

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Q. How can I succeed academically?

A. Go to class, to get to know the professors, and to seek the academic resources on campus before you are in academic difficulty. In addition, the University Advising Center website (smu.edu/advising) has planning strategies and further information. Students will find answers to most of their questions about academic programs and policies in the Peruna Passport, this Handbook, and the Undergraduate Catalog online at catalogs.smu.edu

CURRICULUM GOALS AND REQUIREMENTS

The undergraduate curriculum at SMU seeks to accomplish two interrelated goals:

- To provide a thoughtfully constructed educational experience to be shared and valued by all undergraduates.
- To offer students an opportunity to explore intellectual frontiers that will engage and challenge them, encouraging inquiry and investigation during their college years and beyond.

These goals are accomplished by two sets of requirements (university-wide requirements and major requirements) that all students must fulfill in order to graduate from the University with a Bachelor's degree.

The term "university-wide requirements" refers to a program of study required of all students regardless of major that emphasizes what has historically been known as a liberal arts education: namely, learning to read, write, and think critically, while acquiring a basic understanding of human society in all its dimensions. These university-wide requirements provide a solid and broad education that will equip students to compete and adapt in a rapidly changing world, while complementing more focused study in the major. Students entering as first-time, first-year students in the summer or fall of 2016 and spring of 2017 fulfill their university-wide requirements through the UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM (UC).

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The UC consists of three main course work components: Foundations, Breadth and Depth requirements combined with Proficiencies and Experiences. The UC will be met throughout the student's undergraduate career, including work in the major or minor, elective courses and approved activities. The number of courses and/or credit hours required to complete the University Curriculum will vary according to the individual student's academic background, preparation, major, curricular and co-curricular choices.

UC FOUNDATIONS: All students will take two or three courses in the Discernment and Discourse sequence. These seminar-style writing courses encourage students to develop critical reading, expository and analytical writing, oral communication and research skills. All students must complete the equivalent of the first year of college-level foreign language instruction. All students will take one, three-credit Quantitative Foundations course designed to ensure that they have the ability to understand, evaluate, and use quantitative information. All students will complete two, one-credit Personal Responsibility and Wellness courses designed to ensure students' transition to the university and their development of lifelong habits of wellness, responsibility, and fitness. All students will be required to take one Ways of Knowing course. Ways of Knowing courses develop students' understanding of the multiple approaches

whereby different disciplines define, acquire and create knowledge, including the ethical considerations involved.

BREADTH: Breadth courses provide an introduction to seven primary ways in which intellectual traditions have organized and constructed knowledge. The seven Breadth areas are Creativity and Aesthetics; Language and Literature; Philosophical and Religious Inquiry and Ethics; Historical Contexts; Individuals, Institutions, and Cultures; Science and Engineering; and Technology and Mathematics.

DEPTH: Depth courses provide advanced knowledge or explore the application of fundamental ideas to other disciplinary areas. The three Depth areas are Humanities and Fine Arts; History, Social and Behavioral Sciences; and Natural and Applied Sciences. Individual Breadth and Depth courses may satisfy requirements in two different areas and may meet Proficiency and Experience requirements. UC

PROFICIENCIES AND EXPERIENCES: To equip SMU graduates for the many opportunities and challenges that await them, the UC requires all undergraduates to develop and refine writing, quantitative reasoning, oral communication, and information literacy skills beyond the introductory level. The UC also encourages all undergraduates to apply curricular knowledge to the diverse, global communities in which they will live and work. The following UC Proficiencies and Experiences may be met through credit-bearing course work or approved, non-credit activities that have been identified as meeting that requirement: Writing; Quantitative Reasoning; Information Literacy; Oral Communication; Community Engagement; Human Diversity; and Global Engagement. Students are required to complete Writing, Oral Communication, Information Literacy, and Human Diversity and two further electives from the list.

PARTIAL LISTING OF ACADEMIC MAJORS AND/OR MINORS

Note: *Italics* indicates those disciplines that are offered solely as minors. Please consult individual school websites for most current listings of majors and minors.

DEDMAN COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES. Africa/Middle East Studies. American Politics, Law and Administration. Arabic. Anthropology. Anthropology-Archaeological, Anthropology-Biomedical, Anthropology-Cultural, Anthropology-General. Asian Studies. Biochemistry. Biological Sciences. Chemistry. Chinese. Classical Studies. Comparative and International Politics. Econometrics. Economics. Economic Growth and Development. Economics of Decision Making. Economics of Industrial Organization. Economics with Finance Applications. Economics with Systems Analysis Specialization. English. English with Creative Writing Specialization. Environmental Chemistry. Environmental Earth Sciences. Environmental Geology. Environmental Sciences. Environmental Studies. Ethics. Ethnic Studies (African/African-American Studies or Mexican-American Studies). European Studies. World Languages and Literatures (Chinese, French, German, Italian, Italian Area Studies, Japanese, Latin, Russian Area Studies, Spanish). Geology. Geophysics. History. Human Rights. Individualized Studies in Liberal Arts. International Economics. International Studies. Labor Economics. Latin American and Iberian Studies. Markets and Culture. Mathematics. Medieval Studies. Monetary Economics. Natural Sciences. Philosophy. Physics. Political Science. Political Science-General, Political Thought. Psychology. Public Economics. Public Policy. Religious Studies. Resource Geology. Sociology. Statistical Science. Women's and Gender Studies. Additional opportunities available for pre-law, pre-health professions, pre-physical therapy and biomedical research.

