

# Revised University Core Curriculum

## Policy Memorandum No. 125

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies  
Approved by University Council: March 2, 1992  
Approved by the President: March 2, 1992  
Effective: Students Graduating 1996, or thereafter

The University Council, on recommendation of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies, unanimously approved a resolution on the Revised University Core Curriculum. The resolution and attached chart, "Recommended Time-Line for Implementation of Core Curriculum Requirements," summarize the contents of the complete REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY FORUM ON LIBERATION EDUCATION, a broadly-based document concerning the philosophy, pedagogy, structure and governance of liberal education at Virginia Tech. Included in the text of this resolution are several references to specific page numbers in the Report, which is available upon request from the Office of the Provost.

This Policy Memo replaces existing university Policy Memos 63, 76, and 82.

Following is the text of the resolution as adopted by Council.

**WHEREAS**, continued improvement of the University Core Curriculum is vital to the academic quality of the undergraduate program at Virginia Tech; and

**WHEREAS**, the University Forum on Liberal Education has completed a thorough review of the University Core Curriculum; and

**WHEREAS**, the charge to the Forum was to define an exemplary program of liberal education that will effectively serve the university and its students into the next century; and

**WHEREAS**, the University Forum on Liberal Education, in consultation with faculty, administrators, and students, identified a number of modifications of the existing core which need to be made in order for the core to achieve its intended purposes,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the University move forward in a timely and orderly manner to implement the proposed modifications of the University Core Curriculum, developing a schedule for implementation, and

1. That a statement of purpose for the core curriculum be adopted, as referenced in the Report of the University Forum on Liberal Education (pp. 4, 6, 12).
2. That the administrative categories of the core be defined as "Areas of Study" within liberal education rather than as departmental divisions (pp. 4, 6-11, 13).
3. That specific goals and criteria be established for each area (pp.4, 6-11, 13-14).
4. That the University Core Curriculum requirements will be a total of 32 semester credits during initial implementation with an additional 10 credits for later implementation, of which 6 - 9

credits (WI and CI courses) can be double-counted with other courses; areas not for immediate implementation are marked \*\* (pp.4, 6-11,13, 22).

5. That the distribution of the requirements be as follows:

- AREA 1: WRITING AND DISCOURSE - 6 credit hours of Freshman Writing; 6 additional credit hours in courses designated as "Writing Intensive" (WI)\*\*, of which at least 3 hours are in the major. All WI courses will overlap other areas of the curriculum (pp.6-7, 15-18).
- AREA 2: IDEAS, CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND VALUES - 6 credit hours (pp.7-8).
- AREA 3: SOCIETY AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR - 6 credit hours (p.8, 9).
- AREA 4: SCIENTIFIC REASONING AND DISCOVERY - 6 credit hours of lecture, 2 credit hours of related laboratory (p.9).
- AREA 5: QUANTITATIVE AND SYMBOLIC REASONING - 6 credit hours (p.9).
- AREA 6: CREATIVITY AND AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE - 1 credit hour \*\* (pp.9-10, 18).
- AREA 7: CRITICAL ISSUES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT - 3 credit hours designated "CI".\*\* May overlap core courses in other Areas of Study, courses in the major, or electives (pp.10-11, 18-19).

6. That any restrictions of core course options be guided by the following principles (pp. 4, 14, 15, and 23):

- All colleges may require students to do "depth studies" (defined as a sequence or cluster approved by the University Core Committee) in up to two Areas of Study, from Areas 2, 3, 4, and 5. The Area(s) will be chosen by the college.
- In addition, colleges or departments may designate particular core courses which are essential to the major(s) or which must be taken to meet explicit accreditation guidelines.

7. That a university writing program will be established for the purpose of supporting the development of writing-intensive courses and enhancement of writing throughout the curriculum (pp.5, 6-7, 15-18).

8. That a standing university committee will be established to give leadership to the core curriculum and to make final curricular recommendations to CUS concerning the inclusion of courses in the core curriculum (pp.5, 19-20, 22-23).

9. That a funded, on-going program of faculty development in liberal education will be established (pp.5, 20-21).

10. That a handbook on liberal education and the core curriculum will be published by the Provost's office at appropriate intervals for students, faculty, and advisors (pp.5, 21).

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President's Policy Memorandum

**URL: <http://purl.vt.edu/vtdocs/policies/ppm125>**