

DEGREE PLAN TEMPLATE AND CURRICULUM STANDARDS

| Major | Degree Type | Department | Catalog Year |
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| A. Core Curriculum - 42 hours |
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| The 42-hour Core Curriculum is part of each student’s degree plan and includes courses that meet requirements common to all UTRGV undergraduates. <i>The Core Curriculum serves as a broad foundation for the undergraduate degree. All candidates for a bachelor’s degree must achieve core student learning outcomes, including communication, critical thinking, empirical and quantitative skills, teamwork, personal responsibility and social responsibility, by completing courses within each category or component area of the Core Curriculum</i> as outlined below. The University has approved specific courses that satisfy Core Curriculum Requirements. Approved courses can be found in this link . |
| Using Courses in the Core and Major or Minor: Students seeking the most efficient way to complete the core curriculum and major or minor requirements are advised to take approved courses that can fulfill both requirements. |
| Category/Component Area and Credit Hours Required |
| 010 Communication (6 hours) |
| 020 Mathematics (3 hours) |
| 030 Life and Physical Sciences (6 hours) |
| 040 Language, Philosophy & Culture (3 hours) |
| 050 Creative Arts (3 hours) |
| 060 American History (6 hours) |
| 070 Government/Political Science (6 hours) |
| 080 Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 hours) |
| 090 Integrative & Experiential Learning (6 hours) |

| B. MAJOR REQUIREMENTS – X Hours |
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| <i>Major requirements include required courses, restricted electives, concentrations, and support courses as applicable. Required courses typically draw largely from one academic department; however, interdisciplinary programs may include courses from more than one department.</i> The minimum institutional requirements for a major are 30 semester credit hours including a minimum of 15 advanced credit hours; however, majors may exceed these requirements. Courses used to fulfill the core and major add no additional credits to the degree plan. Programs have some degree of flexibility with how they organize section B.1 and B.2 below. The major should include no hidden prerequisites (<u>exception</u> : programs with specific mathematics or other readiness requirement linked to accreditation, licensing, etc.). <i>Hidden prerequisites are required for enrollment in specific required or elective courses on the degree plan, but not counted towards degree plan hours. For grade point average (GPA) calculation, all courses listed under B.1, B.2, B.3, and B.4 will be used to calculate the major GPA.</i> |
| 1. Required Courses - X hours |
| <i>Required courses provide a foundation for in-depth understanding of the discipline. Required courses are taken by all students in the major.</i> The required course list may be developed as one comprehensive set of courses or the list may be organized by topics with required credit hours and course levels in each option and a required number of topics to be selected. <i>List all required discipline courses. Required courses that will also fulfill core curriculum requirements should be listed in this section.</i> |

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| <p>Topic 1 – [Topic 1 Name] Course Prefix, Number and Title Course Prefix, Number and Title</p> |
| <p>Topic 2 – [Topic 2 Name] Course Prefix, Number and Title Course Prefix, Number and Title</p> |
| <p>Topic 3 – [Topic 3 Name] Course Prefix, Number and Title Course Prefix, Number and Title</p> |
| <p>2. Prescribed Electives - X hours</p> |
| <p><i>Prescribed electives provide guidance to students for exploring courses within the discipline or field of study. Prescribed electives complement required courses and are numerous enough to provide breadth and depth of study.</i> The prescribed elective list may be developed as one comprehensive set indicating that the student can choose from ANY course. Alternatively, the list may be organized by topics with prescribed credit hours and course levels in each option and a prescribed number of topics to be selected. Prescribed electives is being standardized to refrain from the use of “technical electives” and “guided electives.” “Technical” can be interpreted as accepting technical courses and can cause confusion regarding transferable credit. Prescribed elective is the term used by THECB. <i>List all prescribed electives. {note: section not limited to 3 topic areas}</i></p> |
| <p>Topic 1 – [Topic 1 Name] Course Prefix, Number and Title Course Prefix, Number and Title</p> |
| <p>Topic 2 – [Topic 2 Name] Course Prefix, Number and Title Course Prefix, Number and Title</p> |
| <p>Topic 3 – [Topic 3 Name] Course Prefix, Number and Title Course Prefix, Number and Title</p> |
| <p>3. [Name] Concentration(s) - X hours</p> |
| <p><i>A concentration is a designated and coherent set of courses designed to develop an area of emphasis within the major.</i> A minimum of two concentrations must be identified to use this designation on the degree plan. Concentrations are identified on university transcripts at the time of graduation; therefore, similar terms such as specialization or tracks will no longer be used. <i>List courses that constitute a concentration, if applicable. If no concentration will be required, leave this section blank. {note: programs are encouraged, but not required to have separate degree plans for each concentration}</i></p> |
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| <p>4. Support Courses – X hours</p> |
| <p><i>Support courses consist of a brief list from one or multiple fields, often outside, but complementary to the discipline, that provide pre- or co-requisite knowledge, skills and experiences for success in the major.</i> List required courses that support student success in the major field, if applicable. Identify the support courses as pre- or co-requisites to required discipline courses, guided electives, and concentration courses, if applicable. If no support courses will be identified, leave this section blank. Support courses are included in the major GPA calculation.</p> |
| <p>Course Prefix, Number and Title [prerequisite or co-requisite for COURSE NAME or OTHER REQUIREMENT]</p> |

