



Senate Bill 37 Curriculum Review

May 19, 2026

Senate Bill 37

- The Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill 37 (SB 37) this past session.
- SB 37 requires the governing board of all public institutions of higher education to conduct a review of the college's "general education curriculum" at least once every five years.
- At Blinn, this review was led by the SB 37 Review Committee consisting of Chair Bentke, Vice-Chair Wells, and Secretary Ehlert.
- The first review must be completed by January of 2027.

Senate Bill 37

- SB 37 defines general education curriculum as any core curriculum and any other curriculum or competency all undergraduate students of an institution of higher education are required to complete before receiving an undergraduate degree.
- Once the review is complete, the governing board must certify the college's compliance with SB 37 with the appropriate state offices.

Curriculum Review

- The core curriculum review under SB 37 is separate from any DEI related items in SB 17.
 - Blinn passed SB 17 audit process.
- Core curriculum has been highly regulated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for many years prior to SB 37.
- THECB dictates not only the core curriculum, but also the outcomes needed to measure the success of the core curriculum.

Senate Bill 37 Review Criteria

- In the review, SB 37 requires the governing board to ensure courses in the curriculum:
 - are foundational and fundamental to a sound postsecondary education;
 - are necessary to prepare students for civic and professional life;
 - equip students for participation in the workforce and in the betterment of society; and
 - ensure a breadth of knowledge in compliance with applicable accreditation standards.
- The governing board must also consider the potential cost the curriculum may impose on students.

Details of Curriculum Review

As part of the SB 37 review, wanted to provide background information and details on curriculum development at the Blinn College District.

What is Core Curriculum?

- Texas Education Code Section 61.821
- **Sec. 61.821. DEFINITIONS.** In this subchapter:
- (1) "Core curriculum" means the curriculum in liberal arts, humanities, and sciences and political, social, and cultural history that all undergraduate students of an institution of higher education are required to complete before receiving an academic undergraduate degree.

What are the sections for the 42-hour core?

- Core 010 - Communication (6 hours): Includes English composition and technical writing
- Core 020 - Mathematics (3 hours): Requires college algebra or equivalent
- Core 030 - Life and Physical Sciences (6 hours): Two courses in life or physical sciences (e.g., biology, chemistry, physics)
- Core 040 - Language, Philosophy and Culture (3 hours): Literature, philosophy, or cultural studies
- Core 050 - Creative Arts (3 hours): Art, architecture, music, theater
- Core 060 - American History (6 hours): Two courses covering U.S. history
- Core 070 - Government/Political Science (6 hours): Two courses, including American and Texas government
- Core 080 - Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 hours): Psychology, sociology, economics, agriculture, geography, criminal justice, etc.
- Core 090 - Component Area Option (6 hours): Speech, kinesiology, learning frameworks, additional courses from any Component Area or institution-specific requirements (e.g., computer literacy, health, capstone)

What are the sections of the 15-hour core?

- For Career and Technical Education programs, such as an AAS, student complete up to 15 hours of the Core Curriculum from three areas.

Humanities/Fine Arts	Social and Behavioral Science	Natural Science and Math
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication• Language, Philosophy, & Culture• Fine Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• American History• Government/Political Science• Social and Behavioral Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life and Physical Sciences• Math

Curriculum Committee

- Curriculum Committee handles curriculum development, review, and revisions.
- The Blinn College District Curriculum Committee's purpose is to review, analyze, and recommend edits on proposed instructional matters to ensure that the College maintains high instructional standards.
 - The responsibilities of this faculty-driven committee are, among others: the consideration, modification, and adoption of new and revised courses as well as the deletion of courses and programs.
- The Blinn College District Curriculum Committee meets monthly.

Curriculum Committee

- Courses and programs are developed by the faculty through a structured process that includes administrative and executive-level review and oversight.
 - Curriculum Resource Teams and Advisory Committees recommend new and revised offerings, ensuring alignment with state, accreditation, and regulatory requirements.
 - All proposals are reviewed by academic division leadership and undergo administrative and executive-level review before submission to the Curriculum Committee.
 - The Committee considers proposals for additions, revisions, and deletions of courses and programs.

[Curriculum Committee Blinn Website](#)

Changes to the Core Curriculum

- Changes to the Core Curriculum originate from the faculty through Curriculum Resource Teams within a structured review process.
- All proposed changes undergo multiple levels of review:
 - Blinn Curriculum Committee
 - Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and/or Vice Chancellor for Applied Sciences, Workforce, and Economic Development
 - Chancellor's Office
 - Board of Trustees (SB 37: Curriculum Review every 5 years)
 - THECB
- Blinn conducts ongoing review of its general education curriculum and submits an annual update and certification to THECB. All courses in the 42-hour Core Curriculum must be approved through this process to be maintained, added, or removed, ensuring continued compliance with state law and regulatory standards.

Understanding Courses

Courses Versus Programs

Course

- Specialized class in an established field with an individualized CIP code.
 - HIST 1301: U.S. History to 1877.

Program

- A package of courses that lead to a degree or certificate.
- Usually requires 12 credit hours in the field.

