Fast Answers

Q: What is the Common Curriculum?
A: It is a system that replaces the current General Education curriculum for students entering in Fall 2025. It will not affect current UConn students.

Q: Will students have to take more credits?
A: No. The number of required credits is the same at the university level. However, some schools and colleges may have additional requirements.
Fast Answers

Q: Is everything changing?
A: No, only some areas are. The Quantitative (Q), Writing (W), and Second Language (SL) areas are all remaining largely the same.

Q: Are we just moving existing courses around?
A: No. There are brand new topic areas and embedded additional skills. The new curriculum presents exciting opportunities across disciplines for students and faculty.
Q: Will all existing courses translate to the new system?
A: No. While many courses will translate over with minimal-to-moderate revision, some courses may not find a home. This is an opportunity to review the existing curriculum and decide what is a priority.

Q: Will there be support for all this work?
A: Yes! The Office of the Provost has committed resources and funding to ensure the success of this effort.
Additional Questions

- Why did we decide to change?
- How does the Common Curriculum work?
- What is the process for implementation?
- What is the timeline for implementation?
- How can I be involved?
- Whom should I contact with questions?
Why change?

**Relevance**
CC aims to develop the skills students need in order to address the challenges and opportunities they will face as citizens and leaders in a rapidly changing, global society.

**Coherence**
CC takes both current and new elements and reimagines them in a more cohesive and streamlined design.
Why change?

**Interdisciplinarity**
CC emphasizes collaboration and the exploration of multiple perspectives and methods.

**Student Agency**
More flexibility allows students to decide where to focus their learning.
How does it currently work?

The out-going system includes four Content Areas (1-4), one Literacy (EL), and three Competencies (W, Q, SL). The CAs are largely centered around disciplines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Content Areas</strong></th>
<th><strong>Literacies &amp; Competencies</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA1 - Arts and Humanities</td>
<td>EL - Environmental Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA2 - Social Sciences</td>
<td>W - Writing Competency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA3 - Science and Technology</td>
<td>Q - Quantitative Competency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA4 - Diversity and Multiculturalism</td>
<td>SL - Second Language Competency</td>
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</table>
How will it work?

The new system retains the three Competencies but replaces the Content Areas and Literacy with six Topics of Inquiry that encourage more cross-disciplinary thinking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Topics of Inquiry</th>
<th>Competencies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOI-1 Creativity: Design, Expression, Innovation</td>
<td>W – Writing Competency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOI-2 Cultural Dimensions of Human Experiences</td>
<td>Q – Quantitative Competency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOI-3 Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice</td>
<td>SL – Second Language Competency</td>
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<td>TOI-4 Environmental Literacy</td>
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<td>TOI-5 Individual Values and Social Institutions</td>
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<td>TOI-6 Scientific and Empirical Inquiry</td>
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</table>
Out-going Gen Ed Curriculum

Students currently take two courses in each Content Area. They must also fulfill their Second Language requirement if it was not met through high school courses. They are allowed one “double-dip” in the content areas, and one in EL. Competencies may also overlap Content Areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CA1</th>
<th>CA2</th>
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* Please note, the above are university requirements. Other schools or colleges may have additional credits in some areas.
Focus Areas Versus Themes

The new Common Curriculum allows for both **breadth** (1 course in each of the six TOIs) and **depth** (3 courses that emphasize a Focus Area or Theme).

**Focus Area** = Three courses taken in one TOI

**Theme** = Courses taken in more than one TOI but which center around a common idea or issue
**NEW Common Curriculum (Focus Area)**

Under the new CC, students take one course in each TOI, then choose one area to “go deep.” They also fulfill their Second Language requirement if it was not met through high school courses. They are allowed one “double-dip” in the TOIs, and the Competencies may overlap TOIs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOI-1</th>
<th>TOI-2</th>
<th>TOI-3</th>
<th>TOI-4</th>
<th>TOI-5</th>
<th>TOI-6</th>
<th>W</th>
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*Please note, the above are university requirements. Other schools or colleges may have additional required credits in some areas.*
What are Themes?

Themes are like a mini-minor within the Common Curriculum, but with key differences:

- Minors require 12-18 credits of 2000+ level course work.
- Themes only require 9 credits and can include course work at the 1000 level.

- Faculty may propose themes to be approved by the Common Curriculum Committee + (CCC+)
- Themes can include 3-7 courses, from which students select 3 (or 9 credits).
Sample Theme

“Utopia, Imaginaries, and Techno-Futurisms”*

- ARTH 3630 Alternative Modernities: Visual Culture of Latin America (CA4-Int)
- AMST/ENGL 2276W American Utopian and Dystopian Literature (CA1)
- GERM 1920 Cyborgs, Robots, and Androids in the German Imaginary (CA1, CA4-Int)
- HRTS 3250 Human Rights and New Technologies (CA1)
- URBN 1600 Cities of Imagination (CA2)

*Note: The current CA Gen Ed designations are listed until appropriate TOIs have been determined for these courses.
NEW Common Curriculum (Theme)

Instead of going deep in one TOI, students can use preapproved “Themes” developed by faculty. Themes include courses across multiple TOIs that develop a similar skill, explore a common idea, or address a similar issue.

