

Core General Education Requirement Talking points

- The development of the Universities of Wisconsin Core General Education Requirements is a legislative mandate to ensure the transferability and applicability of all credits of core general education courses between UW universities.
- To comply with the mandate, the board must develop a Regent policy by December 31, 2025. Regent Policy Document (RPD) 4-X will be distributed for university comment in late September.
 - The Regent Policy Document (RPD 4-X) provides the framework for the Core General Education Requirements as six (6) broad categories totaling 10-12 courses and 30-36 credit hours that impart foundational knowledge and skills.
 - RPD 4-X further articulates transfer rules that govern the transfer and applicability of the Core General Education Requirement credit between UW universities.
- Our work on the development of the Core General Education Requirements provides students with a straight-forward, student-friendly process to transfer and apply all core general education course credit between the 13 Universities of Wisconsin. These changes may reduce the time and cost of earning a degree.
- While the framework for the Core General Education Requirements has been determined by the Regent Policy, based on consultation with key stakeholder groups (e.g., UW Administration, Provosts, Chancellors, Faculty Shared Governance), the implementation of the requirements is under local control. During the implementation process UW universities have the flexibility to:
 - select the number of courses, within the range identified for each curricular category;
 - revise current general education learning outcomes if needed or develop new learning outcomes that align with the six curricular categories;
 - map courses into the six curricular categories;
 - assess student learning;
 - continue signature curricular courses, such as wellness courses, through inclusion into one of the curricular categories.
- To meet the September 1, 2026 deadline, UW universities will need to begin the work to make the curricular changes, including necessary policy revisions, as well as implement the changes in the Fall 2026 course schedule and catalog. UW Administration will be convening two working groups to collaboratively draft a system policy (SYS 105) that will provide the policy and procedures necessary to implement and operationalize these changes.
 - We anticipate SYS 105 will be drafted and distributed to universities for comment in early November.
- In addition, other Regent and System policies (e.g., RPD 7-1 and SYS 135) need to be modified to describe how the transfer of Core General Education Requirement course credits will work.
- We appreciate that compliance with the legislative mandate outlined in Act 15 will require a tremendous amount of work in a short period of time that will not be easy to accomplish in the allotted timeframe.
 - We understand that both faculty and staff on your campuses will have to put in extra work to make this happen.
 - We appreciate that completing the work by the prescribed deadline may require a change in ordinary curricular and operational processes.
 - This is a process that requires cooperation from internal and external constituencies.
- A website with information about the Act 15 Core General Education work is now available (www.wisconsin.edu/act-15-CGER). Answers to FAQs and ongoing updates will be provided there.
 - As questions arise during this work, we ask that they be collected by the provost's office and Faculty Governance representatives and then shared with Shanna Nifoussi and Julie Amon.