

UTRGV Core Curriculum Review

Related to Senate Bill 37 (2025), THECB, and UT System Requirements

UTRGV is required by state law, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and The University of Texas System to review and revise the courses that make up our Core Curriculum. The purpose of this page is to explain the guidelines governing our review, so that we work together following the same criteria in order to revise our Core Curriculum.

1. The State Mandate — Senate Bill 37 (2025)

[SB 37](#) amends Texas Education Code Section 51.315 to require every governing board to conduct a comprehensive review of its institutions' general education (Core) curriculum at least once every five years. In that review, the law requires that every core course:

- Be foundational and fundamental to a sound postsecondary education;
- Be necessary to prepare students for civic and professional life;
- Equip students for participation in the workforce and in the betterment of society; and
- Ensure breadth of knowledge in compliance with applicable accreditation standards.

Section 51.315 also requires the Board to weigh the cost a course or requirement imposes on students (tuition, fees, and time-to-degree) and it requires UTRGV to certify compliance to the Board and to THECB.

2. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)

Independent of SB 37 (2025), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board already sets the structure every [Texas core curriculum](#) must follow: eight Foundational Component Areas (plus a Component Area Option) and six Core Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Empirical & Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility. Each core course must meet the requisite set of THECB Core Objectives, as well as adhere to the requirements of Section 51.315.

THECB has also convened a statewide General Education Curriculum Advisory Committee, due to report by December 2026, that may further reduce the number of courses institutions may count toward the core, so our list should be built to withstand tightening, not just today's rules.

3. The University of Texas System

The UT System Board of Regents holds final authority over the review and certification process for our core curriculum. UTRGV's reviewed course list and supporting rationale move through System review before certification is submitted to THECB and the Legislature.

To implement Section 51.315's requirements and the THECB Core Objectives, the UT System has set the following criteria to apply directly to individual courses in our Core Curriculum:

- **Build transferable capacity:** Cultivate enduring concepts and critical-thinking skills that carry across academic, professional, and civic settings, rather than knowledge tied narrowly to one context.

- **Provide intellectual breadth:** Engage students with foundational concepts, perspectives, and methods from beyond a single field or discipline.
- **Prepare students for civic and professional life:** Foster effective communication, ethical reasoning, collaboration, and the capacity to analyze and address complex, unstructured problems.
- **Enable application beyond the classroom:** Give students the chance to apply knowledge and skills to contexts or problems outside the course itself.
- **Efficient degree completion:** Support efficient degree completion and avoid imposing unnecessary cost or delay on students, consistent with the course's broader educational purpose beyond any single discipline.

All core courses will be reviewed to ensure they meet all five criteria. UTRGV's current Core Curriculum includes a large course inventory, with many offerings too narrow in scope or too discipline-bound to serve the Core's broader purpose. Core courses that do not meet all criteria may be moved out of the institutional Core Curriculum but will remain in the course inventory and can be offered to meet other college/program level requirements.