

Applying for CORE 2.0 Designation

Background

After a thorough, six-year assessment of MSU's undergraduate general education curriculum, MSU adopted a new core curriculum (CORE 2.0) in Fall 2004. An overview of the curriculum can be found at www.montana.edu/core2.

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 seven courses categories. In addition to the four listed below, there is Writing, Quantitative Reasoning, and University Seminar. In the four broadest areas, faculty steering committees have been established to oversee the development, review, and approval of courses. Course proposals in the remaining three areas are handled by the CORE 2.0 Committee (see <http://www.montana.edu/opa/coms/core.html> for all committees). The four steering committees are in these 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. Please consider contacting the appropriate committee chair (see links in address above) at the initial phases of program development.

Approval process

Courses that the committee are convinced fully meet the criteria and goals of CORE 2.0 will be approved as core courses for six years, after which they will be reviewed by the appropriate steering committee to determine whether they should continue to be included in the core curriculum. This process will include an assessment process that goes beyond student satisfaction scores. Courses that partially meet the criteria and goals of the new core may be approved as core courses for two years, after which they will need to be re-submitted to the appropriate steering committee. Courses with fewer than 3 credits are unlikely to be approved, but the committees are open to innovative approaches.

Application

Course proposals should include the following:

1. Proposal cover sheet.

2. A detailed narrative 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 (R&CE) should also describe how the courses meet the criteria for the Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, or Social Sciences. For R&CE applications please recognize that committee members do not have experience in all disciplines and therefore it is helpful for you to describe how the proposed experience is related to the research/creative norms in your discipline. The criteria and learning outcomes for each core category can be found at <http://www.montana.edu/core2/criteria.html>. **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. If this is a new course, the new course application (submitted to the Undergraduate Studies Committee) can also be provided.
5. 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.

Assessment of courses in CORE 2.0

Responsibility for course assessment, which is a requirement of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, rests with the faculty steering committees. Participation in assessment activities will be required for continued course approval.