

# Request for Course Proposals: CORE 2.0

## Background

After a thorough, six-year assessment of MSU's undergraduate general education curriculum, MSU has decided to adopt a new core curriculum (CORE 2.0), beginning Fall 2004. An overview of the new curriculum can be found at [www.montana.edu/newcore](http://www.montana.edu/newcore).

General education equips students with intellectual context, essential skills, and breadth of knowledge, and as such is a vital part of every undergraduate student's education. CORE 2.0 is intended to provide high-quality and enriching academic experiences for non-majors.

## Faculty Steering Committees

CORE 2.0 includes four new course categories. Faculty steering committees have been established to oversee the development, review, and approval of courses in each of these four areas:

- Contemporary Issues in Science
- Diversity
- Inquiry (Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences)
- Research & Creative Experience (Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences)

## Applying to have courses included in CORE 2.0

The faculty steering committees in Contemporary Issues in Science, Diversity, Inquiry, and Research & Creative Experience invite all interested faculty to submit courses to be considered for inclusion in CORE 2.0. The committees are eager to work with faculty as they develop their CORE 2.0 proposals.

## Approval process

Courses that fully meet the criteria and goals of CORE 2.0 will be approved as core courses for six years (2004–2010), after which they will be reviewed by the appropriate steering committee to determine whether they should continue to be included in the core curriculum. Courses that partially meet the criteria and goals of the new core may be approved as substitute core courses for two years (2004–2006), after which they will need to be re-submitted to the appropriate steering committee. Except in the Research & Creative Experience category, most CORE 2.0 courses will be at the 100- or 200-level. Courses with fewer than 3 credits are unlikely to be approved.

## Application

Course proposals should include the following:

1. Proposal cover sheet (this can be downloaded from [www.montana.edu/newcore](http://www.montana.edu/newcore)).
2. A detailed narrative description that addresses how the course meets each of the criteria and learning outcomes of the appropriate course category in CORE 2.0. Because course criteria in CORE 2.0 are based largely on learning outcomes – what students should learn in the course – proposals should explain clearly how the course will help students to accomplish those objectives. Proposals for Inquiry and for Research & Creative Experience should also describe how the courses meet the criteria for the Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, or Social Sciences. The criteria and learning outcomes for each core category can be found at [www.montana.edu/newcore](http://www.montana.edu/newcore). **This is the most important part of the application.**
3. A syllabus (or draft syllabus) for the proposed course, including topics covered, assigned readings, and course assignments.
4. Non-tenure-track faculty should also include a *curriculum vitae*.

Questions about the criteria or any part of the application process should be directed to the chair of the appropriate steering committee:

*Contemporary Issues in Science*: George Tuthill, Physics, EPS 224, 994-6177,  
tuthill@physics.montana.edu

*Diversity*: Sue Monahan, Sociology, Wilson 2-125, 994-5248, smonahan@montana.edu

*Inquiry*: David Cherry, History, Wilson 2-164, 994-5205, dcherry@montana.edu

*Research & Creative Experience*: Martin Teintze, Chemistry, Gaines 21, 994-5390,  
mteintze@montana.edu

**Assessment of courses in CORE 2.0**

All approved courses will be assessed at least once a year to determine how well they are fulfilling the goals of the core curriculum. Faculty should understand, therefore, that in submitting course proposals for the new core, they are agreeing that they will work with the steering committees to develop assessment instruments that are appropriate for their courses. Assessment data will be made available **only** to the appropriate steering committee, which may use it when reviewing courses for continued inclusion in the new core.