



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

Operating Policy and Procedure

HSCEP OP: 77.16, Core Curriculum Policy

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) Operating Policy and Procedure (HSCEP OP) is to establish an undergraduate institutional core curriculum in accordance with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). This policy applies to all TTUHSC El Paso undergraduate degree programs. Schools may recommend more specific course selections that align with this policy and the Texas Core Curriculum requirements in order to facilitate student progress when a required course in the degree program can also fulfill a core curriculum component area requirement.

REVIEW: This policy will be reviewed by May 1 every year (EY) by the Office of the University Registrar and presented to the Assistant Vice President of Student Services & Student Engagement by May 15th for review.

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

I. Overview

Per Title 19, Part 1, of the Texas Administrative Code § 4.28, "each institution of higher education that offers an undergraduate academic degree program shall design and implement a core curriculum, including specific courses composing the curriculum, of no less than 42 lower-division semester credit hours." This policy establishes the core curriculum for the undergraduate academic degree programs offered by TTUHSC El Paso.

II. General Policy

A. Applicability and Transfer of Texas Core Curriculum

- 1) Any student who first enrolls in an institution of higher education following high school graduation in fall 2014 or later shall be subject to the current Texas Core Curriculum requirements.
- 2) Any student admitted under the terms of the Academic Fresh Start program and who first enrolls under that admission in fall 2014 or later shall be subject to the current Texas Core Curriculum requirements.
- 3) Any student who first enrolled in an institution of higher education before fall 2014 shall, after consultation with an academic advisor, have the choice to:
 - i. complete the core curriculum requirements in effect in summer 2014; or
 - ii. transition to the current core curriculum requirements in which case, previously completed core curriculum courses shall be applied to the current core curriculum requirements under the same terms as those that apply to a student who transfers from one institution to TTUHSC El Paso. The student shall then complete the remaining requirements under the current core curriculum.

- 4) Completed Core Curriculum: If a student successfully completes the 42 semester credit hour core curriculum at a Texas public institution of higher education, the student shall receive academic credit for each of the courses transferred and may not be required to take additional core curriculum courses at the receiving institution.
- B. TTUHSC El Paso does not offer lower division core curriculum courses; however, TTUHSC El Paso follows Texas Core Curriculum approved by the THECB in accordance with Texas Education Code § 61.822 in order to accommodate students who transfer from Texas public institutions of higher education. Students who transfer to TTUHSC El Paso from other institutions in Texas or from other states should expect their previous work to be reviewed for applicability of completed courses to the Texas Core Curriculum, and will be held accountable for the completion of any unfulfilled core curriculum requirements following that review.
- C. It is recommended that the Texas Core curriculum be completed before entry into TTUHSC El Paso; however, select courses may be taken up until one semester before graduation. Applicants should note that with few exceptions, most programs require full completion of the Texas Core before admission to TTUHSC El Paso.
- D. Any student concurrently enrolled at more than one institution of higher education must follow the core curriculum of the institution in which they are classified as a degree-seeking student. Accordingly, all degree-seeking students at TTUHSC El Paso must meet the core curriculum requirement set forth by TTUHSC El Paso to be considered core curriculum complete. If a student's transcript from another Texas public college or university indicates that the student has completed the institution's core curriculum, no additional core curriculum requirements will be imposed, but the student must have all of the program specific admissions requirements which may include additional lower-division classes.
- E. A student who earns an Associate in Applied Science degree may not be considered core complete. If a student has not completed the core requirements at another Texas institution before entering TTUHSC El Paso, the student must complete outstanding core requirements before a baccalaureate degree is awarded by TTUHSC El Paso, even if all program requirements have been met. Students who are deficient in core requirements, upon acceptance to TTUHSC El Paso, should work closely with their academic advisor and/or program director to finalize these requirements before completion of the baccalaureate program at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center El Paso, as meeting Texas Core requirements is a requirement of degree completion.
- F. College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or Advanced Placement (AP) credit may be accepted for core curriculum requirements. Please refer to the policy on prior learning assessment and credit by exam in the university catalog.

III. Core Curriculum Requirements

A. Statement of Purpose

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

B. Core Objectives

- 1) **Critical Thinking Skills** - creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- 2) **Communication Skills** - effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- 3) **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** - manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- 4) **Teamwork** - ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- 5) **Social Responsibility** - intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- 6) **Personal Responsibility** - ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

Communication – 6 credit hours

- English 1301 Composition I
- English 1302 Composition II or
- Any course that aligns with the description of courses within this component area published by the THECB.

Mathematics – 3 - 4 credit hours

Any course approved to fulfill the mathematics general education requirement at the previous Texas public institution, including courses in mathematics, statistics, and formal or quantitative logic (e.g., PHIL 2303), or courses designated as satisfying core in the TTUHSC El Paso program admissions requirements for the program the student is admitted.

Life and Physical Sciences – 6 - 8 credit hours

Any course approved to fulfill the Life and Physical Sciences general education requirement at the previous Texas public institution, or courses designated as satisfying core in the TTUHSC El Paso program admissions requirements for the program the student is admitted.

Language, Philosophy and Culture – 3 credit hours

Any course approved to fulfill the Language, Philosophy, and Culture general education requirement at the previous Texas public institution or courses designated as satisfying core in the TTUHSC El Paso program admissions requirements for the program the student is admitted.

Creative Arts – 3 credit hours

Any course approved to fulfill the Creative Arts general education requirement at the previous Texas public institution

American History – 6 credit hours

Any course approved to fulfill the American History general education requirement at the previous Texas public institution

Government and Political Science – 6 credit hours

Generally, this requirement is satisfied by the completion of GOVT 2305 – Federal Government and GOVT 2306 – Texas Government. Each student's transfer work in the area of political science will be reviewed to determine core applicability. TTUHSC El Paso will generally accept courses from other Texas public institutions denoted as satisfying this core requirement.

Social and Behavioral Sciences – 3 credit hours

Any course approved to fulfill the Social and Behavioral Sciences general education requirement at the previous Texas public institution or courses designated as satisfying core in the TTUHSC El Paso program admissions requirements for the program the student is admitted.

Component Area Option – 3-6 credit hours

Additional courses in the components above taken to fulfill the admissions requirements for a specific program at TTUHSC El Paso may be applied here. Additionally, any Component Area Option from the student's previous institution will be applied to this area.

Students must earn at least 42 semester credit hours across all components to satisfy the Texas Core Curriculum at TTUHSC El Paso.

V. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. Prior to admission, a preliminary evaluation of core curriculum will be completed by the undergraduate degree program to which the student is applying.
- B. Policies related to the transfer of credit are found in HSCEP OP 77.17.

VI. SCHOOL POLICIES

- A. Each TTUHSC El Paso school that offers an undergraduate degree program may develop specific course recommendations to meet the Texas Core Curriculum in the most efficient and effective way for that undergraduate degree program. These recommendations may be specified in the school catalog or handbook that is published on the school web page.
- B. Course numbers listed are based on the Texas Common Course Numbering System ([TCCNS](#)). All Texas public institutions are required to maintain a crosswalk with TCCNS course numbers and titles if they use a different number and title.