

Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I= Information Item¹ R= Advise & Respond²

Course Number _____ or Degree Plan(s) University Requirements
 State the requested change and reason. A memo may be attached if more space is necessary.

This proposes that ACU accept transfer students who have "Core Complete" identified on their transcripts as having completed their University Requirements except for 12 hours of required Bible courses. Please see attached document for details and rationale.

Circle the number that corresponds to the requested change. Degree plan changes are on the second page.

		COUNCIL ³								
	Change to a Course	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UAC	GRAD	Provost	President
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I				I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I				I	I
3.	Course term(s)	A	I	A	I				I	I
4.	Content (substantive change)	A	A	A	I				A	A
5.	Number of hours (lecture, lab, contact)	A	A	A	A				A	A
6.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I				I	I
7.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A				A	A
8.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I				I	I
9.	Course fee(s)	A	--	A	--				A	I
10.	From U to G <i>or</i> G to U	A	A	A	A				A	A
11.	Cross list with another department: U or G level	A	A	A	A				A	A
12.	Department of record	A	A	A	A				A	A
13.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A				A	A
14.	New course — See website for application and process. This change includes combining or splitting a course(s).	A	A	A	A				A	A

Note: When an academic unit does not have a council, the UGEC and/or UUAC will serve as its academic council, depending on the nature of the issue.

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COUNCIL ³												
	Change to a Degree Plan	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	Faculty	President	Board of Trustees
1.	University Requirements — Change in approved course content ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
2.	University Requirements — Add or drop a required course from the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
3.	University Requirements — Add or drop a course from a menu within the University Requirements ⁶	A	--	--	A				A	--	A	--
4.	University Requirements — Change hours within a menu on the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
5.	Major — Revision of major ^{4,5}	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
6.	Major — Adopt or change admission requirements	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
7.	Major — Add ^{4,5}	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
8.	Major – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
9.	Major – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
10.	GPA — Revise major or cumulative requirement	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
11.	Minor — Revise course selection	A	A	A	I				I	--	I	--
12.	Minor — Add	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
13.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
14.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
15.	Degree — Add	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
16.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
17.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
18.	Any change to a graduate degree program	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--

		COUNCIL ³								
	Provost-Proposed Change	Provost	Department	Dean	TEC	UUAC	Graduate	Faculty	President	Board of Trustees
1.	Major/Graduate Program – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			A	A	I
2.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			--	A	--
3.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			A	A	I

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COUNCIL³

	Change to the Catalog Information	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	Faculty	President
1.	General requirements for graduation including course requirements that are common to all majors for all degrees ⁷	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
2.	Admission requirements	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
3.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
4.	Requirements for graduating with honors	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
5.	Other academic policy changes	--	--	--		A		A	--	A

¹ Councils may request additional information about “Information” items. These items are approved as “Consent Agenda.”

² The Dean and Department should respond to the Provost’s recommendation to close a program in writing. Advise & Respond (R) requires that the voting body should receive the written responses at least one week prior to the vote.

³ All courses that meet University Requirements for general education must go through UGEC. Courses or degrees offered only to students seeking teacher certification must go through the Teacher Education Council. All undergraduate changes must go before the UUAC. All graduate degree plan changes must go through the Graduate Council.

⁴ A minimum of 30 hours is required for a major. A maximum is specified for each degree (e.g., BA, BS). The university minimum for elective hours is 6, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible.

⁵ Program or course changes that apply to any major that includes Teacher Certification will be reviewed by the college, the Teacher Education Council (TEC), and then the UUAC.

⁶ Courses that satisfy ACU’s University Requirements (General Education) will normally have lower-level numbering, be free of prerequisites and co-requisites, appeal to more than one or two majors, and “not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession” (SACS 2.7.3). Departments may request exceptions to the first three criteria.

⁷ The UUAC approved the clarification that “general requirements for graduation” means the enumerated items in the “General Requirements for Bachelor’s Degrees” section of the catalog.

Revised 3-8-17

Curriculum/Catalog Changes Signature Page

Department/School Chair(s)	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

College Academic Council(s)	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Dean(s)	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Teacher Education Council	
_____ <i>Chair's signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

General Education Council	
_____ <i>Chair's signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Undergraduate Academic Council	
_____ <i>Chair's signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Graduate Council	
_____ <i>Chair's signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Provost	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Faculty	
_____ <i>Chair of faculty senate</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

President	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Proposal to have ACU admit “Core Complete” transfer students

Background at ACU

This proposal is based on work that the Transfer Task Force suggested three years ago (Spring 2014). At that time, the University was considering “line item” changes to its General Education in order to better position it to receive transfer students. Such changes included having MATH 109 (College Algebra) satisfy the quantitative literacy requirement for students who had not yet enrolled at ACU; similarly, COMS 111 could satisfy the communication requirement for students who had not yet entered ACU; finally, we added back a history requirement of all students. Those changes were approved by academic councils and their effect made our general education requirements more in line with the requirements at Texas public institutions.

