

1952-53

It is our belief that there should be **basic courses** in the social sciences, the humanities, and the pure sciences, so that a solid foundation may be provided for specialization. Except in instances of certain professional and pre-professional curricula, the college now requires in all four-year curricula thirty-six semester hours of work distributed as follows:

- English 12 semester hours
- Social Science 12 semester hours
- Science 6 semester hours
- Speech 3 semester hours
- Orientation 3 semester hours

p. 39 (Southwest Texas State Teachers College)

1958-59

In order that all students may possess a broad cultural background in what is regarded as the basic areas of knowledge, a program consisting of 52 semester hours has been established to assure that the requirements of the **general education** are met by all.

It is the belief of our administrative and teaching staffs that there should be basic courses required in such areas as the social sciences, the natural sciences, the humanities, communications, in health, and that some election should be allowed in these required areas. With this thought in mind, the **general education program** consists of the following areas:

- Social Sciences 12 semester hours
- Humanities 10 semester hours
- Science and Mathematics at least 9 semester hours
- Communications 9 semester hours
- Health and Physical Well-being 4 semester hours

Other courses, to make the required total of 52 semester hours chosen ordinarily from the following fields: Humanities, Religion or Bible, Foreign Language, a second laboratory science (Biology, if the first was Chemistry or Physics and vice-versa). p. 41 (Southwest Texas State Teachers College)

1963-64

It is the belief of our administrative and teaching staffs that there should be basic courses required in such areas as the social sciences, the natural sciences, the humanities, communications, in health, and that some education should be allowed in these required areas. With this thought in mind, **academic foundation's program** has been established. p. 50

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS IN GENERAL EDUCATION

(Academic Foundations)

All candidates for graduation with the bachelor's degree are required to offer toward graduation approximately two years of work in General Education—courses affording “common backgrounds and foundations of our social and cultural heritage”—distributed as follows:

- SOCIAL SCIENCES 12 semester hours
 - HUMANITIES 10 semester hours:
 - A. Literature 6 semester hours
 - B. The Arts 2 semester hours
 - C. Philosophy or Religion or Bible 2 semester hours
 - From two of the following (at least 12 hours): science, mathematics, foreign language
 - COMMUNICATIONS 9 semester hours
 - HEALTH AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING 4 semester hours
 - OTHER COURSES, to make the required amount, selected from the arts, sciences, humanities, fine arts, or electives as permitted in the several curricula. (pp. 89-90)
- pp. 50 and 89 (Southwest Texas State College)

1986-88 p. 348 in the INDEX it states that **Academic Foundations (Replaced by General Studies)**

General Studies

The General Studies curriculum has three levels: **Level One, Essential Skills**, initiates the development of university-level skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, mathematics, problem solving, and critical thinking. **Level Two, Disciplinary Perspectives**, provides broad exposure to various branches of academic inquiry to aid the student in developing a comprehensive view of and appreciation for the complexity of contemporary issues and relationships. **Level Three, Integrative Courses**, includes an introduction to the nature of academic inquiry, the organization of knowledge, the community of scholars, the role of the student in the academic community, and a capstone experience which permits the student to integrate and apply skills and perspectives learned in General Studies as well as the major and minor studies. **No more than 12 hours from any one department may be counted for General Studies credit.**

GENERAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

LEVEL ONE – ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- Reading and Writing (6 hours)...
- Speaking and Listening (3 hours)...
- Computation and Mathematics (3 hours)...
- Philosophy and Critical Thinking (3 hours)...

LEVEL TWO – DISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

- The Historical Perspective (6 hours)...
- The Political Perspective (6 hours)...
- The Natural Science Perspective (7 or 8 hours)...
- The Social Science Perspective (3 hours)...
- The Philosophical Perspective (3 hours)
- The International Perspective (3-4 hours)...
- The Literary Perspective (3 hours)...

The Fine Arts Perspective (3 hours)...
The Physical Fitness Perspective (2 activity courses)...

