

Report Core Curriculum, Gary Elbow #309

CORE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES APPROVED BY THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD AT ITS MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 2011

A. Communication (6 SCH)

Courses in this category focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to maximize the potential for effecting change through communication.

Courses involve the command of oral, aural, written and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.

The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. (These are items A, B, E and F from the core objectives list below.)

B. Mathematics (3 SCH)

Courses in this category focus on quantitative literacy in logic, patterns and relationships

Courses involve the understanding of key mathematical concepts and the application of appropriate quantitative tools to everyday experience.

The following three Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, and Empirical and Quantitative Skills. (These are items A, B, and C from the core objectives list below.)

C. Life and Physical Sciences (6 SCH)

Courses in this category focus on describing, explaining, and predicting natural phenomena using the scientific method.

Courses involve the understanding of interactions among natural phenomena and the implications of scientific principles on human experiences.

The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, and Teamwork. (These are items A, B, C and D from the core objectives list below.)

D. Language, Philosophy, and Culture (3 SCH)

Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture reflect and affect human experience.

Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.

The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Teamwork OR Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. (These are items A, B, D, E, and F from the core objectives list below.)

E. Creative Arts (3 SCH)

Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works on the human imagination.

Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.

The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Teamwork, and Social Responsibility. (These are items A, B, D, and F from the core objectives list below.)

F. American History (6 SCH)

Courses in this category focus on the consideration of past events relative to the United States, with the option of including Texas History for a portion of this component area.

Courses involve the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role.

The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. (These are items A, B, E, and F from the core objectives list below.)

G. Government/Political Science (6 SCH)

Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas,.

Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

The following five Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. (These are items A, B, D, E, and F from the core objectives list below.)

H. Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 SCH)

Courses in this category focus on the application of scientific methods in the understanding of what makes us human.

Courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.

The following five Core objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. (These are items A, B, C, E, and F from the core objectives list below)

I. Component Area Option (6 SCH)

Courses in this category focus on the development and application of knowledge and skills introduced in the previous eight component areas.

Courses used to complete the Component Area Option must meet the definition and criteria specified in one of the foundational component areas outlined in §4.28 (b) (3) (A) through (H).¹

The Core Objectives required in the corresponding Component Area apply to each course used to fulfill the Component Area Option.¹

Core Objectives

- A) Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- B) Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- C) Empirical and Quantitative Skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- D) Teamwork: to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- E) Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

F) Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

¹Final wording is pending publication by the THECB.