

How a Field of Study (FOS) Works

- The FOS is the complete list of all the lower-division courses required for the major. Receiving institutions cannot add any additional lower-division requirements beyond the completed FOS.
- FOS courses are meant to apply as the lower-division requirements for the major, but they can apply to the 120 SCH degree plan as core curriculum options, designated electives, or free electives.
- A completed block of FOS courses transfers as a block, just like the core. When you are done at one school, you are done at all schools.
- If a student completes only part of the FOS curriculum, then those courses must transfer into a degree program, and the receiving institution can require additional lower-division classes.

How FOS Helps *60x30TX*

- *By 2030, undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60 percent of first-year wages for graduates of Texas public institutions.*
- Reducing time to degree = reducing cost of degree
 - In 2017, native students took an average excess of 14 attempted SCH. Transfer students took 22 SCH (almost one full academic year).
 - Every course in a FOS is guaranteed to transfer and apply to a degree program.
 - Students who follow a FOS will know exactly what courses to take, and by omission what courses *not* to take, as soon as they enroll or begin taking dual-credit courses.

Source: THECB Transfer Report 2017

How FOS Helps *60x30TX*

- *By 2030, undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60 percent of first-year wages for graduates of Texas public institutions.*
- Students may end up paying twice for each course that is not accepted for transfer credit: once at the college, and once to replace it at the university.

2017 Averages	One Course	Two Courses	Three Courses	Four Courses	Seven Courses (average)
College Costs	\$301.80	\$603.60	\$905.40	\$1,207.20	\$2,112.60
University Costs	\$904.20	\$1,808.40	\$2,712.60	\$3,616.80	\$6,329.40
TOTAL	\$1,206	\$2,412	\$3,618	\$4,824	\$8,442

Completed FOS

Accounting	Computer Science	Economics	Management Information Systems	Political Science
Architecture	Criminal Justice	Electrical Engineering	Mathematics	Psychology
Biology	Criminology	Engineering Technology	Mechanical Engineering	Radio & Television
Business Administration	Chemical Engineering	English Language & Literature	Mexican American Studies	Social Work
Business/Commerce	Civil Engineering	Finance	Music	Sociology
Communications	Creative Writing	Marketing	Nursing	Technical Writing

Upcoming FOS

Agricultural Business &
Management

Computer Science

Health & Wellness

Kinesiology

Animal Sciences

Drama

History

Media Studies

Communication
Disorders

Fine Arts

Hospitality
Administration

Multidisciplinary
Studies (AAT)

Communications

Health Services

Journalism

Natural Resources
Conservation &
Research

Implementation Advice for Administrators

Distribute Information and Oversee Compliance

- Make sure that deans and registrars understand the legal requirements for compliance
- Distribute requests for faculty nominations to the appropriate department chairs
- Keep staff and faculty updated with FOS information from the Coordinating Board
- Perhaps identify an administrator to oversee FOS participation on campus, collect data for compliance reports, and serve as the point of contact for FOS issues between the faculty and administration

Implementation Advice for Administrators

Encourage Faculty Participation

- Encourage faculty participation in Advisory Committee meetings and recognize opportunities for statewide leadership in the discipline
- Provide financial support for faculty to travel to Austin for meetings
- Distribute notices for public comment on proposed FOS
 - It's helpful if responses come from entire departments or Colleges
 - Especially important to promote distribution over the summer months, exam periods, holidays

Implementation Advice for Administrators

Reconsider Policies That May Create Barriers to Transfer

- Lower-division courses cannot transfer as upper-division equivalents
- Reconsider course content appropriate for lower- and upper-division courses

Implementation Advice for Registrars

- Convey information to staff:
 - Completed FOS transfers in as a block
 - Incomplete FOS transfers in for each completed course; otherwise additional lower-division courses can be required
 - Several FOS contain options of courses, esp. 4 SCH science courses or 3 SCH lecture + lab
 - Documentation of each FOS completion in the CBM 009 report
 - Statutory requirement that a completed FOS be noted on a student's transcript
 - Include FOS courses in the catalog and published degree plans

Implementation Advice for Deans and Department Chairs

- Be sure faculty understand that no additional lower-division requirements, including prerequisites, can be required on top of a completed FOS. Exceptions:
 - A prerequisite can be used to fulfill a core curriculum requirement
 - A course that is required of all students in the university or College, regardless of major, can be added on top of a completed FOS
 - Other lower-division courses can be offered as choices in designated electives
- Align lower-division curriculum for native students with FOS to reduce the knowledge gap
- Determine course equivalencies and map FOS courses to program requirements
- Consider adding FOS courses as core curriculum options so they can “double dip,” adding more room for upper-division courses in the degree plan

Implementation Advice for Deans and Department Chairs

- Align the FOS to upper-division prerequisites
- Reconsider course content appropriate for lower-division and upper-division courses
- For colleges, offer enough sections of the FOS courses on a schedule so it can be completed in two years
- Work with community college transfer partners on recruitment and advising
- Work with reluctant faculty to convince them of FOS benefits (for example, every unnecessary course can cost a student an average of \$3,618)

Implementation Advice for Faculty and Advisors

- Include FOS courses and information on degree maps, course selection guides, and catalogs
- Inform dual-credit students
- Work with transfer partner institutions to avoid duplication of course content and adjust learning objectives appropriate for upper-division preparation (some familiar prerequisites may be missing from approved FOS).

Questions or Comments?

Please contact:

Allen Michie

allen.michie@thecb.state.tx.us

(512) 427-6518