University Core Curriculum Programs

The Core Curriculum Program and the First-Year Learning Communities Program together make up the University Core Curriculum Programs.

Overview of University Core Curriculum

The University core curriculum is a 45-semester-hour program of study that is required of undergraduates to provide them with a foundation for further study and learning. Students will be involved with core curriculum course work through the junior year. (Undergraduate transfer students have several ways of fulfilling the core curriculum requirement. For details, please see “General Education Requirement” in the section entitled “Undergraduate Programs.”)

Each course in the core curriculum has been reviewed and approved on the basis of its potential to contribute to the achievement of the following core goals:

1. To introduce students to the content and methods of a broad range of disciplines (e.g., natural sciences, social sciences, fine arts);

2. To help students develop intellectual skills (including reading, writing, speaking, listening, mathematical competency, and critical thinking) which are essential for learning in various disciplines, and for continued learning in life outside of the University;

3. To provide four perspectives: a) the individual in relation to the larger society and the world, with emphasis on understanding contrasting views; b) the principles and ethics that govern human interaction in society and the production of goods and services; c) the phenomena of the physical world and the relationship of the individual and society to it; d) the relationships among abstract quantities.

4. To help students recognize connections between different disciplines and perspectives.

Achieving the goals listed above prepares students for academic work in the majors, enables them to develop their own goals, values and perspectives, and helps them become reflective, productive citizens.

University Core Curriculum Courses

The core curriculum courses are listed below.

English Composition (6 sem. hrs.)

ENGL 1301  Composition I*
ENGL 1302  Composition II*

U. S. History (6 sem. hrs.) **

HIST 1301  U.S. History to 1865
HIST 1302  U.S. History Since 1865

Political Science (6 sem. hrs.)

POLS 2305  United States Government and Politics
POLS 2306  State and Local Government

Natural Science (6 sem. hrs.) Select two from:

ASTR 1311  Introduction to Space Science
BIOL 1406  Biology I
BIOL 1407  Biology II
CHEM 1305  Introductory Chemistry
CHEM 1311  General Chemistry I
CHEM 1312  General Chemistry II
ESCI 1401  Environmental Science I: Introduction to Environmental Science
ESCI 1402  Environmental Science II: Systems and Applications
GEOL 1403  Physical Geology
GEOL 1404  Historical Geology
PHYS 1401  General Physics I
PHYS 1402  General Physics II
PHYS 2425  University Physics I
PHYS 2426  University Physics II
Mathematics (3 sem. hrs.) - Select one from:
  MATH 1314  College Algebra
  MATH 1324  Business Mathematics
  MATH 1325  Business Calculus
  MATH 1442  Statistics for Life
  MATH 1470  Introduction to Modeling
  MATH 2413  Calculus I
Oral Communication (3 sem. hrs.)
  COMM 1315  Public Speaking
Economics (3 sem. hrs.) - Select one from:
  ECON 2301  Macroeconomic Principles
  ECON 2302  Microeconomic Principles
Social Science (3 sem. hrs.) - Select one from:
  PSYC 2301  General Psychology
  SOCI 1301  Human Societies
Literature (3 sem. hrs.) - Select one from:
  ENGL 2332  Literature of the Western World: from the Classics to the Renaissance
  ENGL 2333  Literature of the Western World: from the Enlightenment to the Present
  ENGL 2334  Themes and Genres in English Literature
  ENGL 2335  Themes and Genres in the Literatures of the Americas
  SPAN 3307  Spanish Literature I
  SPAN 3308  Spanish Literature II
  SPAN 3309  Spanish American Literature I
  SPAN 3310  Spanish American Literature II
Fine Arts (3 sem. hrs.) - Select one from:
  ARTS 1301  Art and Society
  ARTS 1303  Art History Survey I
  COMM 1305  Film and Culture
  MUSI 1306  Understanding and Enjoying Music
  MUSI 1307  Elements of Musical Style
  THEA 1310  The Art of the Theatre
Philosophy (3 sem. hrs.)
  PHIL 3340  Foundations of Professional Ethics

The core curriculum includes 45 hours. Some degree plans, however, require the selection of core courses that may lead up to 3 additional hours (for example, courses with credit labs).
* Students should complete ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302 early in their academic careers—at the very latest, by the end of the sophomore year. Students who transfer into the University without equivalent credit should complete these courses as soon as possible.
** Students may take Texas History (HIST 3331) for either HIST 1301 or HIST 1302. Texas History is a 3000-level course, and is recommended only for juniors and seniors.

