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Why did King's College revise its Core curriculum?

For our students. College curricula are always evolving, and you happen to be at King's during a stage in the evolution of ours. Over a span of more than four years, a committee of faculty and administrators studied several important concerns—trends and standards in higher education, the strengths and needs of the current and next generation of college students, and the abilities and characteristics that employers are seeking in new hires—and made a few changes to the current Core curriculum. Building on a what they knew to be a strong Core and staying committed to the mission and identity of King's College, the committee, with the support of the faculty, listed seven goals for the revised Core curriculum:

1. Help students develop the foundational skills and competencies of written and oral communication, quantitative reasoning, critical inquiry and analysis, and technological competency and information literacy.
2. Lead students to become conversant with the Catholic intellectual tradition.
3. Enable students to recognize, formulate, and address matters of moral significance and concern.

4. Cultivate students' capacity to appreciate, analyze, and engage the human experience in its many creative forms.
5. Advance our students' quantitative and scientific reasoning and literacy.
6. Prepare and dispose our students to be responsible citizens in our increasingly interdependent world.
7. Foster in our students intellectual virtues such as curiosity, open-mindedness, creativity, perseverance, and independent thinking.

These seven goals shaped the new Core. In short, the content and structure of the new Core will develop in our students the skills, knowledge, and dispositions that will help them find purposeful and rewarding work and lead meaningful lives.

How is the new Core similar to the previous one?

Many courses are similar. A good number of courses from the previous Core found their way into the new Core, although most will be revised to focus on themes and topics that advance the seven goals listed above.

Many basic requirements have not changed. Students will still take courses in writing, speech, literature, the arts, history, math, the social and natural sciences, philosophy, and theology. The Core has been designed to be innovative and contemporary, while allowing current students to transition easily into the new curriculum.

What are some of the basic differences between the previous Core and the new one?

There's no "CORE." We are no longer using the prefix CORE to designate courses in the Core curriculum. Most courses will be listed in academic departments, so, for example, CORE 110: Effective Writing is now listed in the English Department as ENGL 110: Writing. One exception to the department designation occurs with the slate of courses listed in the natural sciences, which includes chemistry, biology, and physics. Courses in the natural sciences will not be designated by department but by the prefix NSCI (for Natural Science). NSCI 100 is The Scientific Endeavor, the equivalent of our old CORE 270. Another set of science classes, under the heading Science in Context, appears as NSCI 170 to 199 (equivalent to the old CORE 271 and above).

The numbers are different. In addition to losing the CORE designation, most classes will have new numbers. CORE 280: Introduction to Philosophy, for example, is now PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy. All courses that are offered for Core credit are 100-level: ENGL 141, HIST 170, PSYC 101, and so on. But be careful: while all Core classes are numbered in the 100s, not all 100-level courses count for Core credit. In other words, you will see courses offered at King's (say, ACCT 115 or CIS 111) that are *not* Core. To determine if a 100-level course counts for Core credit, you can consult the full list of approved courses or speak with your advisor.

The courses aren't strictly sequenced. For example, you can now take the two philosophy requirements in whatever order you like. The same goes for the sciences and

theology. As a rule, however, it may be wisest to take courses in the 100-149 range before taking those in the 150-199 range. Taking Introduction to Philosophy (101) for example, *before* taking the other requirement (PHIL 170 and above) might prepare you better for the more focused and demanding exploration of philosophical themes that occurs in the second course. Use your best judgment (and talk to your advisor).

What are some of the more substantial differences that will affect students?

A new first-year seminar. You probably have already taken your Liberal Arts Seminar, so this innovation will not affect you. Beginning in fall 2019, first-year students will take a course titled College Seminar: The Quest for Meaning. Each section will feature a more focused quest (for love, truth, beauty, identity, or community), and some sections of the seminar will be paired with another course in the Core; for example, a section on identity might be linked with a course in psychology, literature, theatre, writing, and so on.

Learning Communities. When a seminar is linked to another Core course, the same students will take both courses back-to-back on their schedules and in the same room. They'll get to know each other and their professors better as, together, they explore the links between their subjects. This change, too, will not affect current students.

