KU Core Communications – Spring 2023

Greetings from the University Core Curriculum Committee –

The 2022-2023 University Core Curriculum Committee has been involved in a number of activities beyond our usual business of approving new courses for the KU Core, reviewing student petitions, and recertifying courses.  The major addition to the committee’s responsibilities was to align the KU Core with the new Kansas Board of Regents Systemwide General Education Framework.

Regular committee activities:

Our committee consists of faculty and students who are responsible for overseeing the implementation of the KU Core Curriculum.  We do this through certification of new courses and experiential learning activities for inclusion in the KU Core, approval of student petitions seeking transfer courses to satisfy KU Core requirements, and recertification of courses already included in the KU Core.  We have returned to in-person committee meetings, with opportunities for remote / hybrid meetings as needed.

During the 2022-2023 academic year the committee was tasked with recertification of courses approved for KU Core Goal 3AH: Breadth of Knowledge in Arts and Humanities and Goal 2.2: Oral Communication.  In addition, we have worked with the University Assessment Committee on requesting artifacts of student learning associated with both goals as part of our assessment practices for accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission.  I’d like to thank all of the committees and department contacts who have helped to facilitate these submissions and evaluations.

Alignment with the KBOR Statewide General Education Framework

In Fall 2023, the UCCC was tasked to align our current KU Core curriculum with the KBOR Systemwide General Education Framework.  This new statewide framework is designed to increase transparency for general education requirements for students transferring between the Regents institutions.  One of our major goals in this alignment was to preserve the KU Core with as few changes to our current practices as possible.  Vice Provost for Academic Success, Susan Klusmeier and I presented on the KBOR Statewide General Education Framework and the UCCC alignment recommendations to the university community at a [Governance Open Forum](https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1_czbdpdj5) in March. Additional information is provided on the KU Core [website](https://kucore.ku.edu/alignment-systemwide-general-education). At this meeting, we described how each KU Core Goal aligns with the seven KBOR discipline areas, outlined changes to KU Core requirements, and described processes for requesting exceptions to the new policy for the three scenarios allowed by KBOR.

To align with KBOR’s General Education Framework, the following changes will be made to the KU Core:

1. Transitioning Goal 6 from the KU Core to a university capstone course required for graduation (with Governance as a modification to USRR Article 3, Section 1)
2. Adding a lab requirement for Goal 3N courses
3. Discontinuing sequences of courses used to fulfill core goal outcomes
4. Mandating KU Core courses fulfill only one core goal outcome. Future capstone courses will still be based on KU Core Goal 6 learning outcomes but be reviewed at the program level.  As a committee we recognize that these modifications may significantly impact academic units across the university and we appreciate their cooperation in implementing changes to the KU Core to best align with the statewide framework.  The KBOR statewide general education framework will go into effect beginning in Fall 2024. We will continue to work with academic units through that time on practices and strategies for meeting these new requirements.

Updates for AY 2023-2024

In Spring 2023, the UCCC voted to pause KU Core recertifications for AY 2023-2024 to allow for increased attention on the alignment to the KBOR systemwide general education framework, and to provide an opportunity for the committee to evaluate and revise KU Core goal outcome language to support the university’s Institutional Learning Goals. The UCCC will restart the recertification process in AY 2024-2025 with Goals 3N and 4.1.

In addition, we will also pause approval of new courses to the KU Core for Fall 2023 as academic units finalize their KU Core course plans and respond to the KBOR exception process.  We will, however, make an exception to review KU Core courses with an immediate need (e.g., Goal 3N courses with labs as programs create and modify courses to align with new KBOR requirements, or Goals 1-5 for new undergraduate degree programs).  Please contact the UCCC if this applies to any courses in the pipeline for approval.

Haufler Award

The deadline for the Christopher Haufler KU Core Innovation Award is Friday, April 28, 2023. We encourage you to nominate KU Core courses that demonstrate creative and forward-thinking in course design, delivery, and/or assessment of student learning. More details on the nomination process, selection criteria, and past award recipients are available [**here**](https://kucore.ku.edu/haufler-award).

AY 2022-2023 Highlights:

* Goal 3AH and 2.2 Recertifications
* Alignment with the KBOR Statewide General Education Framework
* Recertifications paused for AY 2023-2024
* General course approvals paused for Fall 2023

Thank you all for your involvement in the KU Core.

Respectfully,

Jon Brumberg, Chair

University Core Curriculum Committee

Associate Professor

Speech-Language-Hearing