The First-Year Learning Communities Program
All full-time A&M-Corpus Christi students are expected to enroll, in each of their first two semesters, in specially selected groups of 3 or 4 classes known as Triads and Tetrads. The students and teachers within each Triad or Tetrad form a learning community. The same group of students takes all of the classes within a given Triad or Tetrad together, which gives them many opportunities to work together, get to know each other, and learn together. The teachers in each learning community also work with each other to develop connections among the classes.
All of the Triads and Tetrads include a First-Year Seminar (UCCP 1101 or UCCP 1102) and a First-Year Writing class (ENGL 1301 or ENGL 1302). These are small classes of 25 students or less. In addition, Triads include a large lecture class (such as History or Sociology), and Tetrads include two large lecture classes. The classes within each Triad (or Tetrad) are “linked,” in the sense that students enroll in all three classes (or four classes in a Tetrad) at once. For example, students might enroll in a Triad that includes:

- First-Year Seminar (UCCP 1101 or UCCP 1102)
- English Composition (ENGL 1301 or ENGL 1302)
- Human Societies (SOCL 1301)

A Tetrad that the University frequently offers consists of the following courses:

- First-Year Seminar (UCCP 1101 or UCCP 1102)
- English Composition (ENGL 1301 or ENGL 1302)
- U.S. History to 1865 (HIST 1301)
- U.S. Government and Politics (POLS 2305)

**First-Year Seminar**

First-Year Seminar (FYS) immerses students in an active learning environment to help students develop their ability to learn through study, discussion, cooperation, and collaboration. FYS teachers attend the large Triad/Tetrad lecture classes with their students and help their students to explore the interconnections among the Triad/Tetrad courses, develop their critical thinking and information literacy skills, and clarify their personal values and goals. Enrollment in the FYS (as well as in the First-Year Writing classes) is held to a maximum of 25 students because small-class environments help students form learning communities and develop their intellectual skills. First-Year Seminar, therefore, plays a central role in developing the learning communities, and enabling students to be successful at the University level.

Full-time first-year students are required to enroll in a First-Year Seminar during each of their first two semesters. Certain exceptions exist, however, for transfer students and part-time students. Students who become full-time A&M-Corpus Christi students after having completed less than 12 semester hours are required to take UCCP 1101 and UCCP 1102. Students who become full-time A&M-Corpus Christi students after having completed 12-23 semester hours are required to take only one First-Year Seminar. They may take either UCCP 1101 or UCCP 1102. Students who become full-time A&M-Corpus Christi students after having completed 24 or more semester hours are exempt from the First-Year Seminar requirement. However, students must substitute other hours of undergraduate-level coursework in order to meet minimum semester credit hour requirements for graduation.

**Transfer Students and the University Core Curriculum Programs**

Transfer students may contact a transfer counselor in the Academic Advising Transition Center, located in the Student Services Center, or call (361) 825-2257 or 2258 for general transfer information. Transfer students who have not officially declared an academic major may receive academic advising from the Academic Advising Transition Center. Students who have declared a major will be advised through their college’s academic advising center.

For a list of transfer courses that will fulfill specific core curriculum requirements, please see the appendix entitled “Lower-Division Transfer Courses: Common Courses.”

Students transferring credit hours to A&M-Corpus Christi from other institutions may have various means of fulfilling the core curriculum requirement. Please see “General Education Requirement” in the section entitled “Undergraduate Programs” for details.

**First-Year Seminar Course Descriptions**

All course descriptions are located in the section titled “Course Descriptions,” which is located near the back of the catalog. Within that section, First-Year Seminar course descriptions may be found under “University Core Curriculum Programs (UCCP).”