KU Core curriculum – Core goals, discussion of principles, and measurable learning outcomes

To prepare students for lifelong learning, leadership, and success, the KU Core curriculum will provide a versatile set of courses and educational experiences based on core educational goals and measurable learning outcomes.

All KU undergraduates will participate in a contemporary curriculum designed to make them educated, productive, actively involved citizens.

Core Goal: Build core skills of critical thinking and quantitative literacy.

Developing the capacity for logical and quantitative reasoning helps students gather and evaluate information, build sound arguments, weigh alternative evidence, generate and test hypotheses, and become rigorous, versatile, and agile thinkers. With the ability to make informed choices, interpret standards of evidence and principles of logic, and the confidence to question assumptions, students will be better prepared to understand diverse perspectives, adapt to challenging situations, and perform effectively in society.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate data, evidence, claims, arguments, and assumptions; select and apply appropriate analytical tools to solve problems.
2. Define a problem, analyze numerical information, apply mathematical principles, and integrate quantitative methods into problem solving.

Core Goal: Strengthen written and oral communication.

Communicating with others, both in writing and orally, lies at the heart of personal and professional success. The ability to engage a variety of people with ideas in writing and speaking supports personal relationships, educational undertakings, professional advancement, and civic engagement. Using language flexibly and confidently allows students to generate and develop fully their ideas and engage with multiple perspectives.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to:

1. Generate, develop, organize, and convey ideas in writing, using language and selected media to present those ideas clearly, persuasively, and in a manner appropriate to specific communication situations.
2. Generate, develop, organize and convey ideas orally, using language, presentation skills, and selected media to present those ideas clearly, persuasively, and in a manner appropriate to specific communication situations.

Core Goal: Develop a basis of knowledge across fundamental areas of study.

Contemporary citizen-scholars comprehend and appreciate how knowledge across a broad range of disciplines is developed and have a fundamental understanding of the breadth of human achievement in diverse branches of knowledge and the arts. Participating in courses and experiences that establish such a breadth of knowledge takes students beyond their major focus, promoting the integration of ideas and knowledge and exposing them to possibilities for wider thought and action.

**Learning Outcome:** Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic competence in the principles, theories, and investigative and interpretive methods used in each of the following: arts, humanities, natural and mathematical sciences, and social sciences.
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Core Goal: Respect human diversity and expand cultural understanding and global awareness.

Participating in the 21st century means acquiring knowledge and understanding of the world beyond our immediate experiences, showing consideration for human and cultural diversity, and reexamining our own lives in a global context. Students will learn to analyze regional and international issues and perspectives, enabling them to engage with a variety of languages, cultures, customs, beliefs, behaviors, and policies from around the world.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to:

1. Investigate the diversity of human experience within the United States as it relates to gender, race, ethnicity, language, sexuality, social class, religion, disability, age, and culture and respect the contributions of different social groups.
2. Examine a variety of perspectives in the global community, distinguish one’s own cultural patterns, and respond flexibly to multiple worldviews.

Core Goal: Practice social responsibility and demonstrate ethical behavior.

To lead productive and meaningful lives, students should develop within and across disciplines a strong sense of intellectual integrity and moral behavior, recognize ethical issues in a variety of settings, enhance social and civic responsibility at all levels, and gain an awareness of and sensitivity for their physical and social environment.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to:

1. Develop and apply a combination of knowledge and skills to demonstrate an understanding of social responsibility and ethical behavior.
2. Act on this understanding of social responsibility and ethical behavior to serve a community, from local to global, and contribute positively via leadership, collaboration, and other direct action.

Core Goal: Gain the ability to integrate knowledge and think creatively.

A successful education promotes thinking across disciplines to generate original ideas, to be creative, and to find new ways of perception and expression. With such capabilities, students will make new discoveries that can effect major change and lead to innovation.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate awareness and comprehension of how different areas within or across disciplines approach and explain a question or problem.
2. Analyze and combine information from different areas within or across disciplines to pose new questions and generate new ideas.
3. Think, react, and work in imaginative ways that produce innovative expressions and original perspectives.