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**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
*A Member of The Texas State University System*  
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2087

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
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February 8, 1999

TO: Dr. Jimmy Merchant, Chair  
Core Curriculum Committee

Dr. Leroy Ashorn, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

FROM: David E. Payne  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Approval of Core Curriculum Proposal

I am pleased to inform you that the core curriculum proposal as approved by the Core Curriculum Committee, the University Curriculum Committee, the Academic Affairs Council, and the Academic Policy Council has now been approved by President Marks and will come before the Board of Regents at its March meeting. Thank you for your outstanding work in moving this complex and difficult project forward in such an expeditious manner. Your concerted efforts have been of benefit to the entire university and its students.

DEP:dlr



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January 28, 1999

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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Bobby K. Marks  
President  
Sam Houston State University  
Huntsville, TX 77341

Dear Dr. Marks:

The process of moving the revised core curriculum through all the university processes has now been completed pursuant to your approval. The core curriculum has been approved by the Core Curriculum Committee led by Dr. Jimmy Merchant. This committee did an outstanding job of working its way through the complex issues in a very short time period. The core curriculum has also been approved by the University Curriculum Committee, the Academic Affairs Council, and the Academic Policy Council.

I recommend it for your approval and forwarding to the Board of Regents.

Cordially,

David E. Payne  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

DEP:dlr  
Attachment

*2-1-99  
approved for presentation to  
Board of Regents.  
B. K. Marks*

Upon motion of Regent \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Regent \_\_\_\_\_, it was ordered that:

The 45-hour Core Curriculum of Sam Houston State University be approved for submission to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**PROPOSED BACCALAUREATE CORE  
FOR  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

The baccalaureate core is designed to give our students a foundation exposure in the critical areas of components 1-6 and to assist them in developing critical thinking, valuing, and life-long learning skills. The proposed core is in compliance with all Coordinating Board requirements, except four hours are required in Component Area 6 rather than the three in Coordinating Board guidelines. The Coordinating Board criteria allows for this variation when justified by the institution. A number of institutions in the state are making the same proposal as SHSU. The CB staff has indicated a favorable disposition towards this variation. Specifically, the Sam Houston proposal retains one hour in kinesiology and includes a three-hour computer literacy component to meet the CB and SACS computer competency requirements.

Overview

Component Area 1: Communication .....	6 hours
Component Area 2: Mathematics .....	3 hours
Component Area 3: Natural Sciences .....	8 hours
Component Area 4: Humanities & Visual and Performing Arts .....	9 hours
Component Area 5: Social and Behavioral Sciences .....	15 hours
Component Area 6: Institutionally Designated Option.....	<u>4 hours</u>
 Total.....	 45 hours

Detailed Summary

Component Area 1 *Communication*..... 6 hours

English 164: Composition I  
English 165: Composition II

Component Area 2 *Mathematics* ..... 3 hours

Three hours of mathematics (one of the following)

Math 164: College Mathematics  
Math 170: Pre-Calculus Algebra

When required by major, the following are acceptable:

Math 142: Calculus I  
Math 163: Plane Trigonometry  
Math 199: Mathematics for Managerial Decision Making I  
Math 184: Introduction to the Foundations of Mathematics I AND Math 185: Introduction to the Foundations of Mathematics II (combination of the courses)

Component Area 3 *Natural Sciences* ..... 8 hours

Two courses with labs from two different departments  
(BIO, CHM, GEO/GEL, or PHY)

Component Area 4 *Humanities & Visual and Performing Arts*.....9 hours

Three hours of lower-division Art, Dance, Music, or Theatre (one of the following)

- Art 160: Art Appreciation
- Art 161: Design I
- Art 163: Drawing I
- Art 260: Pre-Renaissance Art History
- Dance 131: Dance as Art
- Dance 176: Rhythmic Structure of Music
- Music 161: Introduction to the Study of Music
- Music 264: History of Rock, Jazz, and Popular Music
- Music 265: Music Appreciation
- Theatre 160: Technical Theatre I
- Theatre 164: Acting I
- Theatre 166: Theatre Appreciation
- Theatre 230: Stage Make-up
- Theatre 231: Theatre Speech I

Three hours of literature (one of the following)

- English 265: Readings in Literature of the Western World
- English 275: Readings in the Literature of Great Britain and Its Commonwealth
- English 295: Readings in Literature of the United States

Three hours of cultural studies (one of the following)

- History 265: World History from the Dawn of Civilization Through the Middle Ages
- History 266: World History from the Renaissance to the Age of Imperialism
- Geography 265: World Regional Geography: Europe, Asia, and Australia
- Geography 266: World Regional Geography: Latin America, Africa, and South Asia
- Foreign Languages 263: French Reading and Composition/German Reading and Composition/Intermediate Spanish I
- Foreign Languages 264: French Comprehension and Communication/German Reading and Composition/Intermediate Spanish II
- Sociology 168: Introduction to Ethnic Studies
- Bilingual Education 236: Multicultural Influences on Learning

Component Area 5 *Social and Behavioral Sciences*.....15 hours

- History 163: United States History to 1876
- History 164: United States History Since 1876

- Political Science 261: Principles of American Government—National and State
- Political Science 285: American Public Policy

Three hours of lower-division Economics, Geography, Sociology, Philosophy, or Psychology (one of the following)

- Economics 230: Introduction to Economics
- Economics 233: Principles of Microeconomics
- Economics 234: Principles of Macroeconomics
- Geography 161: Geographic Skills
- Sociology 261: Principles of Sociology
- Sociology 264: Social Problems
- Philosophy 261: Introduction to Philosophy
- Psychology 131: Introduction to Psychology
- Psychology 289: Psychology of Adjustment