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Common Curriculum Basics: Credits

- 21 total credits required in TOIs (With one double-dip*)
- Pass at least 3 credits in each TOI
- Up to 3 credits can be repeatable 1-credit courses

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# Common Curriculum Basics: Subjects

- Courses must be in at least six different subject codes
- No more than 6 credits of UNIV or INTD
- One TOI-6 course must be a lab course

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<tr>
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<tr>
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How will all this happen?

Time

The projected launch is Fall 2025 for the 2025-26 AY. Courses must have all approvals by February 5, 2025 to be included in this first release. Courses can continue to be added and revised on an ongoing basis.

Capacity

The Provost’s Office has committed funding and resources for personnel, course development, training, and communication. See our website.
How will all this happen?

**Cooperation**
This is a whole-university effort that will rely on the help and input of faculty, advisors, staff, and students across multiple departments, schools, colleges, and campuses.

**Imagination**
Think outside the box and be creative. Break down silos and work with others. Experiment. In short, do all the things we are asking students to do!
Creativity: Design, Expression, Innovation

- Emerging Tech
- New Ideas
- Artistic works
- Expression
- Conception
- Products
- Design
- Innovation
- UCONN
TOI 2: Cultural Dimensions of Human Experiences

- Customs
- Cultural Interaction
- Social Groups
- Achievement
- Human Experience
- Global Connections
- Beliefs
- Behaviors
- Collaboration
TOI 4: Environmental Literacy

Natural World
Responsibility
Environmental Literacy
Stewardship
Interacion
Ecosystems
Well-being
Policy
Human Impact
UCONN
Unifying Principles  Data
Evidence  Interpretation
Science & Empiricism
Hypotheses  Theory
Experimentation
Methodology

TOI 6: Science and Empirical Inquiry
Projected Timeline

**Spring 2023**

- Workshops and Information sessions for faculty, advisors, and staff
- Departments review their existing courses for potential transition to TOIs with the help of Faculty Navigators
- Departments develop new courses for TOIs with the help of Faculty Navigators
- Communication and outreach to all university stakeholders
- Course development grant competitions (Summer)

**Summer 2023**

- Course development grant competitions (Summer)
Projected Timeline Fall 23 - Fall 24

Fall 2023

- Departments review their existing courses and develop new courses for TOIs with the help of FNs
- Course development grant competitions
- Ongoing course approvals
- CCC+ submits Progress Report to the Senate (Fall 2024)

Fall 2024

- DUE FALL 2024: All course additions & revisions must be received in CCC+ by mid-Fall to allow adequate time for review and approval.
Projected Timeline Spring 25

Spring 2025

- **February 5, 2025** – Deadline for all course revisions and additions to be **fully approved** in order to be listed in the 2025-2026 Catalog.

- Workshops and training sessions to prepare for registration of incoming first year students in Fall 2025.

- Departments can continue to submit courses for the next catalog year.
Projected Timeline Fall 25

Fall 2025

- *Common Curriculum goes LIVE for incoming First Year students!*
- The outgoing Gen Ed designations will remain in place for at least 4 years for current students.
- Departments can continue to submit courses for the next catalog year.
- Assessment of CC outcomes begins.
How can I be involved? Faculty

Faculty Roles

► Serve as a TOI subcommittee course reviewer
► Apply to become a Faculty Navigator (Spring 2024 round)
► Volunteer with your department or campus to be project lead or liaison
► Develop a new course or revise an existing one
How can I be involved? Staff/Advisor

Staff/Advisor Roles

- Be an advocate for the new curriculum. Avoid language like “get your Common Curriculum courses out of the way” when talking to students. Emphasize the opportunities for choice and intentionality.

- Stay current with information coming out of CCC+. Many key units will have members on CCC+, and CCC+ will be in contact with many other units regularly.
Who should I contact?

**Pedagogy Questions**
Pam Bedore, CCC+ Chair
pamela.bedore@uconn.edu

**Procedural Questions**
Karen McDermott, CCC + Admin
karen.mcdermott@uconn.edu

**I’m not sure?**
General Email
commoncurr@uconn.edu

Website:
www.commoncurriculum.senate.uconn.edu
Acknowledgements

DeltaGE Chair
Dr. Eric Schultz (EEB)

Delta2GE Co-Chair
Dr. Manuela Wagner (EEB)

Delta2GE Co-Chair
Dr. Thomas Long (NURS, Emeritus)
Thank you! Questions?