

The Common Curriculum

FOR LEADERSHIP & GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

GOING LIVE **FALL 2025**

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.

Fast Answers

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 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.

Content Areas	Literacies & Competencies
CA1 – Arts and Humanities	EL – Environmental Literacy
CA2 – Social Sciences	W – Writing Competency
CA3 – Science and Technology	Q – Quantitative Competency
CA4 – Diversity and Multiculturalism	SL – Second Language Competency

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.

New Topics of Inquiry	Competencies
TOI-1 Creativity: Design, Expression, Innovation	W – Writing Competency
TOI-2 Cultural Dimensions of Human Experiences	Q – Quantitative Competency
TOI-3 Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice	SL – Second Language Competency
TOI-4 Environmental Literacy	
TOI-5 Individual Values and Social Institutions	
TOI-6 Scientific and Empirical Inquiry	

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.

CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	EL	W	Q
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

* 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.

TOI-1	TOI-2	TOI-3	TOI-4	TOI-5	TOI-6	W	Q
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		✓				✓	✓
		✓					

* 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.

TOI-1	TOI-2	TOI-3	TOI-4	TOI-5	TOI-6	W	Q
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		✓				✓	✓
			✓				

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

TOI-1	TOI-2	TOI-3	TOI-4	TOI-5	TOI-6	W	Q
3	3	3	3	3	3/4*	1/3/4	3/4
			3*			1/3/4	3/4
			3				

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

TOI-1	TOI-2	TOI-3	TOI-4	TOI-5	TOI-6	W	Q
NRE	INTD	HRTS	NRE	PHIL	MCB-L	ENGL	MATH
			ENGL			NRE	STAT
			PHIL				

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!

TOI 1: Creativity: Design, Expression, Innovation

Emerging Tech

New Ideas

Expression

Artistic works

Creativity

Conception

Design

Products

Innovation

UConn

TOI 2: Cultural Dimensions of Human Experiences

Customs Cultural Interaction

Social Groups Achievement

Human Experience

Global Connections Beliefs

Behaviors

Collaboration

UConn

TOI 3: Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice

Democratic Ideals Equity

Dialogue Inclusion

Social Justice

Privilege Diversity Power

Perspectives

UConn

TOI 4: Environmental Literacy

Natural World Ecosystems

Responsibility Well-being

Environmental Literacy

Stewardship Policy

Human Impact

Interaction

UConn

TOI 5: Individual Values and Social Institutions

Citizenship

Influence

Individuals

Leadership

Values & Institutions

Social Systems

Ethics

Membership

Epistemology

UConn

TOI 6: Science and Empirical Inquiry

Unifying Principles Data

Evidence Interpretation

Science & Empiricism

Hypotheses Theory

Experimentation

Methodology

UConn

Projected Timeline

Spring 2023

Summer 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)

Projected Timeline Fall 23 – Fall 24

Fall 2023

Fall 2024



- ▶ 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)
- ▶ **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
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I'm not sure?

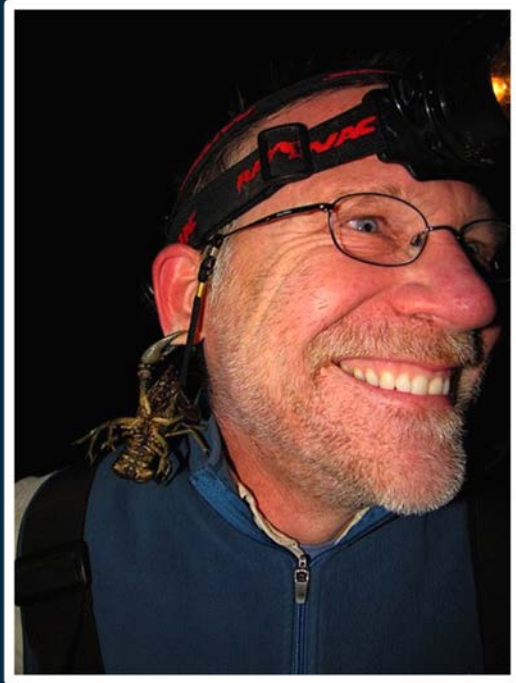
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Acknowledgements



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Thank you!
Questions?