Core Complete in Texas

Over the past two decades, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has implemented substantial reform in the way it accounts for general education courses at state institutions. Key among these changes is the notion that if a student completes the Core Curriculum at one institution, it substitutes for the Core Curriculum at any other public college or university in Texas, even if there are differences in the Core at each school. The essentials of this philosophy have been in place since Senate Bill 148 passed in January of 1997¹. The core curriculum is a 42 semester credit hour curriculum. There is some flexibility in the core curriculum at each school, but essential to the idea of the core is transferability of the block of 42 “core” hours. The coordinating board notes, “this is a whole new way of doing things because *the school where you take the course decides how it will transfer.*”² The policy represents a paradigm shift from the prior operating procedures of institutions of higher education in Texas and has made the transfer of credit between institutions in the state easier.

The effect of this reform is the creation of a new category of students – designated as *core complete* – who can move more freely from institution to institution as they seek to finish their degree. It would be advantageous for ACU to adapt its policies in order to better compete for these *core complete* students. We expect accepting *core complete* students will have a positive impact on the number of transfer students seeking to come to ACU. It will also widen the pool of students eligible for admittance to the Degree Completion program offered by the College of Graduate and Professional Studies at the ACU Dallas campus.

Timing of Current Proposal

The goal of the work proposed by the Transfer Task Force was to make ACU more “transfer friendly.” The changes listed above regarding Math, Communications and History helped accomplish that goal by positioning our requirements in these areas closer to the requirements of public institutions in Texas. In the current proposal, we seek to take a step further by adopting the language and policies of core complete.

This particular time in our university’s history is fitting to consider this proposal:

¹ Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Brief History of Texas Core Curriculum.
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=41E92241-DD58-8502-8A292CC1064F3C5C>

² Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Texas General Education Core Web Center.
<https://statecore.its.txstate.edu/>

- The 2016-2021 Strategic Plan calls for the implementation of a restructured General Education requirement for undergraduate transfer students to create new pathways for them to attend ACU. The acceptance of core complete students creates this pathway and opens the door for ACU to welcome a greater number of potential students. The Educational Innovation Task Force was charged with creating a new “ACU Model” of general education; articulating a Core Complete transfer policy would help meet that charge.
- ACU has not yet regained the transfer numbers the university enjoyed prior to the original change in general education in 2010. A larger population of transfer students would help mitigate any deficits in the entering Freshman class size. Compared with Fall 2010, ACU has experienced a 22% drop in the transfer enrollment:

2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
104	115	111	118	115	89	122	132

- The degree completion program in Applied Psychology would benefit from accepting students as core complete as the bulk of the general education courses would not have to be staffed and offered to students in this program.

Note: increasing the transfer population on the Abilene campus and accepting core complete students into the ACU Dallas degree completion program would provide significant opportunities to partner with community colleges throughout the state. Just under half of the [1.5 million students enrolled](#) in Texas colleges and universities are at community colleges.

How Texas Universities Evaluate Core Complete

Public Texas universities evaluate the general education of a core complete student as a block, not as individual courses. The [University of Houston](#) puts it succinctly: “Core Complete status will be granted to students with an official transcript from a Texas state funded College or University stating that the core was completed at that institution.”

ACU would adopt a similar policy but would add four courses of Bible requirements so that students would have a connection to that important part of our curriculum: BIBL 103 (Story of the New Testament), BIBL 211 (Message of the Old Testament); and two Bible electives.

Proposal

In the **UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC INFORMATION** - TRANSFERRING CREDIT section of the Catalog, make the following change (red indicates addition):

All course work from any institution will be evaluated according to the following policies or according to a specific transfer articulation agreement with the prior institution. **Students will be considered to have satisfied their University Requirements when they meet the following two criteria: 1) matriculate from an accredited**

public institution in Texas whose official transcript states that the core was completed at that institution, and 2) satisfactorily complete the Bible classes at ACU that correspond to the number of hours accepted for transfer to the university. In all other cases, how ~~How~~ transfer credit is applied toward an ACU undergraduate degree depends on an evaluation of each course to determine its comparability in content and semester-hour credit to a corresponding ACU course or degree requirement.

In the **UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC INFORMATION - DEGREE REQUIREMENTS** - “General Requirements for Bachelor’s Degrees” section of the Catalog, make the following change (red indicates addition):

4. The University Requirements consist of 56 hours, **or certification as “core complete” by an accredited public institution in Texas and 12 hours of Bible**, for all degrees other than the BFA, BM, BSN, teacher certification and cooperative degrees. See each major section for details.

In the **UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS** - add the following:

A single course cannot satisfy a requirement in more than one area of University Requirements. For example, HIST 117 may fulfill the social science or the cultural awareness selection, but not both.

Students who are designated as “Core Complete” will still need to complete the Bible requirement that corresponds to the number of hours accepted for transfer to the university.

Students with demonstrated proficiency may petition to take selected advanced courses in place of the courses listed in this menu.

Implications for ACU

Core Complete does not mean students would graduate from ACU without Bible. They are required to pass four classes; this is consistent with our current transfer policy for students bringing in between 24 and 59 hours.

It is possible, however, that they would graduate from ACU without the two credits in Kinesiology, since the Texas common core does not require exercise science classes.

Like all ACU graduates, Core Complete students must complete 128 hours to obtain their baccalaureate degree.