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| C. MINOR (placeholder for minor if required by program) | |
| <p><i>A minor is a designated area of study outside of the major that allows the student to explore a secondary discipline or field of study. Minors are approved by the Undergraduate Committee and must be completed concurrently with the undergraduate degree.</i> The discipline to be studied through the minor is not prescribed by the college, department or major. It is at the discretion of the college/school, department or program to determine whether programs must include a minor. Not all minors are a standard 18 semester credit hours; therefore, it is advisable to designate free elective hours instead of a minor when a degree plan only has 18 semester credit hours available after all major requirements have been met. Free electives can be used towards a minor at the student’s discretion and can be recommended through advisement. Minors are identified on the university transcript at the time of graduation. Students may use minor hours toward hours needed to attain a double major. The minor should include no hidden prerequisites. <i>Hidden prerequisites are required for enrollment in specific required or elective courses on the degree plan, but not counted towards degree plan hours.</i> Indicate if a minor <i>MUST</i> be completed in order to attain this degree.</p> | |
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| D. FREE ELECTIVES – X hours | |
| <p><i>Free electives are courses with no prescribed or restricted list of courses.</i> Only those degree plans not meeting 120 credit hours with major required courses, major prescribed electives, major concentration courses, and major support courses should include free electives. The number of free electives will vary and should enable the student to meet the minimum institutional requirements for a degree. Free electives can be fulfilled from taking courses in ANY discipline. Credit hours earned to meet the UNIV 1301 requirement may be counted towards free electives. Students may use free elective credit hours towards attaining a minor, certificate or double major. Additional advanced free elective credit hours should not be required if the total advanced hours on all other sections of the degree plan already total 42.</p> | |
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| E. OTHER | |
| Teacher Education Block for certification programs | |

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| Total Hours for Graduation | |
| The total minimum and maximum number of hours in a degree program should not be less or more than 120 unless approved by THECB. | |
| | XXX credit hours |

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| <p>Major Admissions Requirements <i>Major admission requirements are any requirements beyond the institutional requirements to be met to be admitted to the major. Program admission requirements are typically used when the program requires a separate application for admission to the program. This application process is above what is required at the institutional level and can occur as early as the freshmen year and anytime beyond (e.g., after earning 30 credit hours towards the degree). Unlike the institutional admission process, the program admission process is owned by the college, department or program.</i></p> |
| <p>1. List specific admission requirements required for this program beyond university admission requirements.</p> |
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| <p>2. Describe the application process, timeline for admission and office/department responsible.</p> |
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| <p>Major Progression Requirements <i>Major progression requirements are included when programs are sequenced and structured in a manner that requires completion of certain courses with specific grades before advancing to the next sequence of courses. Can also include other benchmark requirements that prohibit progression in the program if not met.</i></p> |
| <p>1. List specific progression requirements required for this program.</p> |
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| <p>2. Describe the progression monitoring process and office/department responsible.</p> |
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| <p>Major Graduation Requirements <i>Major graduation requirements are included when graduation requirements differ from institutional requirements (e.g., GPA in the major greater than 2.5).</i></p> |
| <p>1. List specific graduation requirements required for this program beyond university bachelor's degree requirements.</p> |
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| Checklist for Minimum Institutional Requirements | | | |
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| <p>Institutional requirements are minimum standards to be met by every bachelor's degree seeking student at UTRGV. Major requirements may exceed the institutional requirements. Students pursuing the [PROGRAM NAME] must meet the following minimum institutional requirements for a degree, any others identified in the undergraduate catalog, and any requirement stipulated by the major. Students are accountable for knowing whether their program exceeds the minimum institutional requirements.</p> | | | |
| | Minimum of 120 credit hours (or more ONLY IF approved by THECB) | | Minimum of 42 advanced credit hours overall on the degree plan (majors may require more) |
| | Minimum Major GPA of 2.0 (major may require a higher GPA) | | Minimum of 30 credit hours in the major field (majors may require more) |
| | Minimum Minor GPA of 2.0 (minor may require a higher GPA) | | Minimum of 15 advanced credit hours in the major filed (majors may require more) |
| | Minimum of 42 credit hours core curriculum | | Minimum 25% of credits earned through instruction offered at UTRGV |
| | Minimum grade of C in each first-year writing course for core curriculum | | Degree completed by catalog expiration |
| | Minimum grade of C in mathematics course for core curriculum | | |
| | No courses reused to fulfill both major and minor requirements | | |
| | No courses reused to fulfill requirements for more than one minor | | |

