

The FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM

Hardin-Simmons University

HSU's Foundational Curriculum seeks to develop the mind and nurture the spiritual life of students by establishing a core of knowledge meant to sharpen academic skills. Additionally, the Foundational Curriculum offers students the opportunity to extend experience in those skills necessary beyond the bachelor's degree for adjusting to differing roles, adapting to varying levels of responsibility, choosing and following productive career and life opportunities, and engaging in lifelong learning and personal growth. Rooted in the liberal arts and in HSU's commitment to prepare leaders for lives of service, the Foundational Curriculum actively involves students in intellectual life, both on the campus of HSU and in the larger communities of Abilene and the world.

As a result of HSU's Foundational Curriculum, graduates are expected to achieve the following levels of aptitude:

SKILL-FOCUSED

COMPETENCY I:

Graduates are expected to write at a C+ level or higher [number grade of a 76 or, by the current rubric, a score of 4 or higher].

COMPETENCY II:

Graduates should have basic analytical and quantitative skills necessary for handling information in mathematical form.

COMPETENCY III:

Graduates should be able to think critically and approach religious, philosophical, and aesthetic issues analytically.

DISCIPLINE-FOCUSED

COMPETENCY IV:

Graduates should be acquainted with ideas, information, and modes of inquiry to draw upon in multiple areas of their lives.

COMPETENCY V:

Graduates should be able to recognize parallels between and among disciplines and apply knowledge, skills, or abilities learned in one discipline to another

COMPETENCY VI:

Graduates should demonstrate appropriate psychomotor skills and apply wellness principles through participation in fitness, recreation, and sports activities.

Offering students the opportunity to hone the skills necessary for these competencies, HSU's FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM consists of:

Skill-Focused Courses: a series of requirements to reinforce academic proficiencies.

Consists of courses specifically designed to emphasize writing, oral communication, and quantitative literacy. Note: Students may use external Credit such as AP, CLEP, & transfer courses to meet the competency requirements.

Effective Communication:

Writing: Freshman Writing I and II strengthen and sharpen skills in written communication, critical reading, and analyses as well as rhetorical and bibliographic skills.

(6 hours / 2 courses)

Speaking: Freshman Communications focuses on developing effective oral communication skills. **(3 hours / 1 course)**

Quantitative Reasoning:

Freshman-level Math explores mathematical models and principles, honing logical thinking. *Majors in the sciences, BUSI, or MATH should consult academic area of the catalog for specific course requirements.* **(3 hours / 1 course)**

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Discipline-Focused Courses: designed to acquaint students with ideas, information, and modes of inquiry to draw upon in every area of their lives; to perceive relationships between different fields of study; and to enhance abilities in reading, writing, mathematics, and information technology. These courses recognize parallels between and among disciplines and apply knowledge, skills, or abilities learned in one discipline to another. Includes courses in Fitness, Fine Arts, Literature, Biblical Studies, Humanities, Science, and the Social Sciences.

Chapel: all undergraduate students have the opportunity and are expected to attend chapel services in Behrens Auditorium. (Minimum requirement: 80 for 4-year degree, minimum of 10 credits per long term for entire term to be valid)

Fitness Education: FSSC 1170 plus two additional one-hour activity courses teach skills necessary to promote good health throughout the student's entire life span.
(3 hours / three 1-hour courses)

Fine Arts and Literature (6 hours / 2 courses)

• **Visual Arts, Music, or Theatre:** A deeper appreciation for any of these three areas in the fine arts will enhance the student's efforts to interpret meaning in life, will enrich his or her aesthetic experiences, and will more clearly associate connections between historical events, cultural values, and creative expression. **(3 hours / 1 course)**

• **Literary Studies:** Sophomore literature survey reads a wide variety of materials within Western culture to further develop understanding of the aesthetic and cultural dimensions of the human experience. This course builds reading, thinking, and research skills in analyzing and evaluating literary works. **(3 hours / 1 course)**

Biblical Studies: Old Testament 1301 and New Testament 1302 studies look at the roots and principles of Christianity in order to probe the spiritual nature of being and understand the spiritual context in which we live. **(6 hours / 2 courses)**

Humanities: *Note: the following is not meant as a definition of the discipline of Humanities but as a definition of HSU's expectations of those courses used to fulfill the Humanities requirement in HSU's Foundational Curriculum. Courses related to the Humanities which do not wish to be accepted for Foundational Humanities' credit are not affected.*

Humanities in HSU's Foundational Curriculum require a three-hour course which "...explores issues of morality and value...[and] provides a venue in which the expression of differing interpretations and experiences can be recognized and areas of common interest explored" (White* 263). Humanities courses in HSU's Foundational Curriculum encourage multi-disciplinary and / or multi-cultural approaches to the study of areas such as arts (music, drama / theater, visual arts [painting, sculpture, etc.]), literature, architecture, religion, philosophy, economics, and government. **No course taken for Humanities credit may be counted toward any other part of the Foundational Curriculum.**
(3 hours / 1 course)

HSU'S CATALOG CONTAINS A LIST OF COURSES FULFILLING HUMANITIES REQUIREMENTS.

*White, Lyn Maxwell. "The Humanities," in *Handbook of the Undergraduate Curriculum: A Comprehensive Guide to Purposes, Structures, Practices, and Change*. Eds. Jerry G. Gaff, James L. Ratcliff, et. al. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1997. 262-279.

Natural & Physical Sciences: One three-hour course and one four-hour (lab) course in any two fields from the Natural & Physical Sciences provide insights into the nature of life, into the

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universe, and into human relations to the earth, sources of significant concepts which have impacted other areas of human thought and endeavor. In addition, students experience using scientific technology to confront problems of global concern. *Majors in the sciences* should consult academic area of the catalog for specific course requirements. **(7 hours / 2 courses)**

Social and Behavioral Sciences: Analyzing human interaction, both historical and contemporary, individual and group, in diverse arenas is an essential dynamic in liberal arts education. The student chooses, **from at least two fields outside the major**, four or more courses (depending on degree) from the following areas, with two of these courses in the same area to reflect a year's study in that field. **(Usually 12-18 hours / 4-6 courses, depending on degree sought)**

Social Sciences:

Economics: BUSI requires three courses

Political Science: EDUC requires 1302 *or* 2301

History: EDUC requires 1301 and 1302

Behavioral Sciences:

Psychology: EDUC requires 3333

Sociology

Additionally, all HSU students are required to meet HSU's **Technological Competency**. In order for a student at HSU to be considered technologically competent, he or she must have familiarity with the basic terms, tools, and concepts of information technology and operating systems and have ability to use applications software such as Internet browsers, word processing software, presentation software, spreadsheets, and other applications appropriate to the student's field of study. In most degrees, successfully completing CSCI 1303 will fulfill this requirement, and students may use the departmental exam offered by the Kelley College of Business to receive credit for this competency. **Exceptions** include teacher certification programs which require EDUC 1306; any major in the Department of Art, which requires Art 2303; all areas of Business, which require BSAD 3367; Criminal Justice, which may substitute CSCI 3332; the Psychology major which requires PSYC 2101; Music degrees, which require MUTC 2338; and Fitness and Sport Sciences major which requires FSSC 1301. Other exceptions may exist; consult specific program areas to determine the appropriate course in each major for meeting this competency.