



Tab 12

Report on the Study of CORE 42

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
June 12, 2024

BACKGROUND

Sections 175.785-789, RSMo, establishes the Higher Education Core Curriculum Transfer Act, a standard core transfer curriculum and a common course numbering equivalency matrix for lower-division general education courses. The core transfer curriculum, also known as CORE 42, is a framework for general education that all public institutions of higher education, and some independent colleges and universities, adopted in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Section 178.788, RSMo, requires the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) to develop criteria to evaluate the transfer practices of each public institution in the state under the Act. In May 2023, department staff proposed to Ed.D. students at Vanderbilt University that an evaluation be performed as a potential graduate-level capstone project.

CURRENT STATUS

During the 2023-2024 academic year, department staff have worked with Jade Felder, Lindsay Krech, and Laura Laughlin on the evaluation of CORE 42 (report in Attachment A). Findings include:

- There was a statistically significant difference between the number of credits Missouri students transferred before CORE 42 (56.29) and after CORE 42 (54.20). The average post-CORE 42 credit decline could be attributed to a number of factors, including the pandemic, students taking fewer non-transferrable credits, and/or an overall decline in transfer enrollment. The authors recommend ongoing data tracking to understand the impact of CORE 42 on the efficiency of credit accumulation, allowing the state to understand longitudinal trends related to the program.
- There is a lack of awareness of CORE 42 among students. Recommendations to improve this include making information about the program accessible, easy to understand, and incorporated into pre-existing pre-college experiences.
- There is a need for additional technical support of CORE 42, both at the department and on campuses, as well as an assessment of the structure, processes, and scope of the Core Curriculum Advisory Committee.

NEXT STEPS

Department staff will share the report and its findings with interested stakeholders and will use the summer to conduct further research to understand how well students can transfer credit between institutions in the state.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: An Evaluation of CORE 42's Impact in Missouri