

THECB Core Area Descriptions

(A) COMMUNICATION (6 SCH)

- (i) Courses in this category focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively.
- (ii) Courses involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.
- (iii) The following four core objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: *Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility.*

(B) MATHEMATICS (3 SCH)

- (i) Courses in this category focus on quantitative literacy in logic, patterns, and relationships.
- (ii) Courses involve the understanding of key mathematical concepts and the application of appropriate quantitative tools to everyday experience.
- (iii) The following three core objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: *Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, and Empirical and Quantitative Skills.*

(C) LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES (6 SCH)

- (i) Courses in this category focus on describing, explaining, and predicting natural phenomena using the scientific method.
- (ii) Courses involve the understanding of interactions among natural phenomena and the implications of scientific principles on the physical world and on human experiences.
- (iii) The following four core objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: *Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, and Teamwork.*

(D) LANGUAGE, PHILOSOPHY, AND CULTURE (3 SCH)

- (i) Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience.
- (ii) Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.
- (iii) The following four core objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: *Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.*

(E) CREATIVE ARTS (3 SCH)

- (i) Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination.
- (ii) Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.
- (iii) The following four core objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: *Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Teamwork, and Social Responsibility.*

(F) AMERICAN HISTORY (6 SCH)

- (i) Courses in this category focus on the consideration of past events and ideas relative to the United States, with the option of including Texas History for a portion of this component area.
- (ii) Courses involve the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role.
- (iii) The following four core objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: *Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.*

(G) GOVERNMENT/POLITICAL SCIENCE (6 SCH)

- (i) Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas.
- (ii) Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.
- (iii) The following four core objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: *Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.*

(H) SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (3 SCH)

- (i) Courses in this category focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human.
- (ii) Courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.
- (iii) The following four core objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: *Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, and Social Responsibility.*

(I) INTEGRATIVE AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (UTRGV'S COMPONENT AREA OPTION) (6 SCH)

- (A) Courses in this category involve interdisciplinary topics or approaches and/or learning through direct experience.
- (B) Courses in this area must also meet the definition, criteria, and core objectives specified in one of the foundational component areas outlined above.