The Community College Designated Transfer Degree Program Requirements (Framework)

Section A – 24-26 Designated competency credits

- 2 courses in Written Communication (6 credits)
- 2 courses in Scientific Understanding (1 lab science with Scientific Reasoning is required) (6-7 credits)
- 1 course in Quantitative Reasoning (above intermediate algebra) (3 credits)
- 1 course in Historical Understanding (3 credits)
- 1 course in Social Phenomena (3 credits)
- 1 course in Aesthetic Appreciation (3 credits)

Section B - 6 Designated competency credits: 2 courses (to be decided at the local level) selected from among the following with no more than 1 course in each competency area:

- Quantitative Reasoning (above intermediate algebra)
- Historical Understanding
- Social Phenomena
- Aesthetic Appreciation
- Oral Communication
- Information Literacy
- Critical Thinking

Section C – Embedded competencies – 0 designated credits. These competencies must be embedded across the curriculum and will be included in assessment. How these are embedded will be determined at the local level.

- Written Communication
- Scientific Reasoning
- Oral Communication
- Information Literacy
- Critical Thinking
- Ethical Understanding
Explanatory information for the TAP Framework

The diversity found in the unique general education cores of the ConnSCU institutions is valued; therefore a homogeneous common design is not required. This framework leaves significant latitude to the discretion of faculty at the local level. Below are guidelines to assist in understanding the proposed framework:

I. Background and terminology

a. Competency Areas – There are 11 competency areas as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency Area</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Must be Designated (Section A)</th>
<th>May be Designated (Section B)</th>
<th>Must be Embedded (Section C)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Written Communication</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Oral Communication</td>
<td>(0-3)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Scientific Reasoning</td>
<td>(6-7)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X (SR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Scientific Knowledge and Understanding</td>
<td>(0-3)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>(3-6)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Critical Analysis and Logical Thinking</td>
<td>(3-6)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Continuing Learning; Info Literacy</td>
<td>(0-3)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Historical Knowledge and Understanding</td>
<td>(0-3)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Social Phenomena Knowledge and Understanding</td>
<td>(0-3)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Aesthetic Knowledge and Understanding</td>
<td>(0-3)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Ethical Dimensions of Humankind Knowledge and Understanding</td>
<td>(0-3)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The competency areas transcend traditional department designation. For example, it is conceivable that a course that meets the learning outcomes for the Historical Knowledge and Understanding may be a course in history, anthropology, political science, etc.

b. Learning Outcomes – Each competency area has a goal and measurable learning outcomes (separate documentation). Assessment rubrics are being developed to guide institutions.

c. Designated Competency course – A course that meets all of the learning outcomes for a competency area (Sections A and B).

d. Embedded Competency course – A course that includes some of the learning outcomes for a competency area (Section C).

II. Explanation of Framework

a. Section A – This section requires 24-25 credits (variability due to potential additional credits for science laboratory courses) of designated competency courses as outlined in the Framework.

b. Section B – This section requires 6 credits of designated competency courses. Each CC will select 2 competency areas from among the 7. The designation of these 6 credits will be the same for all transfer degree programs from that institution. If an institution selects Oral Communication as 1 of the 2 competency areas, any course that meets the learning
outcomes for that competency area will be accepted. This provides the latitude for a
general oral communication course, business communication, etc.

c. Section C – All of the competency areas in this section must be embedded in courses across
the 30 credit framework. Of these 6 embedded competency areas, 2 (Written
Communication and Scientific Reasoning) must be embedded in courses in addition to being
designated courses in Section A. Two of the following 3 may also be designated courses in
Section B (Oral Communication, Information Literacy, Critical Thinking). See table above for
clarification. This redundancy was deliberately built into the framework in order to improve
student learning through multiple exposure to material. Only Ethical Dimensions of
Humankind Knowledge and Understanding is an embedded-only competency.

i. Example 1 – Institution selects Oral Communication and Social Phenomena in
Section B. To fulfill the requirement of Section C, 1 (or more) of the learning
outcomes of Oral Communication, Written Communication and Scientific Reasoning
must be embedded in the curriculum (only 1 embedding is required since the
learning outcomes are already addressed in designated competency courses). The
learning outcomes of the remaining competency areas, Information Literacy, Critical
Thinking and Ethical Dimensions must be embedded in 2 (or more) courses (since
the learning outcomes for these competency areas are not addressed in designated
competency courses) and all of the learning outcomes must be addressed.

ii. Example 2 - Institution selects Critical Thinking and Information Literacy in Section B.
To fulfill the requirement of Section C, 1 (or more) of the learning outcomes of
Critical Thinking, Information Literacy, Written Communication and Scientific
Reasoning must be embedded in the curriculum (only 1 embedding is required since
the learning outcomes are already addressed in designated competency courses).
The learning outcomes of the remaining competency areas, Oral Communication
and Ethical Dimensions must be embedded in 2 (or more) courses (since the
learning outcomes for these competency areas are not addressed in designated
competency courses) and all of the learning outcomes must be addressed.

III. Additional important information

a. Rising juniors at all ConnSCU institutions will demonstrate competency in the foundational
skills and content areas outlined by the Board of Regents (BOR) in the Transfer and
Articulation Policy (TAP) Implementation Plan, based on New England Association of Schools
and Colleges (NEASC) Standard 4.

b. All CC programs that are designated as ConnSCU transfer programs will need to develop one
30 credit transfer core based on the framework that will be utilized for all its transfer degree
programs.

c. Connecticut State Universities (CSUs) and Charter Oak State College (COSC) have 42-48
credits in their general education programs. All CSUs and COSC will accept the 30 credit
cores from CC designated transfer program graduates and will apply the credits to specific
requirements of their general education programs (not as open electives). The remaining
12-18 credits will be outlined so that it will be clear what remains to be completed in the
general education programs. Some of these courses may be completed at the CCs.
d. This is a work in progress. There will be many challenges along the way, but it is the assumption of the Steering Committee that all are working toward a coherent system that serves students, employers, and the citizens of the state of Connecticut.