Component Area 6 *Institutionally Designated Option*.....4 hours

Kinesiology 215—Fitness for Living

Three hours of computer literacy (one of the following)

Computing Science 133: Introduction to Computers

Computing Science 138: Multimedia and Network Computing

Computing Science 143: Introduction to Computing for the Social Sciences

Library Science 130: Information Access Strategies

Management Information Systems 188: Introduction to Information Systems

OR

Three hours of a more advanced computer literacy course

TOTAL .....45 hours

## Appendix

### Coordinating Board Policy

At the July 17, 1998, meeting of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Core Curriculum Rules were adopted and an amendment proposed as follows:

In accordance with Texas Education Code, Chapter 61, Subchapter S, each general academic institution and community/technical college shall design and implement a core curriculum, including specific courses comprising the curriculum, of no less than 42 lower-division semester credit hours.

Each institution's core curriculum must be designed to satisfy the exemplary educational objectives specified for the component areas of the "Core Curriculum: Assumptions and Defining Characteristics" adopted by the Board; all lower-division courses included in the core curriculum must be consistent with the "Texas Common Course Numbering System" and must be consistent with the framework identified in Charts I and II (see attached). Chart I specifies the minimum number of semester credit hours required in each of five major component areas that a core curriculum must include (with sub-areas noted in parentheses). Chart II specifies options available to institutions for the remaining semester credit hours.

At its October 23 meeting, the Coordinating Board passed the following amendments:

- (a) An institution may adopt a core curriculum under this subchapter in excess of 42 semester credit hours, but no more than 48 semester credit hours, if the courses in excess of 42 semester credit hours are selected from the first five component areas of Chart II of Section 5.402 (excluding the Institutionally Designated Option) and are approved by the institution's governing board.
- (b) No institution may adopt a core curriculum of more than 42 semester credit hours without approval by the Board if the courses in excess of 42 semester credit hours are selected from component areas other than the first five component areas of Chart II of Section 5.402. The Board may approve a core curriculum under this section if:
  - (1) It has been previously approved by the institution's governing board;
  - (2) The institution has provided to the Board a narrative justification of the need and appropriateness of a larger core curriculum that is consistent with its role and mission; and
  - (3) No proposed upper-division core course is substantially comparable in content or depth of study in a lower-division course listed in the "Texas Common Course Numbering System."

To meet the above requirements, Sam Houston State University has revised its core curriculum. The revised curriculum has been reviewed and approved by the Core Curriculum Committee, the University Curriculum Committee, the Academic Affairs Council, the Academic Policy Council, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs. If approved by the Board of Regents, the 45-hour core curriculum for Sam Houston State University will be submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board with appropriate narrative justification under the provisions of (b) above.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Chart I – Institutions must select 36 semester credit hours of the core curriculum according to the parameters described below

Component Area	Required Semester Credit Hours	Tentative SHSU Courses
Communication (English rhetoric/composition)	6	ENG 164 ENG 165
Mathematics (logic college-level algebra equivalent, or above)	3	MTH 164 or 170 (Exceptions: When required by major, MTH 142, 163, 199, or a combination of MTH 184 and 185 are acceptable.)
Natural Sciences	6	Two courses from two different departments (BIO, CHM, GEO/GEL, or PHY)
Humanities & Visual and Performing Arts Must include: Visual/Performing Arts	(3)	Three hours from Visual and Performing Arts (ART 160, 161, 163, or 260; MUS 161, 264, or 265; THR 160, 164, 166, 230, or 231; or DNC 131 or 176)
Other (literature, philosophy, modern or classical language/literature and cultural studies*)	(3)	Three hours from Literature (ENG 265, 275, or 295)
Social and Behavioral Sciences Must include: U.S. History (legislatively mandated)	(6)	HIS 163 and 164
Political Science (legislatively mandated)	(6)	POL 261 and 285
Social/Behavioral Science	(3)	Three hours from ECO 230, 233, 234; GEO 161; SOC 261, 264; PHL 261; or PSY 131, 289
<b>Total Minimum Requirements</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>

\*Humanities application of language skills includes a study of literature in the original language, and/or of the cultural studies related to a modern or classical language.



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Chart II – to complete the required 42-semester-credit-hour core curriculum, institutions shall select an additional 6 semester credit hours from one or more of the following:

Component Area	Possible Additional Semester Credit Hours (6 Total)	Tentative SHSU Courses
Communication (composition, speech, modern language/ communication skills*)	Up to 6	
Mathematics (finite math, statistics, calculus, or above)	Up to 3	
Natural Sciences	Up to 3	Science labs (2)
Humanities & Visual and Performing Arts (literature, philosophy, modern or classical language/literature and cultural studies**)	Up to 3	Three hours from Cultural Studies (HIS 265, 266; GEO 265,266; Foreign Languages 263, 264; SOC 168; or BSL 236) (3)
Social and Behavioral Sciences	Up to 3	
Institutionally Designed Option (May include additional semester credit hours in the categories listed above, computer literacy, health/wellness, kinesiology, capstone or interdisciplinary courses, etc.)	Up to 3	Three hours from CS 133, 138, 143; LS 130; MIS 188; or three hours of a more advanced computer literacy course (3)  KIN 215 (1)
<b>Total Additional Hours</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>

TOTAL CORE HOURS--45

\*Communication application of a modern language means the basic proficiency skills acquired during introductory courses and including a working competency in grammar, writing, speaking, and listening/comprehension in a foreign language.

\*\*Humanities application of language skills includes a study of literature in the original language, and/or the cultural studies related to a modern or classical language.