LEVEL THREE – INTEGRATIVE COURSES

General Studies 1100 Introduction to General Studies (1 hour)...
Capstone Course (3 hours)...
pp. 55-62 (Southwest Texas State University)

- 1988-90 “In 1986 the College of General Studies was created to provide a broad, **general education** to all university students, whatever their majors may be....The emphasis on a strong foundation in the liberal arts as well as a solid foundation in basic college skills carries out a goal of the university president, Robert L. Hardesty. Mr. Hardesty, inaugurated in 1981 as the ninth president to serve SWT, is active in national governmental and education affairs. He recently served as chair of the Texas Coordinating Board’s Committee on Testing, a committee whose recommendations led to the signing of HB 2182, a mandatory testing bill to assure that all Texas college students acquire the basic knowledge and skills required of an educated person”. P. 6
“In order to continue SWT upper division coursework past 15 credit hours, students must pass the General Studies Examination in Writing and Mathematics”. p. 48
(Southwest Texas State University)
- 1992-94 **Texas Common Course Numbering System.** The Texas Common Course Numbering System was developed to facilitate transfer of general academic courses between Texas public junior and senior institutions. Common courses are included in the *Community College General Academic Course Guide Manual*, published by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Common course numbers may be used to determine how freshmen and sophomore level courses from Texas public junior institutions transfer to senior institutions. SWT has identified the academic courses within its **General Studies Curriculum** that have equivalent common course numbers. p. 15 (Southwest Texas State University)
- 1996-98 “In order to acquire the fundamental skills and cultural background that are the marks of an educated person, all students at Southwest Texas State University complete a program of **General Studies** which serves as the common foundation for all majors.
Conceptually, the General Studies experience starts with a common integrative Seminar taken by all freshmen, branches out to a series of courses in essential skills and disciplinary perspectives, and then moves on to the student’s chosen major. It then, in many departments, returns to an integrative experience which may be a Capstone course taken during the last year. This course pulls together much of the major and the general education course work.

Thus, at the end of the bachelor's program, the student is prepared not only in a departmental field of study, but also in the general abilities of questioning, explaining, and learning that remain universally useful in a rapidly changing world. Southwest Texas State University graduates have the raw materials to build solutions as they fulfill career and civic responsibilities".

"The **General Studies curriculum accounts for 38 percent of the approximately 130 hours** required for a bachelor's degree. These courses are organized into three broad categories: essential skills, disciplinary perspectives, and integrative courses". p. 64

(Southwest Texas State University)

2002-04

In order to acquire the fundamental skills and cultural background that are the marks of an educated person, all students at SWT complete a program of **general education core curriculum** courses which serves as the common foundation for all majors and accounts for about **35 percent of the approximately 130 semester credit hours** required for a bachelor's degree.

Conceptually, the general education core curriculum experience starts with a common integrative University Seminar taken by all students who have not completed an equivalent college-level course elsewhere, branches out to a series of **component areas**, and then moves on to the student's chosen major....

General Education Core Curriculum Components

- Communication Component (9 hours)
- Mathematics Component (3-4 hours)
- Natural Science Component (7-8 hours)
- Humanities & Visual and Performing Arts Component (9 hours)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences Component (15 hours)
- **SWT Component** (3-4 hours)

pp. 86-87 (Southwest Texas State University)

2014-16

General Education Core Curriculum Components (42 credit hours – 35 percent of approximately 120 semester credit hours required for a bachelor's degree)

- Communication Component (6 hours)
- Mathematics Component (3 hours)
- Life and Physical Sciences Component (6 hours)
- Language, Philosophy, and Culture Component (3 hours)
- Creative Arts Component (3 hours)
- American History Component (6 hours)
- Government/Political Science Component (6 hours)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences Component (3 hours)
- **Texas State Component** (6 hours)

- 2016-17 General Education Core Curriculum Components
- Communication Component Code 010 (6 semester credit hours)
 - Mathematics Component Code 020 (3 semester credit hours)
 - Life and Physical Sciences Component Code 030 (6 semester credit hours)
 - Language, Philosophy, and Culture Component Code 040 (3 semester credit hours)
 - Creative Arts Component Code 050 (3 semester credit hours)
 - American History Component Code 060 (6 semester credit hours)
 - Government/Political Science Component Code 070 (6 semester credit hours)
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences Component Code 080 (3 semester credit hours)
 - **Institutional Designated Area Component Codes 090, 091, and 094 (6 semester credit hours)**

- 2019-2020 General Education Core Curriculum Components
- Communication Component Code 010 (6 semester credit hours)
 - Mathematics Component Code 020 (3 semester credit hours)
 - Life and Physical Sciences Component Code 030 (6 semester credit hours)
 - Language, Philosophy, and Culture Component Code 040 (3 semester credit hours)
 - Creative Arts Component Code 050 (3 semester credit hours)
 - American History Component Code 060 (6 semester credit hours)
 - Government/Political Science Component Code 070 (6 semester credit hours)
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences Component Code 080 (3 semester credit hours)
 - **Institutional Designated Area Component Codes 090, 091, 092, 093, and 094 (6 semester credit hours)**