THE CORE CURRICULUM

The purpose of the Core Curriculum is not to return to the past, but to establish a balance among legitimate interests in the present, so that professional education, general education, and freedom for electives are balanced in proportions that the University community deems appropriate. To achieve a general education while pursuing a specific concentration in a chosen field of study, each undergraduate student will construct a curriculum that includes the following:

A. Six semester hours of freshman English.

B. At least six semester hours in 300- and 400-level courses with a W designation, preferably in the student's major. The W designation indicates that one of the conditions for a passing grade is that students write coherent, logical, and carefully edited prose in a minimum of two papers, at least one of which will be graded and returned before mid-semester. All W designated courses are taught and graded by instructors who have at least the master's degree, preferably in classes not exceeding thirty-five students. The W requirement must be satisfied in courses taken on this campus.

C. At least six semester hours in M designated courses. The M designation indicates that the course meets one of the following criteria: (a) The course requires substantial application of mathematical skills at or above the level of college algebra. (b) The course deals primarily with and illustrates modern mathematical ideas beyond the level of college algebra. The course should be of a general nature and not an advanced course designed primarily for majors. (c) The course deals primarily with modern symbolic logic. All M courses require College Algebra (MA 109) or a higher-level mathematics course as a prerequisite. College algebra does not have an M designation. Students who score high enough on The University of Alabama mathematics placement exam can take a course with the M designation without taking MA 109.

D. At least twelve hours in H designated courses. An H designation indicates that the course deals primarily with questions of values, ethics, or aesthetics as they are represented in works of art, philosophy, theology, history (including Western Civilization), and literature (including sophomore English).

E. At least six semester hours of SS designated courses. The SS designation indicates that the course deals primarily with the study of human behavior, social structures, or economics.

F. At least eight semester hours in NS designated courses, including two semester hours of laboratory experience. The NS designation indicates that the course applies quantitative or inductive reasoning to a subject within the natural sciences.

G. Either two semesters of the same foreign language or equivalent credit by examination, or six semester hours of C designated courses. The C designation is assigned to courses that require students to write programs and use the computer as a condition for passing the course, and that have as a prerequisite an introductory computer programming course such as CS 112, CS 113, or GES 126.

A course carrying more than one designation may be counted toward fulfilling more than one requirement by the students who take that course. A student may satisfy some core curriculum requirements by demonstration of competence on a proficiency examination such as the CLEP subject examination.

Review of courses for the core curriculum is an ongoing process. New courses may be approved and added to the list of those that meet core curriculum requirements. The core designation for existing courses may be discontinued. A course carries core curriculum credit if the course is approved at the time the course is taken. The student must consult the core curriculum supplement in the appropriate schedule of classes to ensure that the core designation is in effect at the time the course is taken.