Core Curriculum with Sample Courses  

May 15, 2014  

Core Curriculum (32-41 hours)  

Mission:  

The purpose of the Core Curriculum is to provide an educational foundation in the liberal arts tradition that promotes inquiry and creative and critical thinking.  

The Core Curriculum provides opportunities for students to develop skills in the following: critical thinking and reasoning, written and oral communication, and quantitative and information literacy.  

The Core Curriculum provides opportunities for students to apply the above mentioned skills in the practice of the sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts in the context of global and diverse cultural perspectives.
I. Core Skills (13-21 hours)

Goal: The Core Curriculum seeks to develop skills in reasoning, reading, writing, and quantifying, as well as a variety of information and communication skills

Objective: Students will utilize these skills in order to understand, question, revise, and generate knowledge.

A. Critical Thinking and Reasoning (3 hours)

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

1. identify arguments
2. evaluate arguments through reasoning
3. formulate arguments for a thesis

*Potential Courses*

| IDS XXX | Critical Thinking |
| SCI XXX | Scientific Reasoning |
| HUM XXX | Arguments in the Arts, Religion, and/or Politics |

B. Critical Reading, Writing, and Information Literacy (4-8 hours)

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

1. read for critical comprehension
2. write for a specific audience and purpose, employing discipline-specific language
3. locate, evaluate, and apply information appropriate to a specific audience and purpose

*Potential Courses*

| ENGL 101 | English Composition I |
| ENGL 102 | English Composition II |

C. Communication Across Cultures (3-6 hours)

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

1. apply foreign language skills consistent with the level of study
2. identify cultural perspectives through language study

*Potential Courses*

| SPAN XXX | Spanish |
| ITAL XXX | Italian |
| GERM XXX | German |
| FREN XXX | French |
D. Quantitative Literacy (3-4 hours)

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

1. interpret quantitative results in context
2. apply mathematical and/or statistical concepts to solve problems

*Potential Courses*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH XXX</td>
<td>Mathematics Course above the 130 level</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT XXX</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics</td>
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II. Critical Inquiry (19-20 hours)

Goal: The Core Curriculum seeks to introduce students to methods of inquiry and practice within and across disciplines, including scientific concepts and the practice of scientific inquiry, individual and social human behavior, and humanistic thought and expression from a national and global perspective.

All students are required to take one course in Science, two courses with different prefixes in Human and Social Behavior, and two courses with different prefixes in Humanistic Thought and Expression. In addition, students must take one additional course from any one of the inquiry areas.

A. Science (4 hours)

Objective: Students will recognize scientific evidence and apply the basic principles of scientific inquiry.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

1. apply the methods of scientific inquiry
2. analyze evidence using scientific methods

*Potential Courses*

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCIE XXX</td>
<td>Traditional Science Lecture and Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCIE XXX</td>
<td>Science in Science Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSCI XXX</td>
<td>Intro to Programming</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSCI XXX</td>
<td>Hurricanes and Coastal Living</td>
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B. Human and Social Behavior (6 hours)

Objective: Students will recognize a variety of social perspectives and contexts, and identify connections among individual and group behaviors within and across cultures.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

1. apply methods of inquiry to investigate social behavior
2. analyze and illustrate the connections among individual and group behaviors
Potential Courses

PSYC XXX  Traditional Introduction to Psychology
SOC XXX  Traditional Introduction to Sociology
PSYC XXX  Psychological Well Being: How to Be Sane in an Insane World
EXSS XXX  Exercise and Lifetime Health
ECON XXX  Personal Finance
HPRO XXX  Personal Wellness
COMM XXX  Digital Citizenship
EDUC XXX  Education Reform and Public Policy
WGS XXX  Women in a Global Context
RSM XXX  Coaching Principles

C. Humanistic Thought and Creative Expression (6 hours)

Objective: Students will recognize, identify, and engage with a variety of perspectives and concepts in the humanities and the arts, and evaluate forms of human expression within and across cultures.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

1. apply methods of inquiry in the humanities and arts
2. critically interpret forms of human and creative expression

Potential Courses

HIST XXX  Traditional Survey of History
HIST XXX  Native American History and Life
HIST XXX  World War II
ARTH XXX  Traditional Art Appreciation
MUS XXX  Traditional Music Appreciation
THEA XXX  Intro to Acting
COMM XXX  Speech
HIST/MUS XXX  Spirituals to Rock and Roll – The Story of How American Popular Music Conquered the World
ENGL XXX  Shakespeare and Modern Media
POLI XXX  Freedom Fighters or Terrorists: contexts of oppression
RELG XXX  World Religions