

Understanding Texas Education Core Curriculum:

Core affects any student who pursues an undergraduate degree here at Lamar University.

- **New Students**
 - Students should follow their approved Plan of Study, as outlined by their advisor
- **Students who transfers to Lamar University from a Texas Public Institution**
 - Attributed course work must be accepted, as described below
- **Students who change their major**
 - Attributed course work must be accepted, as described below
- **Students who are considered Post Bac – obtaining an additional bachelor’s degree**
 - These students are not automatically considered core completed. Core must be completed for the new degree.

If a course is considered core at a Texas Public Institution it will be given a transparent core attribute of:

010	Communication	6 SCH
020	Mathematics	3 SCH
030	Life & Physical Science	6 SCH
040	Language, Philosophy & Culture	3 SCH
050	Creative Arts	3 SCH
060	American History	6 SCH
070	Government/Political Science	6 SCH
080	Social & Behavioral Sciences	3 SCH
090	Component Area Option (A & B)	6 SCH

- **If a student completes a core requirement at a Texas Public Institution, then we must recognize that core class for what it has been attributed – Example, 010 will take the place of 010 at Lamar University.**

*If a student took a course that was part of the Texas Core Curriculum at the sending institution, the receiving institution is required by law, **Texas Education Code Section 61.822(d)**, to award credit for the course within the receiving institution’s core. **Coordinating Board rule 4.28(e)** states that a student “shall receive academic credit within the core curriculum of the receiving institution for each of the courses that the student has successfully completed in the core curriculum of the sending institution.”*

- **If an attributed course is considered a 090 at the sending institution, but is equivalent to an attributed course here that is a 010, then it can be used for 010 or 090. This also goes for courses that are 020 and 090 or 030 and 090...**

Example: ENGL 1302 is attributed as a 010 at many schools, but considered a 090 here. It can actually be used in the 010 or 090 field.

- **If the course does not come over as equivalent, then it can only be used towards the attribute it was given at the sending institution.**
- **Advisors and/or faculty advisors cannot require students, who have completed a core requirement, to take core courses preferred by their college and/or department, if the requirement has already been met.**

The acronym CAO incorporates the word “option,” because institutions have an option in the kind of courses they offer. For example, if a student successfully completed two physics courses for the CAO, he/she cannot be required to take



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another humanities course only because it is a requirement for students at the receiving institution. The question is one of time and cost. Requiring courses, in addition to those already taken, is not aligned with the statute, which says a student “shall receive academic credit within the core curriculum of the receiving institution for each of the courses that the student has successfully completed in the core curriculum of the sending institution” (Texas Education Code Section 61.822(d)).

TEC Section 61.822(d) states, “Following receipt of credit for these courses, the student may be required to satisfy further course requirements in the core curriculum of the receiving institution.” So, if the student took only three SCH for the CAO at the sending institution, then the receiving institution, after giving credit for the first three SCH, can make requirements for the remaining three SCH the student has yet to take. The institution should keep the best interest of the student in mind in considering whether the required course differs substantially from those already taken.

*****Exception to this rule, if the course is a pre-requisite to a course required for the major, then the student can be advised to take the course. These courses will NOT count towards core, they will count toward the 30 credits allowed for remedial/pre-requisites.**

- **If a student, takes it upon themselves, to take a course at another institution (e.g., over the summer) Lamar University is not required to accept the core course, unless written authorization has provided that it has been approved for use.**

A student must follow the curriculum requirements of the institution where the student is seeking a degree. If concurrently enrolled at another institution, a student should be advised on which courses apply to the curriculum requirements at the institution where the student is seeking a degree (Coordinating Board rule 4.28(d)).

- **If a student has been deemed core complete at a Texas Public Institution, then the student is considered core complete here.**

Please notify us at degreeaudit@lamar.edu, if the audit does not reflect core requirements have not been met.

- **If a student is pursuing an additional bachelors (post-bac), the student may or may not be considered core complete. It will depend on the “due diligence in evaluating courses for credit”.**

The core curriculum requirement must be completed for the new degree. This does not mean that a student should not get core curriculum credit for courses taken in the past, even if those courses are not absolutely aligned with the current core requirements. The institution that would grant core credit now should use due diligence in evaluating courses for credit. A student should not be made to repeat work already done. A student transferring in from another state with a completed bachelor degree may have taken six SCH of government. But the student would likely not have taken Texas government as required by statute and would have to do so in order to achieve the new bachelor degree.

