

Fields of Study

A Texas Transfer Initiative

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Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board

What is FOS?

- Texas Education Code, Chapter 61, Section 61.823, Field of Study Curriculum: “If a student successfully completes a field of study curriculum developed by the board, that block of courses may be transferred to a general academic teaching institution and must be *substituted* for that institution's lower division requirements for the degree program for the field of study into which the student transfers, and the student shall receive full academic credit toward the *degree program* for the block of courses transferred.”

How FOS Works

- **Substituted**: 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.
- **Degree program**: SCH can apply anywhere in the 120 SCH degree program. FOS courses can be used for core curriculum options, requirements for the major, or 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.

60x30TX Goals

- By 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree.
- By 2030, at least 550,000 students in that year will complete a certificate, associate, bachelor's, or master's from an institution of higher education in Texas.
- By 2030, all graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identified marketable skills.
- By 2030, undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60 percent of first-year wages for graduates of Texas public institutions.
- Full plan available here:
<http://www.60x30tx.com/>

How FOS Helps 60x30TX

- *Goal 1: By 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree.*
- *Goal 2: By 2030, at least 550,000 students in that year will complete a certificate, associate, bachelor's, or master's from an institution of higher education in Texas*
- Completion rates and time to degree for transfer students consistently lag behind those of native juniors. Eight-year average for the Fall 2012 cohort: completion rate for native students was 84 percent, completion rate for transfers was 67 percent.
- The statewide average for native students in the 2012 cohort is 5.5 years to graduate with 10.1 semesters and 134.8 SCH attempted.
- The statewide average for transfer students in the 2012 cohort is 7.6 years to graduate with 11.4 semesters and 142 SCH attempted.

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 SCH. Transfer students took 26 SCH (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.

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.

	1 Course	2 Courses	3 Courses	4 Courses	5 Courses	8 Courses (average)
College Costs	\$270.99	\$541.98	\$812.97	\$1,083.96	\$1,354.95	\$2,167.92
University Costs	\$845.79	\$1,691.58	\$2,537.37	\$3,383.16	\$4,228.95	\$6,766.32
TOTAL	\$1,116.78	\$2,233.56	\$3,350.34	\$4,467.12	\$5,583.90	\$8,934.24

Legislative History

- Transfer issues were important to the 85th Legislature, part of a larger concern about student debt and rising university costs.
- Draft of the FOS legislation set a target for 25 completed FOS curricula by the start of the 86th Legislature in January 2019.
- The Coordinating Board is on schedule to reach that goal, and it is a high CB priority.

Completed FOS

Architecture

Biology

Business

**Administration and
Management**

Accounting

Finance

Marketing

Business/Commerce

**Management Info
Systems**

Communication

Computer Science

Criminal Justice

Chemical

Engineering

Civil Engineering

Electrical

Engineering

Mechanical

Engineering

Engineering

Technology

**Mexican American
Studies**

Music

Nursing

Political Science

Psychology

Social Work

Current FOS

Proposed FOS Up for Board Approval:

- **Kinesiology**
- **English Lang & Lit**
- **History**
- **Sociology**
- **Communications (revision)**
- **Economics**
- **Mathematics**
- **Radio & Television**

Current FOS

Meetings for Later in 2018-19:

- **Multidisciplinary Studies (AAT)**
- **Computer Science (revision)**
- **Health & Wellness**
- **Drama/Performing Arts**
- **Fine & Studio Arts**
- **Health Services**
- **Agricultural Bus. & Man.**
- **Communication Disorders**
- **Journalism**
- **Animal Sciences**
- **Natural Resources**
- **Media Studies**
- **Hospitality Administration**

Sample FOS

Social Work:

Course Title	Course Number	Semester Credit Hours
Introduction to Social Work	SOCW 2361	3
Social Welfare as a Social Institution	SOCW 2362	3
Social Problems	SOCI 1306	3
Statistics	Either MATH 1342 or PSYC 2317	3
Academic Cooperative*	SOCW 2XXX	3
TOTAL		15

Sample FOS

Business Administration & Management:

Course Title	Course Number	Semester Credit Hours
Mathematics for Business & Social Sciences	MATH 1324	3
Principles of Macroeconomics	ECON 2301	3
Principles of Microeconomics	ECON 2302	3
Business Computer Applications*	BCIS 1305	3
Principles of Financial Accounting	ACCT 2301	3
Principles of Managerial Accounting	ACCT 2302	3
Business Principles	BUSI 1301	3
Business Statistics [†]	BUSI 23XX	3
TOTAL		24

*The learning objectives of Business Computer Applications (BCIS 1305) will be adjusted in the Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM) to include additional Excel programming.

[†]Business Statistics (BUSI 23XX) is a new course that will be included in the ACGM.

Sample FOS (Integration with Core)

Political Science:

Course Title	Course Number	SCH
Introduction to Political Science	GOVT 2304	3
Federal Government (Federal Constitution & Topics)	GOVT 2305	3
Texas Government (Texas Constitution & Topics)	GOVT 2306	3
Elementary Statistical Methods	MATH 1342	3
TOTAL		12

Committee Meetings

- Decide on which lower-division courses are absolutely necessary for success in upper-division courses in a major
- Review curricula from programs at representative 2-year and 4-year institutions
- Review approved courses in the ACGM
- Adjust ACGM objectives and descriptions as necessary
- Create new ACGM course if necessary
- Meet over two days

Advisory Committees

- Nominations are solicited from all CAOs/CIOs at all universities, community colleges, Lamars, and CTCs
- Members are selected to represent an equal number of two-year and four-year institutions from all regions of the state
- Balance between university systems, community college districts
- Balance between size and missions of institutions
- **All institutions are encouraged to regularly nominate; faculty of all ranks are welcome. There are opportunities for statewide leadership.**

FOS Isn't Effective If It Isn't Used

- State law does not require that institutions offer all (or any) of the FOS courses.
- All institutions are encouraged to use FOS courses as core curriculum options where relevant.
- Two-year institutions are encouraged to support the FOS curricula by offering sections, degree plans, and advising at the earliest stages.
- Four-year institutions are encouraged to align their lower-division curriculum for native students with the FOS. If they don't, then each course in the FOS will need to be mapped to equivalents when students transfer in, or elective credit will need to be awarded toward the degree.

Questions or Comments?

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