Academic and Technical Courses

Academic Courses

- Specialized class in an established field designed to both complete AA or AS degrees and transfer to a 4-year institution.
- Catalog of courses comes from the Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM).
- All Core courses derive from ACGM

Technical Courses

- Specialized classes in a technical or workforce field designed to prepare students for a certificate or AAS.
- Coursework focused on job preparedness.
- Catalog of courses comes from the Career and Technical Education Guidelines (CTE Guidelines).

What is the CTE Guideline?

- This database of courses is operated by the THECB for Career and Technical Education (CTE) and contains all currently approved workforce courses that two-year programs and institutions are allowed to offer.
- For each course, this manual includes the:
 - Course number
 - Course description
 - Contact Hour Guide
 - Must refer to the CTE for the breakdown of lecture/lab hours allowed.
 - CIP Code
 - [Career and Technical Education Guidelines](#)
 - [WECM Technical Course Inventory](#)

What is the ACGM?

- This manual of courses is operated by the THECB and contains all currently approved academic courses that two-year programs and institutions are allowed to offer.
- For each course, this manual includes the:
 - Course number
 - Course description
 - Contact Hours
 - CIP Code
- For many courses, the manual also includes:
 - Course Student Learning Outcomes
- [Academic Course Guide Manual](#)

Understanding Credentials of Value

Credentials of Value: Degrees

Associate of Arts (AA)

- 60 credit hours with a minimum of 12 credit hours in a specific program area.
- Includes 42-hour core curriculum.

Associate of Science (AS)

- 60 credit hours with a minimum of 12 credit hours in a specific program area.
- Includes 42-hour core curriculum
- Includes a larger focus on STEM courses

Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

- 60 credit hours with a minimum of 12 credit hours in a specific program area.
- Includes at least 15-hours core curriculum classes
- Can include a mixture of technical and academic coursework.

Credentials of Value: Certificates

Institutional Credential Leading to Licensing or Certification (ICLC)

- Credential set forth in the Career and Technical Education Manual.
- A series of courses designed to meet the criteria for a license or certification.
- No less than 9 hours and in a high demand field
- Core courses are not required.

Credentials

- Certificate Level II
- Certificate Level I
- Occupational Skills Award (OSA)
- ICLC

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Blinn students save

52% IN
TUITION

and general fees
compared to the
average Texas public
university.

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board



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- Core 070 - Government/Political Science (6 hours): Two courses, including American and Texas government
- Core 080 - Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 hours): Courses in social and behavioral sciences.
- Core 090 – Core Component Area (6 hours): Additional courses in Speech, Kinesiology, or Education. Can also include courses from any Component Area or institution-specific requirements

[Blinn's Core Curriculum](#)

Core Competencies and Student Learning Outcomes

- THECB has established six statewide Core Competencies that must be addressed and assessed across the core curriculum:
 - Critical Thinking Skills
 - Communication Skills
 - Empirical and Quantitative Skills
 - Teamwork
 - Social Responsibility
 - Personal Responsibility
- Each core course must be aligned with:
 - Its assigned Foundational Component Area
 - At least three Core Competencies as designated by THECB rules
- Core Competencies reflect modern “skills” necessary for success in the workforce and community.
 - Competencies are necessary across all curriculum and prepare them for future success

Core Competencies

Competency	Skill to Assess
Communication	Effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
Critical Thinking	Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
Empirical and Quantitative Skills	Manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
Teamwork	Ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
Social Responsibility	Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
Personal Responsibility	Ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Assessing Core Curriculum Outcomes

- Each core curriculum course is assessed annually within the programs in which it is offered, with oversight from Curriculum Resource Teams.
 - Core courses are additionally assessed with oversight by Curriculum Resource Teams during annual program assessment and review.
- Additionally, core curriculum courses are evaluated over a 10-year cycle to assess Core Learning Outcomes.
- The Core Curriculum Resource Team analyzes assessment results to monitor performance on outcomes and make recommendations to the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs or Vice Chancellor for Applied Sciences, Workforce, and Economic Development and appropriate Curriculum Resource Team.

Applying the SB 37 Review Criteria

- Blinn College's Core Curriculum represents a breadth of foundational knowledge relevant to academic and technical accreditation standards.
 - Both the 15-hour and 42-hour core prepare students for later coursework.
- Core Competencies reflect skills necessary for students to succeed in future work and community experiences.
 - Skills such as communication, critical thinking, and empirical and quantitative reasoning are needed in a wide variety of workplace settings.

SB 37 Compliance Summary

Blinn College District Curriculum Alignment

- Blinn's general education curriculum aligns with THECB component areas and core objectives of the Texas Core Curriculum, and is structured efficiently to provide an affordable, quality, comprehensive education.
- Blinn's career and technical education programs are developed in compliance with rules adopted by the THECB and codified in the Texas Administrative Code.
- In summary, Blinn's general education curriculum is in compliance with the requirements of SB 37.

Next Steps

Blinn's Board of Trustees must certify that the College has reviewed the core curriculum, that it meets the requirements of SB 37, and must submit an official certification document evidencing this to the appropriate state agencies.



Questions?

Thank you for your time.