transferable courses found in the ACGM or on the college's approved academic unique need course inventory, although unique need courses cannot be part of a core curriculum. See SACSCOC *Principles of Accreditation* and the Texas Core Curriculum for further information.

Table 3.3: SACSCOC-Required General Education Courses
By Texas Core Curriculum Component Area

Humanities/ Fine Arts	Social/ Behavioral Science	Natural Science and Math
• Communication • Language, Philosophy, and Culture • Creative Arts	• American History • Government/Political Science • Social and Behavioral Sciences	• Mathematics • Life and Physical Sciences

A program specialty is a variation within one AAS or AAA degree that allows students to take a particular sequence of courses. A specialty does not result in a different AAS or AAA degree and is not listed in the Coordinating Board program inventory, but may result in a separate certificate award. The specialty must match the program CIP code of the approved award and must have at least 50 percent of the technical specialty component (including WECM and ACGM courses) in common. Program specialties may be approved as additions to the original degree. For example, an institution could offer a single degree program, AAS in Hospitality Management, with two specializations, one in Hotel Management and another in Tourism.

An AAS or AAA degree program that provides a shortened track of 16-45 SCH for students who hold a related degree may offer an Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC) for the shortened track. For example, an AAS degree program in Sonography may provide an ATC in Sonography for students who already hold an AAS in Echocardiography. In this case, the program inventory would list both an AAS and an ATC in Sonography. The ATC is discussed further below, in Characteristics of Workforce Certificates.

All students enrolled in an associate degree program or a Level Two certificate program must meet the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI). More information about TSI requirements is available in Coordinating Board Rules Chapter 4, Subchapter C.

F. Characteristics of Workforce Certificates

A credit certificate should provide progression toward an AAS or an AAA degree. At least 50 percent of the course credits should be drawn from a single technical specialty. The remaining courses may be technical or academic courses.

Credit certificates will be approved in four different categories or levels:

1. A level one certificate (CERT1) can be completed by a student in one calendar year or less. It must consist of at least 15 SCH and no more than 42 SCH. Level one certificate programs are exempt from TSI requirements, but certificate programs may perform local assessment and remediation of students, provided that these activities do not exclude the student from enrollment in the certificate program.

2. A level two certificate (CERT2) is defined as any certificate for which a student must meet certain eligibility requirements prior to entry into the program. A CERT2 program may consist of between 30 SCH and 51 SCH. Students enrolling in CERT2 programs are subject to the TSI requirements and may be subject to other eligibility requirements as determined by the institution.

3. An Enhanced Skills Certificate (CERT3) is an optional certificate associated with an AAS or AAA degree program that is intended to provide advanced skills, identified by business and industry, which are not part of the degree. The certificate must be clearly defined in course content and outcomes. It must consist of at least 6 SCH and no more than 12 SCH and may extend an AAS or AAA degree to an overall total that must not exceed 72 SCH. ESCs are awarded concurrently with a degree but may not be considered to be an intrinsic part of the degree or be used to circumvent the 60 SCH associate degree limitation.

4. An Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC) is a certificate that has a defined associate or baccalaureate degree as a prerequisite. In some cases, junior-level standing may be a prerequisite for admission into an ATC. The ATC must consist of at least 16 SCH and no more than 45 SCH. It must be focused, clearly related to the prerequisite degree, and justifiable to meet industry or external agency requirements. An advanced technical certificate attached to an AAS degree must be in the same program area as the AAS degree. For an advanced technical certificate attached to a baccalaureate degree or to junior-level standing in a baccalaureate program, the institution should consult with Coordinating Board staff to determine the appropriate program area to which the certificate should be assigned.

The following credit and noncredit certificates and awards may also be offered:

1. A Career Foundation Core (CFC) Certificate is created through a statewide curriculum development process recognized by the Coordinating Board with input from business, industry, and instructional specialists. Each CFC certificate is based upon the identification of a sequence of courses and learning outcomes that represent a career foundation core within a specific career cluster. A CFC can be defined as a level one or level two certificate. A level one CFC certificate draws its core entirely from the WECM, while a level two CFC may draw from both the WECM and ACGM. The intent of this award is to maximize an individual student's opportunity for employment, with options to pursue the program's associate degree or transfer to another higher education institution or technical college. This certificate also allows a student to pursue a second year in a specific Career Pathway program.

2. A Continuing Education (CE) certificate program consists of workforce knowledge and skills identified in the same manner as those in credit programs. All CE certificate programs must be listed in the college's approved inventory of programs and must be transcripted. Workforce education programs of 780 contact hours or more may be offered only as SCH. An exception is made for Emergency Medical Technology/Paramedic continuing education programs, CIP 51.0904, which may have a