University Curriculum Requirements (UCR)

Texas Christian University seeks to provide undergraduate instruction that will help its students (1) understand the social and physical world, (2) appreciate our history and cultures, (3) develop the capacity for rational choices, creative thinking and expression, and responsible citizenship, (4) cultivate the skills needed for the lifelong pursuit of learning. To serve these objectives the University Curriculum Requirements include Foundations-requirements in written expression and in mathematics; and Explorations -requirements in specified areas of human knowledge and experience.

I. FOUNDATIONS: 9 credit hours

The Foundations requirements, which include courses to refine and enhance skills in critical reading, written composition, and mathematics, allow students beginning the undergraduate curriculum to increase their proficiency in these essential skills.

A. Writing Requirement - 6 credit hours, and the Writing Emphasis Experience

1. Writing Workshop - 6 credit hours

This requirement is to be met by courses designated "Writing Workshop," with no more than three of these hours in freshman-level study. Writing Workshop courses assume the student's successful completion of four units of high school English.

This requirement is to be met by at least one course in various modes of composition, including analytical writing and research techniques and writing. Both writing courses are to include a reading component providing composition models of suitable kinds. Student writing in these courses is expected to increase competence in grammar, mechanics, and other conventions customary in written discourse.

AP or CLEP credit may satisfy up to 6 hours of the writing requirement.

2. Writing Emphasis Experience

To allow juniors and seniors to increase their writing skills, the University Curriculum includes a writing emphasis component. This requirement, which ordinarily should not increase the credit hours required by the University Curriculum, is to be satisfied by two upper-division courses (three credit hours for each) with a "writing emphasis" designation. Because any academic unit of the University may offer courses with a writing emphasis, courses satisfying other baccalaureate degree requirements may also meet the writing emphasis requirement of the University Curriculum. Writing should occur throughout the course and total a minimum of 2500 words.

B. Mathematics - 3 credit hours

This requirement is to be satisfied by Department of Mathematics courses at or above the freshman level. Appropriate courses assume the student's successful completion of three units of high school mathematics: two in algebra and one in geometry.

AP or CLEP credit may satisfy this requirement.

II. EXPLORATIONS: 36 credit hours

The Explorations requirements assure that all baccalaureate candidates encounter certain broad areas of knowledge. Through this experience, the student will gain knowledge and perspectives by studying various domains of human knowledge and experience.
The Explorations requirements allow no more than 6 credit hours from courses in a single department or in that department's cross-listed courses. This limitation applies regardless of the UCR groups in which the department's course offerings appear. Approved integrative courses are excluded from this restriction.

Satisfactory fulfillment of an Explorations section requires completion of a prescribed minimum number of credit hours and not more than a stated maximum number of credit hours. Minimum requirements of the four sections total thirty credit hours. The additional 6 credit hours may be selected from any of the four sections but the credit hour maximum of a section may not be exceeded.

A. Physical and Life Sciences - minimum of 6 credit hours, maximum of 9 credit hours

(NOTE: Courses in mathematics and computer science do not satisfy this requirement.)

6 credit hours must be in laboratory courses such as those offered in biology, chemistry, geology, physics, psychology.

The purpose of the requirement is to include study in scientific disciplines in which observation, deduction, and analytical reasoning are essential methods. The requirement also ensures that students gain an understanding of scientific discoveries achieved by such methods.

Courses meeting this requirement involve observing experimental parameters, recording and interpreting such observations, and drawing conclusions based on appropriate theoretical frameworks. The experimental dimension is to include appropriate mathematical concepts and applications. Students are also required to demonstrate their ability to present such material in a narrative form.

B. Social Sciences - minimum of 6 credit hours, maximum of 9 credit hours

The 6 hour minimum is to be satisfied by courses using the methods of one or more of the social sciences. The courses customarily will include study of institutions as they affect individuals and groups. The approach to such study is through disciplines such as economics, political science, and sociology.

C. Cultural Heritage - minimum of 12 credit hours, maximum of 15 credit hours

The minimum must be distributed as specified below. The additional 3 hours can be in any subsection of Section C. Students are encouraged to take courses which explore cultures other than their own.