Glossary of Terms:

1. **Degree plan** – is the catalog document that stipulates all course and additional requirements to be met by the student to be awarded a degree in the declared major.
2. **Core Curriculum** - serves as a broad foundation for the undergraduate degree. All candidates for a bachelor's degree must achieve core student learning outcomes, including communication, critical thinking, empirical and quantitative skills, teamwork, personal responsibility and social responsibility, by completing courses within each category or component area of the Core Curriculum.
3. **Major requirements** - include required courses, prescribed electives, concentrations, and support courses as applicable. Required courses typically draw largely from one academic department; however, interdisciplinary programs may include courses from more than one department.
4. **Hidden prerequisites** - Hidden prerequisites are required for enrollment in specific required or elective courses on the degree plan, but not counted towards degree plan hours.
5. **Required courses** - provide a foundation for in-depth understanding of the discipline. Required courses are taken by all students in the program.
6. **Prescribed electives** - provide guidance to students for exploring courses within the discipline or field of study. Prescribed electives complement required courses and are numerous enough to provide breadth and depth of study.
7. **Concentration** - designated and coherent set of courses designed to develop an area of emphasis within the major.
8. **Support courses** - consist of a brief list from one or multiple fields, often outside, but complementary to the discipline, that provide pre- or co-requisite knowledge, skills and experiences for success in the major.
9. **Minor** - A minor is a designated area of study outside of the major that allows the student to explore a secondary discipline or field of study. Minors are approved by the Undergraduate Committee and must be completed concurrently with the undergraduate degree.
10. **Certificate** - A certificate is a designated area of study in a specific academic or technical field that can support a student's educational and career goals. Certificates can be embedded or stand-alone. Embedded certificates require students to be concurrently enrolled in a specific major or degree with the degree and certificate being earned at the same time. Stand-alone certificates are taken by non-degree seeking students and only the certificate is awarded. Not all stand-alone certificates will be eligible for financial aid. Per, Texas Administrative Code, CB Rules, Chapter 5, Subchapter C, Section 5.48, any certificate program above 21 hours for which UTRGV does not already offer an undergraduate degree must be approved by the [THECB](#). This does not apply to teacher certification programs.
11. **Free electives** - courses with no prescribed or restricted list of courses.
12. **General bachelor's degree requirements** - minimum standards to be met by every bachelor's degree seeking student at UTRGV. They include:
 - a. 120 Minimum hours for the degree
 - b. Minimum overall institutional GPA of 2.0
 - c. Minimum Major and Minor GPA of 2.0
 - d. Minimum grade of C in Core Curriculum First-year Writing Course

- e. Minimum Grade of C in Core Curriculum Mathematics Course
 - f. Degree plan requirements
 - g. Minimum of 30 Major Credit Hours
 - h. Minimum 42 Advanced Hours Overall
 - i. Graduation Under a Specific Catalog policy
 - j. Residency requirement
 - k. Re-using a course policy
 - l. Graduate courses policy
13. **Major admission requirements** - any requirements beyond the institutional requirements to be met to be admitted to the major.
14. **Major progression requirements** - included when programs are sequenced and structured in a manner that requires completion of certain courses with specific grades before advancing to the next sequence of course. Can also include other benchmark requirements that prohibit progression in the program if not met.
15. **Major graduation requirements** - included when graduation requirements differ from institutional requirements.

Credit Hour Policies:

1. **Core curriculum credit hours** - The Core Curriculum includes a minimum of 42 credit hours.
2. **Major credit hours** - The minimum institutional requirements for a major are 30 semester credit hours including a minimum of 15 advanced credit hours; however, programs may exceed these requirements.
3. **Advanced credit hours** – A minimum of 42 hours of advanced-level (3000/4000) work must be completed to earn a bachelor’s degree at UTRGV. Programs may require additional advanced hours; however, advanced free elective credit hours should not be required if the total advanced hours on all other sections of the degree plan already total 42.