



# 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 (TCC) 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 of every year (EY) by the Registrar with recommendations for revisions forwarded to the Assistant Vice President for Student Services and Student Engagement (AVP SSSE) by May 15.

### POLICY/PROCEDURE:

#### I. Overview

[Per Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter B of the Texas Administrative Code](#), “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 of TCC

- 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 TCC requirements.
- 2) Any student who is 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 TCC requirements.
- 3) Any student who first enrolled in an institution of higher education prior to 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) Transfer of Credit-Completed Core Curriculum: If a student successfully completes the 42-semester credit hours (SCH) core curriculum at a Texas public institution of higher education, that block of courses must be substituted in transfer to any other Texas public institution of higher education for the receiving institution’s core curriculum. A

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.

- 5) To determine whether transfer coursework applies to a TCC component area, TTUHSC El Paso will evaluate transfer courses against standardized Texas lower-division course references, including the Texas Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM), the Texas Common Course Numbering System (TCCNS), and catalogs of other Texas public institutions of higher education. In general, when a transfer course substantially aligns with a course listed in the ACGM and that course is accepted within the same core component area at five Texas public institutions of higher education, TTUHSC El Paso will apply the course to the corresponding core curriculum component area. Determinations of core curriculum applicability under this section shall be made by the Associate Registrar for Curriculum and Academic Operations, in consultation with the Academic Associate Dean of the applicable school, or the dean's designee.

A student who seeks reconsideration of that determination may submit an appeal to the AVP SSSE. After consultation with the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the appropriate academic leadership, the AVP SSSE shall issue a final written determination to the student. The student shall receive written notice of the applicability determination, including any identified core deficiencies. A request for reconsideration must be submitted in writing to [epregistrar@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:epregistrar@ttuhsc.edu) within 10 business days of that notice and may include course descriptions, syllabi, or other supporting documentation. This provision does not limit TTUHSC El Paso's authority to require satisfaction of program-specific admission, prerequisite, or degree requirements.

- B. TTUHSC El Paso does not offer lower division core curriculum courses; however, TTUHSC El Paso follows TCC 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 TCC, and will be held accountable for the completion of any unfulfilled core curriculum requirements following that review.
- C. It is recommended that the TCC be completed before entry into TTUHSC El Paso; however, prerequisite courses may be taken up until one semester before graduation. Applicants should note that with few exceptions, most programs require full completion of the TCC before admission to TTUHSC El Paso.
- D. A student concurrently enrolled at more than one institution of higher education shall follow the core curriculum or the field of study curriculum of the institution in which the student is 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 TTUHSC El Paso, as meeting TCC 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 credit by examination found in [HSCEP OP 77.07](#).

### III. Core Curriculum Requirements

#### A. TCC 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

Definitions for the six Core Objectives for the TCC are as follows:

- 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

#### C. Core Curricula

##### **Communication – 6 SCH**

- 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 SCH**

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 SCH**

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 SCH**

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 SCH***

Any course approved to fulfill the Creative Arts 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.

***American History – 6 SCH***

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

***Government and Political Science – 6 SCH***

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 SCH***

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 SCH***

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 SCH across all components to satisfy the TCC at TTUHSC El Paso.***

**IV. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Before admission, the undergraduate degree program to which the student is applying shall conduct a preliminary evaluation of the student's satisfaction of TCC requirements. DegreeWorks is the official institutional system used by TTUHSC El Paso to audit degree progress and track completion of core curriculum requirements.

Nothing in this policy limits a student's rights, or TTUHSC El Paso's obligations, under applicable law governing transfer disputes, including Texas Education Code Section 61.826 and applicable THECB rules.

- A. Each TTUHSC El Paso school that offers an undergraduate degree program may develop specific course recommendations for satisfying the TCC in the most efficient and effective manner for that undergraduate degree program. All such recommendations shall be published in the institutional catalog.
- B. Course numbers listed in connection with TCC guidance are based on the TCCNS. Although TTUHSC El Paso does not generally offer lower-division courses, commonly accepted core curriculum courses may be identified in the institutional catalog to assist students in determining appropriate coursework prior to transfer. Such courses are listed for advising and planning purposes based on TCCNS course numbers and corresponding course equivalencies recognized by Texas public institutions of higher education.
- C. Additional processes and procedures related to the transfer of credit are outlined in [HSCEP OP 77.17](#).