

Understanding the Core

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All Things Core!



- ▶ What is the history of the core in Texas?
- ▶ How does Core work in Texas?
- ▶ What is the value of being “Core Complete” for our students?
- ▶ What are the draft Core Competencies?
- ▶ What changes are likely to the Alamo Colleges Core due to the draft?
- ▶ Where are we at in this change process?
- ▶ Which Core courses are inescapable?

Important Websites



<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=7ED36862-993C-10F2-C64CA9C9EDF26C4C>

(the assumptions and defining characteristics of the core curriculum for publicly funded colleges and universities in Texas).

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=4&rl=28](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=4&rl=28)

(The Texas Administrative Code, chapter 4, subchapter B, rule 4.28).

More Websites!



<http://mypaccatalog.alamo.edu/content.php?catoid=1&navoid=677>

(The Alamo Colleges Core Curriculum)

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=7DBAE8BE-ECDF-D88F-7C96FEBDF4D5BE88>

(Draft Core Recommendations from the THECB UEAC Committee)

A Little History....



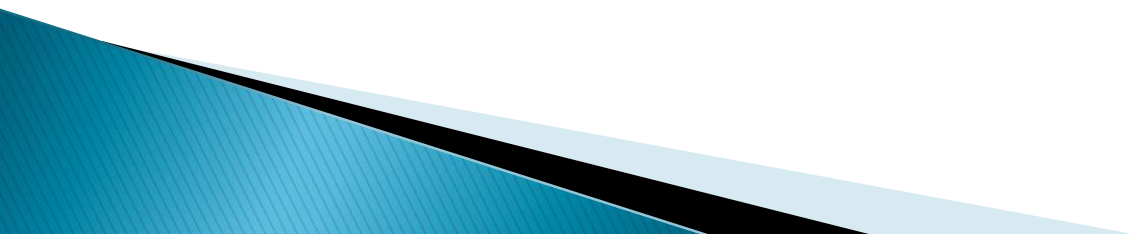
- ▶ **1989:** HB 2187 requires that all publicly funded colleges and universities to **adopt, evaluate, and report on an undergraduate core curriculum.**
- ▶ **1997:** SB 147 requires the THECB to adopt rules that include a **“statement of the content, component areas, and objectives of the core curriculum”** which each institution is to fulfill by its own selection of specific courses.

2003: Texas Administrative Code Chapter 4, Subsection B, Rule 4.28



- ▶ At least 42 lower-division semester credit hours requirement
- ▶ The core component areas must satisfy the “exemplary educational objectives”
- ▶ The core must be consistent with the Texas Common Course Numbering System and must be consistent with the embedded charts.
- ▶ “core complete” transfers to all Texas public institution of higher ed.

What is the value of the Core for our students at PAC?



The Alamo Colleges Core



Core Component Area	Hours Texas Requires	Hours in Alamo Colleges Core
Communication	6	6
Mathematics	3	1 course - (3 - 4)
Natural Sciences	6	2 courses - (7 - 8)
Humanities	6	2 courses - (6 - 7)
Social Behavioral Sciences	15 which must include 6 hours of U.S. History 6 hours of Political Science	6 hours of U.S. History 6 hours of Political Science 1 course - 3 hours of Social Behavioral Sciences
Additional Semester Credit Hours	6	Communication: 3 hours Visual and Performing Arts: 3 hours Kinesiology: 2 hours
Total	42	45-48

THECB's UEAC Committee Recommendations

Current Core Requirements	UEAC Recommended Core Requirements	Recommendation's Impact for PAC
5 component areas (including "6 additional hours")	9 component areas (including "6 additional hours")	"Language, Philosophy, and Culture" – 3 hours "Creative Arts" – 3 hours "American History" and "Government/Political Science"
At least 42 hours	2/25/11 Mtg –Core is 42 hours with Board approval for any institution requesting more than 42 hours	Current core is 45 – 48 hours The Alamo Colleges core will be reduced to 42 hours
Core Reaffirmation Report due to THECB every 5 years	Core Reaffirmation Report due to THECB every 10 years – connection to SACS COC	Palo Alto College has already implemented a continuous assessment process for the core that satisfies SACS COC (we hope) and THECB
6 Intellectual Competencies, 8 Core Perspectives, 5 – 12 Exemplary Objectives per component area (37 altogether!)	6 core competencies	Palo Alto College has already started to assess core courses using the 6 core competencies!
No guidelines for Core Assessment	AAC & U Value Rubrics should be used as guidelines for core assessment	PAC uses rubrics based on AAC & U Value Rubrics for our assessment!

The Alamo Colleges' Plan



- ▶ Implement a revised core 2012 – 2013 academic year
- ▶ Core courses finalized by April 4th
- ▶ April – November, 2011 – SLOs are developed for each course in the core and are submitted to DCC as they are completed

<http://www.alamo.edu/district/admin/vcas/curriculum-forms.htm>

Inescapable Core Courses

- ▶ Engl 1301
- ▶ Engl 1302
- ▶ Govt 2305
- ▶ Govt 2306



Questions???????

