



Shaping the General Education Core in Arkansas

The Arkansas Division of Higher Education invites you to participate in a survey regarding the revision of the General Education Core (GEC) required by all public institutions of higher education in the State of Arkansas. The purpose of this survey is to further clarify the appropriate and allowable course(s) within the Requisite Core as well as revise and update the minimum general education core curriculum established by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB). The results of this survey will guide future conversations and the development of the basic structure and focus of the GEC.

Workgroup nominees are to respond to the following questions with an institutional perspective in mind. Therefore, campus-level conversations regarding the General Education Core are highly encouraged before completing this survey.

Please submit only one response per institution.

SECTION 1

1. Select your institution and name from the drop-down list. Required to answer. Single choice.

Select your answer



SECTION 2

General Education Core Structure

Per ACT 566 of 2025, a new 15-hour Requisite Core was established to serve as the basis for a minimum general education core curriculum established by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for state-supported institutions of higher education. The new Requisite Core will replace the current Occupational Core and will serve as the foundation of the General Education Core.

The Requisite Core includes the following requirements:

- 6 semester credit hours of oral or written communication designed to develop the ability to organize ideas and to communicate with clarity, precision, and syntactical maturity;
- 3 semester credit hours in a course that cultivates critical thinking, problem-solving, and logical reasoning skills;
- 3 semester credit hours in American History;
- 3 semester credit hours in American government, including instruction in the essentials of the United States Constitution and the study of American institutions and ideals.

The current General Education Core includes the following requirements:

- 6 semester credit hours of English composition
- 0-3 semester credit hours of Speech communication
- 3 semester credit hours of comprehensive mathematics
- 8 semester credit hours of laboratory science
- 6-9 semester credit hours of fine arts or humanities
- 3 semester credit hours of U.S. History or government
- 6-9 semester credit hours of social science

Resources

ACT 566: https://adhe.edu/File/act566_2025.pdf

Current AHECB General Education Core: https://adhe.edu/File/minimum_gen_ed_core.pdf

Current AHECB Occupational Core: https://adhe.edu/File/occupational_core.pdf

For the questions below, please consider *both* the new, 15-hour Requisite Core and the 35-hour AHECB General Education Core.

2.What is your institution's standpoint on the *minimum* number of credit hours that should be required in the General Education Core? Multi Line Text.

Enter your answer

3.What is your institution's standpoint on the *maximum* number of credit hours that should be required in the General Education Core? Multi Line Text.

Enter your answer

4.Would your institution find the most value in a General Education Core that is course-based, competency-based, or a combination of both? Single choice.

- ☐ Course-based
- ☐ Competency-based
- ☐ Both course- and competency-based
- ☐ Other

5. Does your institution support the revision of the Certificate of General Studies (CGS) credential to match the revised General Education Core to recognize a student's completion of the General Education Core? Single choice.

- ☐ Yes, my institution supports this revision.
- ☐ No, my institution does not support this revision.

SECTION 3

General Education Core Focus

6. What is your institution's preference on which domains should be required in the General Education Core? Check all that apply. Multiple choice.

- ☐ U.S. History (required)
- ☐ American Government (required)
- ☐ World History & Civilizations
- ☐ Global & Cultural Awareness
- ☐ Written Communication
- ☐ Oral Communication
- ☐ Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning
- ☐ Financial Literacy
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Computer Science & Digital Literacy
- ☐ Critical Thinking & Reasoning
- ☐ Natural Science
- ☐ Physical Science
- ☐ Fine or Creative Arts
- ☐ Humanities
- ☐ Philosophy
- ☐ Social or Behavioral Science
- ☐ Foreign Language
- ☐ Institutional Discretionary Course(s)