

## Common Curriculum Foundation Proposal Academic Writing

To propose a course for a Common Curriculum Foundation component, complete this form, attach relevant documents, and submit to the [online proposal system](#).

A **complete syllabus in pdf format** (including detailed descriptions of assigned readings, assignments, and a weekly schedule) should be included in the submission, along with an **assessment assignment** used to assess student learning. Assignment details should include a prompt for essays or essay questions, or a block of questions for objective exams.

Courses requesting Foundation components must be broad, introductory, and at the 1000 level. Courses at the Foundation level may not carry other curricular components.

**Course Prefix and Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Course Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Proposed by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department Chair Authorization:** *By signing this form, the Chair of the Department offering the course certifies that the course has been approved by the department and the college or school, and that the course is offered regularly.*

**Name of Dept. Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Dept. Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mission of General Education:**

The essence of Southern Methodist University’s educational philosophy is that intellectual and professional excellence rises from the solid foundation of a liberal arts education. Most importantly, general education should provide an intellectual foundation consisting of the broad outlines of human knowledge, providing a context for discipline specific study, and a framework for a future of lifelong learning. In light of these considerations, an ideal general education course is one which builds a broad, context-rich framework in its content area. To the extent possible, it should transcend departmental boundaries, connecting to ideas in related fields, and relevant social and ethical questions.

**Common Curriculum Goals:**

- The Common Curriculum will prepare students to be informed, ethical, and engaged citizens.
- The Common Curriculum will prepare students to think critically across domains.
- The Common Curriculum will prepare students to communicate clearly in writing and speaking.
- The Common Curriculum will provide students with the scientific, mathematical, and technological competence to navigate a changing world.
- The Common Curriculum will prepare students to understand, work, and live with people from different races, nationalities, religions, backgrounds, and experiences.

*Please provide an explanation of how the proposed course supports this mission and these goals.*

**Student Learning Outcome:** Students will demonstrate competency, clarity, coherence, and organization in their writing.

*Please describe how the proposed course meets the Student Learning Outcome.*

**Supporting Skill #1:** Students will demonstrate the ability to state a clear thesis and develop it through appropriate support in the body of the essay.

*Please describe how the proposed course showcases the supporting skill above.*

**Supporting Skill #2:** Students will demonstrate the ability to develop paragraphs and organize them in a logical progression.

*Please describe how the proposed course showcases the supporting skill above.*

**Supporting Skill #3:** Students will craft sentences with attention to sentence variety, diction, grammar, mechanics, spelling, and punctuation.

*Please describe how the proposed course showcases the supporting skill above.*

**Supporting Skill #4:** Students will integrate ideas and information from other writing effectively into their own.

*Please describe how the proposed course showcases the supporting skill above.*

**Course Content Criteria #1:** Courses in this category focus on critical reading and written assignments, including expository writing and analysis of texts.

*Please provide an explanation of how the proposed course satisfies the course content criteria above.*

**Course Content Criteria #2:** Courses in this category require 4500-6000 words of formal, closely graded, out-of-class writing (approximately 15-20 full pages, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12).

*Please provide an explanation of how the proposed course satisfies the course content criteria above.*

**Course Content Criteria #3:** Courses in this category introduce students to the idea that critical reasoning comprises analysis grounded in the evaluation of written sources. These skills will be further developed in a Critical Reasoning course.

*Please provide an explanation of how the proposed course satisfies the course content criteria above.*

**Course Content Criteria #4:** Courses in this category expect students to use all aspects of the writing process and include one-on-one writing conferences on major writing assignments.

*Please provide an explanation of how the proposed course satisfies the course content criteria above.*

**Course Content Criteria #5:** Courses in this category use feedback and commenting language common to SMU writing courses.

*Please provide an explanation of how the proposed course satisfies the course content criteria above.*

**I certify that all information provided is accurate and that the proposed course was vetted and approved by all relevant departmental and college/school committees. If my course is approved, I hereby agree to abide by all requirements for the Common Curriculum, including using Canvas to assess the course, and providing an updated syllabus each semester to the SMU syllabus library. I further agree to notify the Office of General Education if any substantive changes are made to the course. I agree to participate in the course portfolio process for this course every three years.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_