

GENERAL EDUCATION AT TEXAS A&M:

Certification and Recertification Guidelines for Academic Year 2027-28

Per the state, **General Education** represents the core curriculum and any other curricular requirements that all students are required to complete prior to being award an undergraduate degree.” (TEC Chpt 51, Sec.51.315). At the present time, the general education requirements for undergraduates at Texas A&M include the following:

- **Core curriculum courses** – All undergraduates complete the core curriculum which represents required coursework for undergraduates through which “students gain a foundational knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.” (TXReg Title 19_Part1_Chpt4_CORE CURRICULUM).
- **Writing and Communication intensive courses (W & C)** – Second, all undergraduates also must pass two different courses to satisfy this general education requirement. The designated courses should facilitate students becoming proficient in both written and spoken communication skills most commonly associate with their major field of study.
- **International and Cultural Diversity (ICD)** – Third, all undergraduates must complete one International and Cultural Diversity (ICD) course. The ICD requirement is broadly aimed at meeting our institutional requirement: “*As individual and national destinies become progressively more interconnected, the ability to survive and succeed is increasingly linked to the development of a more pluralistic, diverse, and globally aware populace.*” (TAMU Undergraduate Catalog 125th Edition, AY 2002-2003)
- **Cultural Discourse (CD)** – Finally, all undergraduates must complete one Cultural Discourse (CD) course. The primary aim of the Cultural Discourse requirement is to ensure students can have difficult conversations with respect. These courses are designed to meet Texas A&M University’s goal of producing world-class graduates who are equipped to be leaders in an increasingly diverse world while also giving them the opportunity to develop skills such as critical thinking, logic, and ethics.

Per the recommendation of the Core Curriculum Council and the General Education Review Committee, and approval by the provost and executive vice president and the president, as of academic year 2027-28 (AY27-28) the ICD requirement will be transitioned

to **International Competency (IC)** with the CD requirement transitioning to **Civic Discourse (CivD)**.

- **International Competency (IC):** These courses will more explicitly emphasize preparing students to live and work effectively in an increasingly interconnected global society, with an emphasis on international contexts. Students will develop this competency by examining global contexts, considering divergent viewpoints or practices, and explaining how differing perspectives shape work, communities, and decision-making.
- **Civic Discourse (CivD):** These courses will more explicitly focus on preparing students to engage constructively in civic life, with an emphasis on respectful dialogue around difficult issues in local, national, campus, and community contexts. Students will develop this competency by examining conflict from multiple viewpoints, reflecting on their own and others' perspectives, applying Aggie Core Values on and beyond campus, and practicing informed dialogue through small-group discussion and Aggie Experience Activities.

The guidelines listed below are being implemented for the ongoing curricular review and approval process for academic year 2027-28.

RECERTIFICATIONS

1. No recertifications for any of the general education designations (specifically core and W & C) will be required or reviewed during the upcoming 2026-27 academic year (AY26-27).
2. General Education course designations will remain in place for both AY26-27 and AY27-28, unless reviewed and recommended by the GERC for removal and approved by the provost and executive vice president and the president.

CERTIFICATION OF NEW COURSE DESIGNATIONS

No general education course designation will be allowed for x89s as of AY27-28.

Core Courses – No new core designations will be approved for AY27-28 other than the exceptions outlined below.

1. As of AY27-28, no 300 or 400 level courses will be designated as core courses.
 - a. *Note:* Revised upper level (300-400 level) courses *designated as core courses for AY26-27* may be submitted in CARS for consideration as new lower-level courses (100 – 200 level) with the core designation as of AY27-28.

2. Proposed courses to be designated as core courses *specifically to satisfy either the Creative Arts or the Language, Philosophy, and Culture FCA requirement* will be considered and reviewed on a limited basis to ensure sufficient capacity for AY27-28.

ICD and CD courses – No new course designations for either ICD or CD will be approved going forward.

1. Students under the AY26-27 or earlier catalogs will follow the ICD-CD requirements.

CivD and IC courses – These new designations will take effect for students entering under the AY27-28 (or later) catalog.

1. Procedures for an expedited review of courses currently designated as ICD are under development for courses meeting established criteria for the new IC designation.
2. More information will be provided regarding the new CivD designation and implications for courses currently designated as CD.

W & C courses – New designations for W or C courses may be proposed for review and approval for AY27-28.