1. Religion-Studies - minimum of 3 credit hours. Courses satisfying this requirement examine the role of religion in human culture, with this examination directed to a single religion or to a comparative consideration of major religions. These courses include appropriate historical study as well as texts important to the religions.

2. Historical Studies - minimum of 3 credit hours. The minimum is to be met by a 3-credit-hour course in U.S. historical studies. Courses meeting this requirement make evident the methods of history. Such courses may be general in their subject matter or specific or topical in focus, but are to encourage the development of a critical and evaluative attitude toward historical texts and sources.

3. Critical Inquiry - minimum of 3 credit hours. Courses satisfying this requirement are primarily critical/evaluative in approach. This approach can be applied to modes of inquiry, to methods in various disciplines, or to public issues and contemporary views. These courses make evident the individual's responsibility for making informed decisions.
4. Fine Arts - minimum of 3 credit hours. The requirement is to be met by critical and/or historical courses studying one or more of the fine arts (e.g., theater, music, visual arts). Performance courses do not satisfy this requirement.

D. Language and Oral Communication/Literature - minimum of 6 credit hours, maximum of 9 credit hours

If foreign language study is used to meet this requirement, the 6-credit-hour minimum must be in the same language. Students may demonstrate competency in a language other than English by meeting the TCU non-language undergraduate requirement (and earn credit for this requirement) in a variety of ways. First, the student may meet the requirement by successful completion of course work at TCU, or by approved transfer credit from another institution, as specified in each academic major and receive the number of credit hours earned in those courses. Additionally, a student may provide evidence of competency in the non-English language by: (1) scores on standardized tests approved by the University, for which the student will receive 3-12 hours of credit depending on the examination score; or (2) successful completion of one academic year in a secondary or post-secondary institution in which the language of instruction is other than English, for which the student will receive 12 hours of credit.

Students electing the oral communication/literature option are to meet the minimum in both of these disciplines.

1. Foreign Language - minimum of 6 credit hours. Foreign Language courses at or above the freshman level satisfy this requirement.

2. Oral Communication and Literature - minimum of 6 credit hours.
   a. Oral Communication - minimum of 3 credit hours. This requirement is satisfied by courses directed to developing skills in oral communication; to training in clear, logical, and persuasive communication appropriate in various contexts; and to evaluating such communication.
   b. Literature - minimum of 3 credit hours. Courses satisfying this requirement enable students to learn to analyze and criticize literary texts. These courses are to include appropriate historical, biographical, and ideological materials, and to be developed around a single writer or group of writers, a period, a literary form or genre, and/or critical theories by which the same works are examined by various means.

III. HEALTH CONCEPTS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION: 2 credit hours

One credit hour of this requirement must be in a course presenting health concepts and strategies important for continuing participation in a sport or exercise. Such one-hour courses may also include instruction in mind-body interaction, stress management, nutrition, and physical exercise as important to health maintenance.

The second credit hour of this requirement may be satisfied by an additional health concepts course. If the second credit hour is satisfied by an activity course, the following substitutions are allowed:

1. Veterans of the Armed Forces may substitute 1 semester hour of academic credit for a Physical Education activity course.

2. ROTC courses in which the student participates in leadership laboratory may be substituted for a Physical Education activity course.
3. Students who participate in the Marching Band or in a Dance technique course may substitute these for Physical Education activity.

4. Students with physical disabilities may substitute 1 hour of academic credit for a Physical Education activity course. To qualify, students must obtain approval of the University physician.

Successfully completed Physical Education courses presented from institutions which grant no credit, or less than one credit hour for a semester course, may be used to fulfill TCU requirements. However, students who receive course credit will receive no more semester hour credit than was allowed by the issuing institution.

**NOTES:**

1. 6 hours of UCR credits in a given department may be applied to other baccalaureate requirements in that department such as those for major, minor, teaching specialty, etc.

2. Students transferring to TCU must complete a minimum of 6 hours in Writing Emphasis courses and also satisfy the Critical Inquiry requirement at TCU.

3. No more than 8 semester hours of Physical Education activity courses may be applied toward graduation requirements.