

Framework for Community College Designated Transfer Degree Program Requirements

Section A – (24-25 credits) Designated Competencies

- 2 courses in Written Communication (6 credits)
- 2 courses in Scientific Knowledge/Understanding (1 lab science with Scientific Reasoning is required) (6-7 credits)
- 1 course in Quantitative Reasoning (above intermediate algebra) (3 credits)
- 1 course in Historical Knowledge/Understanding (3 credits)
- 1 course in Social Phenomena Knowledge/Understanding (3 credits)
- 1 course in Aesthetic Dimensions (3 credits)

Section B – (6 credits) Designated Competencies - 2 courses (to be decided at the local level) selected from among the following with no more than 1 course in each competency area:

- Quantitative Reasoning (above intermediate algebra)
- Historical Knowledge/Understanding
- Social Phenomena Knowledge/Understanding
- Aesthetic Dimensions
- Oral Communication
- Continuing Learning/Information Literacy
- Critical Analysis/Logical Thinking

Section C – (0 credits) Embedded Competencies – Any competency area below that has not been addressed in Section B, must have all of its outcomes embedded in the curriculum and must be included in assessment. How these outcomes are embedded will be determined at the local level.

- Oral Communication
- Continuing Learning/Information Literacy
- Critical Analysis/Logical Thinking

Section D – (0 credits) Embedded Competencies - Must be embedded

- Written Communication (in addition to the designated courses in Section A)
- Ethical Dimensions (embedded only)

Explanatory information for the TAP Framework

The diversity found in the unique general education cores of the ConnSCU institutions is valued; therefore a homogeneous common design is not required. This framework leaves significant latitude to the discretion of faculty at the local level. Below are guidelines to assist in understanding the proposed framework:

I. Background and terminology

- a. Competency Areas** – The competency areas transcend traditional department designation. For example, it is conceivable that a course that meets the learning outcomes for the Historical Knowledge and Understanding competency may be a course in history, anthropology, political science, etc., as designated by each institution. There are 11 competency areas as follow:

Competency Areas	Credits	Section A All must be Designated	Section B 2 must be designated	Section C Must be Embedded (unless Designated in Section B)	Section D Must be embedded
1. Written Communication	(6)	X			X
2. Oral Communication	(0-3)		X	X	
3. Scientific Reasoning (lab science required)	(6-7)	X			
4. Scientific Knowledge and Understanding		X			
5. Quantitative Reasoning	(3-6)	X	X		
6. Critical Analysis/Logical Thinking	(0-3)		X	X	
7. Continuing Learning/Information Literacy	(0-3)		X	X	
8. Historical Knowledge/Understanding	(3-6)	X	X		
9. Social Phenomena Knowledge/Understanding	(3-6)	X	X		
10. Appreciation of Aesthetic Dimensions of Humankind	(3-6)	X	X		
11. Appreciation of Ethical Dimensions of Humankind	(0)				X

- b. Learning Outcomes** – Each competency area has a goal and measurable learning outcomes (separate documentation). Rubrics are being developed to guide institutions in assessment.
- c. Designated Competency course** – A course that meets all of the learning outcomes for a competency area (Sections A and B).
- d. Embedded Competencies/courses** – An embedded competency area is one that is addressed within a course without being the primary focus of the course. An embedded competency course will include at least one learning outcome (but may include as many as all learning outcomes) for a competency area. All of the learning outcomes of an embedded competency must be met; this means that they will typically be spread over more than 1 course. Redundancy of learning outcomes in multiple courses across the curriculum is encouraged in order to improve student learning through multiple exposures to material.

II. Explanation of Framework

- a. Section A – This section requires 24-25 credits (variability due to potential additional credits for science laboratory courses) of designated competency courses as outlined in the Framework.
- b. Section B – This section requires 6 credits of designated competency courses. Each CC will select 2 competency areas from among the 7. The designation of these 6 credits will be the same for all transfer degree programs from that institution. If an institution selects Oral Communication as 1 of the 2 competency areas, any course that meets the learning outcomes for that competency area will be accepted. This provides the latitude for a general oral communication course, business communication, etc.
- c. Section C - Oral Communication, Critical Analysis/Logical Thinking, and Continuing Learning/Information Literacy must either be selected in Section B or be embedded in Section C.
 - i. Example 1 – Institution selects Oral Communication and Social Phenomena in Section B. In order to satisfy Section C, Continuing Learning/Information Literacy and Critical Analysis/Logical Thinking must be embedded.
 - ii. Example 2 - Institution selects Continuing Learning/Information Literacy and Critical Analysis/Logical Thinking in Section B. In order to satisfy Section C, Oral Communication must be embedded.
- d. Section D
 - i. Written Communication must be embedded in addition to being designated in two written communication courses in Section A. At minimum one Written Communication learning outcome must be addressed in one course.
 - ii. Ethical Dimensions may not comprise a designated course; it must be embedded. All Ethical Dimensions learning outcomes must be met.

III. Additional important information

- a. Students at all ConnSCU institutions will demonstrate competency in the foundational skills and content areas outlined by the Board of Regents (BOR) in the Transfer and Articulation Policy (TAP) Implementation Plan, based on New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Standard 4.
- b. All CC programs that are designated as ConnSCU transfer programs will develop *one* 30 credit transfer core based on the framework that will be utilized for all its transfer degree programs.
- c. Connecticut State Universities (CSUs) and Charter Oak State College (COSC) have 42-48 credits in their general education programs. All CSUs and COSC will accept the 30 credit cores from CC designated transfer program graduates and will apply the credits to specific requirements of their general education programs (not as open electives). The remaining 12-18 credits will be outlined so that it will be clear what remains to be completed in the general education programs. Some of these courses may be completed at the CCs.
- d. This is a work in progress. There will be many challenges along the way, but it is the assumption of the Steering Committee that all are working toward a coherent system that serves students, employers, and the citizens of the state of Connecticut.