

Out With the Old

modified curriculum will be sent to the Coordinating Board for approval by the end of November 2013. Upon agreement, it will be implemented fall 2014.

The present core curriculum is a set of classes that each student at Texas Tech is required to complete prior to graduation. The 42-hour program currently in effect will stay operational until Fall 2014, and for those students admitted until that date.

But, why?

The philosophy of the THECB is to provide a means to furthering education across the state of Texas with the notion that the capability of accessing that instruction should be available and of high quality.

The THECB web site shares its philosophy to “promote access to quality higher education across the state with the conviction that access without quality is mediocrity and that quality without access is unacceptable.”

Also on the THECB web site, it reads, the new core curriculum should, “will focus on student’s skills and abilities to perform in their line of work.”

Elbow said that many students don’t have a clue about the change.

Tyler Sutton, a junior from Lubbock, Texas who plans to go into physical therapy, feels the new curriculum will not have much of an effect on him or prospective students.

“I can see where the state wants to revamp the requirements for graduation,” Sutton said, “I just don’t think that many incoming students will care too much about it.”

Regardless of how students feel about the change, faculties know the new curriculum is non-negotiable.

“Faculty, I think generally, are supportive of it,” Elbow said. “I haven’t had much feedback probably partly because they don’t have a lot of choice because it is being imposed on us.”

Nonetheless, Texas Tech is not alone in this transition. “Every public university in the state is going to have to implement it,” Elbow said.

“But it is an improvement,” he said. “It is going to make the core better.” **T**



The fall semester marks a new school year, a fresh start to Red Raider football, and a time when many new students first begin their journey at Texas Tech University. In the fall of 2014, however, the start of school will bring curriculum changes to Texas Tech.

Dr. Gary Elbow, associate vice provost for Texas Tech University, said the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board announced an entirely new curriculum plan October 2011.

“It’s the organization that controls Texas’ public universities,” he said. “They set the guidelines for the core curriculum, and they’ve changed them all around.”

Elbow said the areas they are pulling the fundamental courses from will remain the same, however it will remove general courses and replace them with ones that are narrow and specific.

According to the web site for the Texas Tech Provost office, the new component objectives will include skills encompassing critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative data analysis as well as teamwork and personal and social responsibility.

“The original ones were very content based,” he said, “and these are skill based.”

In order to accomplish the change, faculties were asked to select and submit courses they felt would accomplish this goal by early September 2012. Through a process monitored and approved by specialists, a