

I. CORE CURRICULUM MATRIX

See attachment 1, Core Curriculum by Exemplary Outcomes, and Texas Common Course Numbering Systems.

II. PURPOSE AND SUBSTANCE

The University's (42) SCH general education curriculum is designed to provide students a foundation in the broad knowledge and skills which will enhance study in the major areas; to prepare students to change and grow with their own needs and the needs of society; and to enable students to function as contributing members of a democratic society and of the global community. The underlying assumption embodied in the curriculum is that specialized knowledge changes, but the process of thought and the ability to apply the thought in a variety of contexts continues throughout one's life.

A solid and meaningful general education curriculum should consist of more than basic courses taken during the freshman and sophomore years. For example, the humanities and social science requirements may extend throughout the undergraduate experience; thereby, enriching coursework in the junior and senior years. Such an approach provides for the development of additional competencies essential to the optimal development of the individual.

In planning course content and selecting sequences, core curriculum committees at the University have subscribed to James L. Ratliff's concept of coherence, the deliberate sequencing of coursework leading to useful and long-lasting skills and insights about the world (Gaff and Ratliff, *Handbook of the Undergraduate Curriculum*.)