recommendations. If we add an additional literature course to the AS students, their core would be 51 hours! AA students already have to take an additional literature course. With the way the core is written in the catalog, they cannot double dip the literature in the humanities section with the literature in the extra requirement—this is costing us completers among students who transfer to UTD.

Core Area: Communication, Composition, Speech and Modern Language

Question: How will #7 be accomplished in these courses? This is more apt for social/behavioral sciences or humanities courses. Actually, I would expect to see it under social/behavioral sciences or humanities.

All courses currently listed here should be options for all students AA/AS/AAS. In addition, I would urge you to add ENGL 2307 Creative Writing and ENGL 2311 Technical Writing. These courses count towards the core at many universities in Texas. By not allowing our students to take them and apply them to the Core, we are holding our students to a different standard than those which we apply to transfer and reverse transfer students. Apart from being unfair to our students, we could be sued.

Core Area: Computer Science

Drop COSC1300 from this list, as many universities do not recognize it in transfer. I would also argue to create a computer proficiency exam that students could take to satisfy this requirement. This would permit them to be core complete, while also being able to take an elective in an area that interests them.

Core Area: Humanities, Visual and Performing Arts

All courses listed should be options for AA/AS/AAS students, including PHIL 2321, 2371. I would also add:
ANTH 2301 Intro to Archeology,
DRAM 2363 History of Music,
DRAM 2366 History of Film I,
DRAM 2367 History of Film II. These additional courses are acceptable as core at Texas A& M and at other universities.
Question: Should this section also include studio/performance classes? At A&M it does.



Core Area: Mathematics

All courses listed, except for MATH 1370 should be options for AA/AAS students. MATH 1370 should not be in math core, could be in humanities or social science. In addition, it seems that the AS courses are not identified correctly. Please look at list.

Core Area: Natural Sciences

They did a fabulous job expanding this section. Please see attached core from A&M, which specifically lists Dinosaurs as meeting core.

Core Area: Physical Education

They did a fabulous job expanding this section.

Core Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

The following list of courses, additional to those submitted by GEO FORUM, count towards the core at A&M and many other universities in Texas. By not allowing our students to take them and apply them to the core, we are holding our students to a different standard than those which we apply to transfer and reverse transfer students. Apart from being unfair to our students, we could be sued.

ANTH 2301 Physical Anthropology
ANTH 2351 Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 2346
ECON --any
GEOG 1301 Physical Geography
GEOG 2301 Cultural Geography
GEOG 1303 World Geography

HIST 1301, 1302, 2301, 2311, 2312, 2371, 2372, 2373
PSYC 2301, 2302, 2306, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2319, 2371, 2372
SOCI 1301, 1306, 2301, 2306, 2319

All of these courses and those submitted by GEO FORUM, should be options for the AAS students. In addition, PSYC 2302 should count for AA/AS/AAS students.