EDWIN L. COX SCHOOL OF BUSINESS. Accounting. Asset Management. Business and Financial Reporting. Finance. Financial Consulting. General Business. Business Administration. Management. Marketing. Real Estate Finance. Risk Management and Insurance.

MEADOWS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS. Advertising (emphasis in Creative or Media). Art. Art History. Arts Entrepreneurship. Arts Management. Cinema/Television. Corporate Communication Studies. Creative Computing. Dance Performance. Fashion Media. Film and Media Arts. Fine Arts. Graphic Design. History of Visual and Performing Arts. Intermedia Theory and Practice. Journalism (Broadcast

and Print). Music. Music Composition. Music Education with Teacher Certification. Music Performance. Music Therapy. Performing and Visual Art History. Photography. Public Relations and Strategic Communications. Theatre (with specializations in Acting, Theatre Studies).

LYLE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING. Civil Engineering. Computer Engineering. Computer Science*. Electrical Engineering* (specializations in Biomedical, Computer Engineering, Engineering Leadership, Mathematics Dual Degree, or Physics Dual Degree). Environmental Engineering. Global Development. Management Science*. Mechanical Engineering*. (specializations in Environmental or Manufacturing).
*Includes premedical or biomedical options.

ANNETTE CALDWELL SIMMONS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. Teacher Education (levels EC-4, Grades 4-8, Grades 6-12 or 8-12). Applied Physiology and Sports Management.

TRANSFER CREDITS EARNED BEFORE ENROLLING AT SMU

Acceptable transfer credits apply toward degree requirements at SMU. Credit is awarded for work passed with a grade of C- or better at an accredited college or university. Each department determines applicability of transferred credit for the requirements for its majors and minors. Credit for college-level courses taken concurrently with high school work is granted if each of the following conditions is met:

- The course must be completed at an accredited school.
- The course was passed with a grade of C- or better and is comparable in content with a course offered at SMU.
- The course must be submitted on an official college transcript.

TRANSFER OF CREDITS EARNED AFTER ENROLLING AT SMU

After enrollment at SMU, students wishing to fulfill degree requirements through transfer work should obtain prior approval from their advisor and the chair of the appropriate academic department. Students who fail to get prior approval for transfer work can petition later for transfer credit, but they have no assurance that it will be awarded. In certain cases, such as Foundations (UC) and Ways of Knowing (UC), permission is not granted. A maximum of 30 transfer hours following matriculation may apply to an SMU degree.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS AND REPORTS

Normal progress toward a degree requires the successful completion of a minimum of 15 credit hours each term, plus two terms of PRW (UC) credit. Satisfactory academic performance also requires achievement of a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 (in a 4.00-point system).

Academic progress is monitored by both the academic advisor and the Records Office of the Dean.

Academic progress is communicated to students by means of several periodic reports.

GRADE REPORTS are available online via my.SMU at the end of each term.

ACADEMIC WARNING REPORTS may be issued at mid-term in the fall and spring of the first and second year. They indicate courses in which the student's progress is less than satisfactory (C-, D, or F) and are sent to the student's local address.

DEGREE PROGRESS REPORTS are available to each student online via my.SMU. This report summarizes completed academic work and relates it to degree requirements for the student's program of study.

ACADEMIC PROBATION AND SUSPENSION

If a pre-major student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) falls below 2.000 after any term of study (fall, spring, or summer), the student will be placed on academic probation at the beginning of the next

enrolled term (fall, spring or summer). The student has the next two enrolled regular terms (fall, spring) and the first summer session following the probation start date to raise his or her cumulative gpa to at least a 2.000. A student has the opportunity to enroll for only one summer term while on academic probation. The summer term must be at SMU. If the student does achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 2.000 within the one-year probationary period, the student will be removed from probationary status and restored to good academic standing at the end of the term in which the cumulative GPA of at least 2.000 is achieved.

Suspended students are notified via SMU email. Suspension is for a minimum of one regular term. A summer does not count as a suspension period, nor can a student be reinstated after suspension for a summer term. Credits earned at another college or university during a term of suspension will not be applied toward an SMU degree.

A student who has been suspended may apply for reinstatement after one term, but reinstatement is not guaranteed.