

Lower Division Core Requirements for General Education

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to delineate the specific general education requirements for the lower division core.

II. Scope

This policy applies to the lower division core of all Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Science in Teaching, and Associate of Applied Science degrees at Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC).

III. Policy

The lower division general education core is common to all Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) institutions and consists of a forty-one (41) semester hour minimum requirement in transfer degrees. Each academic category in the core is defined by a goal and learning outcomes. In order to satisfy a general education category requirement, the institution must be able to document that the required minimum number of learning outcomes for a specific category are met by the selected course(s).

Associate Degrees (A.A.*, A.S., and A.S.T.)	
Communication	9 hours **
Humanities and/or Fine Arts	9 hours ***
Social/Behavior Sciences	6 hours
History	6 hours
Natural Sciences	8 hours
Mathematics	3 hours
Total	41 hours

*Foreign language courses will be an additional requirement for the A.A. degree as presently prescribed in TBR policy 2:01:00:00, Undergraduate Degree Requirements.

**Six (6) hours of English Composition and three (3) hours in English oral presentational communication.

***One course must be in literature.

Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degrees	
English Composition	3 hours
*Humanities and/or Fine Arts	3 hours
*Social/Behavioral Sciences	3 hours
*Natural Science/Mathematics	3 hours
*One additional course from the categories of Communication, Humanities and/or Fine Arts, Social/Behavioral Sciences, or Natural Sciences/Mathematics	3 to 4 hours
Total	15 to 17 hours

*Specific courses satisfying these requirements must be the same courses that satisfy the general education requirement for the Associate (A.A., A.S., and A.S.T.) degrees.

Statement of DSCC General Education Outcomes

The General Education Program at Dyersburg State Community College provides a foundation that ensures that its graduates possess the knowledge and skills to be active participants of a continually changing global community. Specifically, the General Education Program provides graduates with the knowledge and skills to:

1. Think critically;
2. Communicate effectively;
3. Apply mathematical and/or scientific processes and principles;
4. Evaluate cultural and/or ethical practices.

Statement of Purpose of TBR General Education Core:

The purpose of the TBR General Education Core is to prepare every student to navigate a world of evolving opportunities. It is unbounded by academic discipline and challenges students to discover the inherent interconnectedness of knowledge and the intersection of self and society.

The General Education Core develops skills in acquiring, evaluating, and using information as well as communicating ideas through digital, written, oral, artistic, scientific, and mathematical expression. It challenges students to think independently, write clearly, and speak effectively, and to employ logical and critical reasoning to solve problems even when faced with incomplete, ambiguous, or conflicting data.

The Core encourages students to develop a curiosity for learning, an appreciation of conceptual complexity, and a deepened sense of self-awareness regarding their own beliefs and values. It helps students engage with civility and respect others who may have contrasting life histories, opinions, and worldviews. It fosters an appreciation for human commonality and teaches individuals the ethical implications of living in a global, social ecosystem.

Ultimately, the Core’s purpose is to equip every student to pursue a challenging career, experience a rewarding personal life, and inspire others to do the same.

The TBR 7 Core Competencies include:

1. Global and Cultural Awareness
 - a. Develop awareness of how diverse cultures relate to self, society and the global environment.
2. Communication
 - a. Create, evaluate and share ideas using appropriate oral or written techniques designed for various audiences
3. Critical Thinking
 - a. Analyze and evaluate ideas, issues and evidence to form rational conclusions.
4. Creative and Artistic Expression
 - a. Engage with the creative process through reflection and analysis of artistic works and the direct creation or performance of creative or artistic works
5. Scientific Inquiry and Mathematical Reasoning
 - a. Understand and explore the world through observation and experimentation, mathematical principles and formal reasoning
6. Ethical Reasoning
 - a. Identify, develop and assess ethical arguments from a variety of social and moral perspectives
7. Information Literacy
 - a. Locate relevant information, evaluate its usefulness and quality and apply it ethically and effectively.

IV. Compliance

All A.A., A.S., A.S.T., and A.A.S. degrees must be in compliance with this policy.

V. Definitions

VI. Revision History

Policy written May, 2005. Policy revised October 2012; Policy revised September 2016 and approved by Administrative Council on September 28, 2016; approved by Administrative Council on April 27, 2023; approved by Administrative Council on October 24, 2024.