

The TCU Core Curriculum Requirements

The TCU Core Curriculum requirements apply to Freshman students matriculating at TCU in Summer 2005 or later. Students who matriculated at TCU prior to Summer 2005 are subject to the University Curriculum Requirements (UCR). Transfer students matriculating at TCU prior Summer 2007 are also subject to the UCR.

The educational experience offered by Texas Christian University reflects its membership in the worldwide academy of learning. The intellectual traditions of the University, honed by the scholarship and creativity of successive generations of faculty, are founded upon a rational and reflective examination of humanity and its natural and social environments. The essential elements of these traditions are captured in the TCU Core Curriculum (TCU CC) requirements.

The TCU Core Curriculum is designed to

- embody the liberal arts ethos of Texas Christian University;
- facilitate a focus on educational competencies, learning outcomes, and assessment;
- show sensitivity to the special needs of students in different colleges and degree programs; and
- provide intellectual challenges and opportunities for students and faculty.

The goals of the TCU Core Curriculum are described clearly in the Heritage, Philosophy and Goals section of the *Handbook for Faculty and Staff*.

The University . . . regards as essential the advancement and communication of general knowledge which enables students to understand the past, to comprehend the natural and social order, to search for the good and the beautiful, and to integrate knowledge into significant wholes.

The TCU Core Curriculum has three components: the Essential Competencies Curriculum (12 hours plus 6 hours Writing Emphasis), the Human Experiences and Endeavors Curriculum (27 hours), and the Heritage, Mission, Vision, and Values Curriculum (18 hours). All courses in the TCU Core Curriculum may overlay with other requirements of the student's degree program. The overlay feature provides the flexibility for core requirements to be satisfied in a range between 39 and 63 hours.

Essential Competencies (12 hours plus 6 hours Writing Emphasis)

Courses in this curriculum are designed to provide a base of skills to ensure students' abilities to communicate clearly and think analytically. Their focus is effective writing, mathematical reasoning, and oral communication. The requirements and competencies are contained in the following table.

Requirements		Competencies: TCU graduates will
Mathematical Reasoning	3 hours	be able to reason mathematically.
Oral Communication	3 hours	articulate thoughts clearly using appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication skills.
Written Communication 1	3 hours	write effectively.
Written Communication 2	3 hours	write effectively.
Writing Emphasis	6 hours	demonstrate the ability to use writing as a means for learning and communicating in a specific discipline.

Writing Emphasis courses may overlay with courses in the Human Experiences and Endeavors Curriculum, the Heritage, Mission, Vision, and Values Curriculum, or with other requirements of

a student's degree program. *With the exception of Writing Emphasis, no more than two (2) courses in the EC curriculum may be taken from any one (1) area as defined by course prefix.*

Human Experience and Endeavors (27 hours)

Courses in this curriculum explore significant achievements and discoveries in the Humanities, Fine Arts, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences. The aim is to develop students' knowledge of the human condition and its connections to the good and the beautiful and to the natural and social orders. The requirements and competencies for this curriculum are contained in the following table.

Requirements		Competencies: TCU graduates will
Humanities	9 hours	apply methods of humanistic inquiry and construct relevant arguments.
Social Sciences	9 hours	understand social environments that arise from and influence human interaction.
Natural Sciences	6 hours	be literate in the natural sciences.
Fine Arts	3 hours	understand the significance of the fine arts and the importance of creativity through standard coursework and/or applied study.

Courses proposed for the Human Experiences and Endeavors curriculum may also meet the outcomes of a category in the Heritage, Mission, Vision, and Values Curriculum or couple with courses required for the major, minor or general curriculum. *No more than two (2) courses in the HEE curriculum may be taken in any one area as defined by course prefix. In addition, the requirements in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, respectively, must be satisfied in at least two (2) different areas as defined by course prefix.*

Heritage, Mission, Vision, and Values (18 hours)

Courses in this curriculum cultivate the broader skills and awareness associated with TCU's distinctive Heritage, Mission, Vision, and Values. TCU's Heritage is explored via the study of Religious Traditions, Historical Traditions, and Literary Traditions. Similarly, TCU's Mission, Vision, and Values are explored via courses that focus on Cultural Awareness, Global Awareness, and Citizenship and Social Values.

By design, these Heritage, Mission, Vision, and Values categories are not bound to any particular discipline or department. Through a range of disciplinary perspectives, these courses encourage pedagogical innovation and conversation across traditional disciplinary boundaries. The requirements and competencies for this curriculum are contained in the following table.

Requirements		Competencies: TCU graduates will demonstrate
Religious Traditions	3 hours	a critical understanding of the role of religion in society, culture, and individual life.
Historical Traditions	3 hours	a critical understanding of the processes that create change over time in the human experience.
Literary Traditions	3 hours	an understanding of, and sensitivity to, our shared literary heritage.
Cultural Awareness	3 hours	a critical understanding of cultural phenomena.
Global Awareness	3 hours	knowledge of trends, issues, and opportunities that impact the global community.
Citizenship and Social Values	3 hours	an understanding of individual rights and responsibilities and an ability to assess critically the intentions and consequences of personal, professional or societal actions.

Courses proposed for the Heritage, Mission, Vision, and Values curriculum may also meet the outcomes of a category in the Human Experiences and Endeavors curriculum or couple with courses required for the major, minor or general curriculum. *No more than two (2) courses in the HMVV curriculum may be taken from any one (1) area as defined by course prefix. No course may count for more than one HMVV requirement.*

The overlay feature of the TCU Core Curriculum is best captured in a diagram. To view the diagram, please click on the link entitled TCU Core Curriculum Diagram on the TCU Core Curriculum web page.

As can be seen from the diagram, it is possible for students to take courses that will fulfill more than one of the core categories. For example, a Sociology course might simultaneously satisfy the outcomes of Social Sciences and Cultural Awareness. If so, the student taking such a course would receive three credit hours and would satisfy both a Social Sciences and Cultural Awareness requirement.

NOTES:

Students must complete at TCU

- the Cultural Awareness, Global Awareness, and Citizenship and Social Values requirements of the HMVV Curriculum;
- 6 hours in Writing Emphasis courses.

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