

# Kent Core Policy Statement

## **PART I: PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS FOR THE KENT CORE**

The Kent Core is at the foundation of the university's mission to prepare students to live in today's complex, global society. It broadens intellectual perspectives, fosters ethical and humanitarian values and prepares students for responsible citizenship and productive careers. Through this learning experience, students develop the intellectual flexibility they need to adapt to an ever-changing world.

Kent Core course enable students to:

- Acquire critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Apply principles of effective written and oral communications
- Broaden their imagination and develop their creativity
- Cultivate their natural curiosity and begin a lifelong pursuit of knowledge
- Develop competencies and values vital to responsible uses of information and technology
- Engage in independent thinking, develop their own voice and vision and become informed, responsible citizens
- Improve their understanding of issues and behaviors concerning inclusion, community and tolerance
- Increase their awareness of ethical implications of their own and others' actions
- Integrate their major studies into the broader context of a liberal education
- Strengthen quantitative reasoning skills
- Understand basic concepts of the academic disciplines

Although not every Kent Core course will address all these goals, learning within the Kent Core as a whole enables students to acquire the tools for living rich and meaningful lives in a diverse society.

## **PART II: CRITERIA GOVERNING INCLUSION OF COURSES IN THE KENT CORE**

To be included in the list of courses that satisfy the 36-37-hour Kent Core, a course must:

1. Be at the 10000 or 20000 level
2. Provide essential skills in English composition, mathematics or logic; lie within the broad, general categories of the Humanities and Fine Arts, the Social Sciences and the Basic Sciences; or provide an innovative interdisciplinary treatment addressing one or more of these general categories
3. Be grounded in and representative of a field that has attained maturity and substance with a "critical mass" of its own scholarly literature, methodology and community of specialists
4. Have the faculty and other resources necessary to meet the enrollment demands of Kent Core courses
5. Address concepts central to the subject area as well as relevant Kent Core learning goals (see Part I)

6. Have substantial course content that is not duplicated in other Kent Core course offerings
7. Be offered at least once before it is considered for Kent Core inclusion

### **PART III: REVIEW OF KENT CORE COURSES**

In order to maintain the intent and integrity of the Kent Core, all courses listed under the Kent Core must be periodically and systematically reviewed for:

- Quality and uniformity of course content and instruction
- Conformance to Part I (philosophical basis) and II (criteria) of the Kent Core policy statement

Each department is responsible for maintaining a high level of quality and uniformity in course content and instruction. These shall be monitored by the department offering the course, through the use of appropriately constructed questionnaires and/or any other means of evaluations (peer review, classroom observation, etc.) it deems appropriate. The results of this evaluation will be used in the five-year review of the Kent Core courses.

Conformance to Parts I and II of the Kent Core Policy Statement will be reviewed at five-year intervals by the University Requirements Curriculum Committee, which will recommend any changes in the requirements to the Educational Policies Council through the dean of the Honors College. Part II of the Policy Statement will provide the criteria for the review, which will involve an evaluation of the appropriateness of the course, as defined by its syllabus and as evidenced by the conduct of its instruction.

It should be noted that any department offering a Kent Core course is responsible for ensuring that the course content be consistent with the approved Kent Core course syllabus throughout all sections offered. Changes of content and emphasis must be approved by the University Requirements Curriculum Committee, in addition to regular curricular bodies, if the course is to be retained in the Kent Core.