

FAQ about the Temporary Core

Question: Why do we have a temporary core?

Answer: The process of core reform has just begun on campus, and the new committee is charged with reducing the overall number of credits required for general education. This temporary core is in place to reduce the credits right now for students while the committee does its work.

Question: What is required in the temporary core?

Answer: Students will complete the same distribution areas but will now need fewer credits in certain core categories, for a total of 38 to 40 credits.

- Composition requirement - 4 credits (a 4-credit English 101, no English 102 requirement)
- Literary and Philosophical Analysis - 3 credits (reduce from 6) -3
- US History and Government - 3 credits (*no change*)
- Social Sciences /Social Understanding - 6 credits (reduce from 9) -3
- Appreciation of the Arts - 3 credits (reduce from 6) -3
- Math - 6 credits (reduce from 6-8 credits)
- Sciences - 7 credits with one 4-credit lab course (*no change*)
- US Diversity - 3 (*no change*)
- Global Diversity - 3 (*no change*)

Question: Does the temporary core apply to all students?

Answer: The temporary core will be implemented for all current WSU students (except students graduating May 2021), and incoming Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 students. This ensures only one core is in progress to avoid confusion for students, faculty, and advisors.

Question: If a student chooses to stay in the old core, can they do that?

Answer: No, when we change this core, it needs to be done globally for everyone, including for the new incoming first year students.

Question: If I have already completed my core requirements, do I lose the credits that were reduced?

Answer: No, the classes that have been taken will be moved from common core to general electives. The core will show that you can complete certain core categories sooner than you might have been able to do otherwise.

Question: Can I graduate sooner with the new core?

Answer: A student still requires 120 credits to graduate; this means a student needs to take on average 15 credits each semester. So you should still enroll in the same number of credits, but you might now be in a position to take additional classes in your major or take electives outside your major. The reduced core requirements will make it less likely that you need to go over 120 credits to finish your graduation requirements.

Question: I would like to change my schedule now that there are certain classes I no longer need to take. What should I do?

Answer: Online registration has been extended to April 23, so you can adjust your schedule until then. Just be sure to stay enrolled in enough credits to stay on track for graduation. Look through your major requirements or the list of course offerings and select classes that help you meet requirements, and, if you have met your requirements, choose courses that interest you and might help you develop skills and knowledge in another area. Remember that college is an exciting time to stretch yourself and learn new things that will benefit you your whole life!

Note for Students Enrolled in English 101 This Semester:

Question: If I am enrolled in the 3-credit English 101 course this semester, do I need to take the 4-credit English 101 class in the fall? Or do I still need to take English 102 to complete my composition requirement?

Answer: During this transition to the temporary core, we will accept the 3-credit English 101 course as satisfying your composition requirement and you will not need to take English 102. For this coming fall only, you are welcome to take the English 102 class if you feel that you would benefit from the extra writing practice. After the fall, English 102 will not be available. Beginning in Fall 2021, any new Westfield State student will need to complete the 4-credit English 101 course.