Clusters of courses. The courses in the new Core are organized into four groups, which at the moment we are calling clusters. The four clusters and the category of classes that appear in the clusters are

Communication and Creative Expression

Writing

Oral Communication

Literature

The Arts

Citizenship

History

Intercultural Competence (courses in language and study abroad)

Global Connections (courses in economics, geography, history, political science, and sociology)

Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning

Quantitative Reasoning

The Scientific Endeavor

Science in Context (courses in biology, chemistry, and physics)

Human Behavior and Social Institutions (courses in economics, geography, political science, psychology, and sociology)

Wisdom, Faith and the Good Life

Introduction to Philosophy

Philosophical Investigations

Theology and Wisdom

Theology and the Good Life

Courses in a cluster will pursue common learning outcomes. For instance, all the courses in the Communication and Creative Expression cluster will devote some portion of course work to increasing students' capacity for creativity, whether in the choice of language for essays and speeches or in the approach to interpreting and constructing works of the imagination. By way of these four clusters and the common learning outcomes that unite them, students, we hope, will experience the Core as a more integrated set of courses. Those who complete the Core will have enhanced their creativity, identified their role in a global community, improved their ability to think rationally and scientifically, and established a foundation for moral and ethical decision-making.

How will these changes affect current students?

You must use the new Core to fulfill your current requirements. Perhaps the most important thing to keep in mind is this: As a current student, you must complete the Core requirements that were in place when you first matriculated at King's, but you must do so using the new Core offerings. That sounds more difficult than it is; in fact, some of the changes—like a wider range of choices in some categories—actually benefit you. While the new Core is more integrated and more compact, it is not so different from the previous Core as to be confusing or burdensome for current students. In fact, working with your advisor, you should have little trouble, if any, meeting your Core requirements.

We've created an equivalency document that will help you determine how to best complete your Core requirements using the new offerings. In the left column of this equivalency document, find the course you need; on the right side, you'll find the choices that will satisfy the requirement. So, for example, the CORE 110 requirement is satisfied by taking ENGL 110; CORE 131 or 133 is satisfied by taking any of a range of history classes; the CORE 180 sequence can be fulfilled with a free elective, and so on.

How will I know what to take?

Use your current program planner and the equivalency document. Together, these will help you make the right decisions.

Work with your advisor. You will most certainly, with the help of the equivalency document, figure out what courses in the new Core meet your needs, but your advisor is still the best resource for explaining how the changes affect your choices. Schedule an appointment early in the advisement period to ensure that there is time to find answers should you (or your advisor) have any questions.

If there's no CORE, what are we calling this curriculum?

The Core. We did eliminate the CORE designation, but the word *Core* will remain to distinguish this integrated set of course from those that compose your major and minor. The word *Core* is commonly used in higher education to identify the required set of classes that make up a school's general education program, but at King's the word has special meaning. We believe that these courses are truly a "core"—something central and essential in a larger structure. We believe that the Core is central and essential to our students' education in the liberal arts and major disciplines.

I still need CORE 140-149. What do I do?

You have three choices.

- a. You can take CORE 140. For the next few years, the college will continue to offer a few sections of this course, the *only* CORE class that that will remain on the schedule.
- b. You can take a 100-level course in French, Spanish, or German. You'll find them on the master schedule of classes under FREN, SPAN, and GERM.
- c. You can participate in a qualified, approved Study Abroad experience that will satisfy your CORE 140 requirement.

Can I still take IB 241: Globalization to satisfy the Global Studies requirement?

Yes. The McGowan School of Business will offer IB 241, and it will count for the old CORE 193 requirement for currently enrolled students. Sections in the coming fall and spring might be limited, and, of course, rising seniors will have first choice. Rising sophomores and juniors may have to wait a semester or two before a seat is available in the course, but everyone will eventually be accommodated. Be sure to ask your advisor about scheduling.

Can I still take MSB 287: Business Ethics to satisfy one of the Philosophy requirements?

Yes. This course remains a choice in the new Core.

Do I have to take either CORE 150, CORE 180, or CORE 190?

No. The Interdisciplinary Social Science category no longer exists. You do not have to take CORE 150, 180, or 190, but if you've already taken any of those classes, they still count for Core credit; you haven't lost anything. If you still need courses in the 150, 180, and 190 range, the equivalency document will tell you what classes to choose from.

If the new Core is only 45-48 credits and I already have 45 Core credits, am I finished with my Core classes?

It depends, but probably not. Remember that when you came to King's, you needed to complete not just a minimum number of Core credits but a required list of courses as well. So perhaps you have 45 Core credits accumulated, but you haven't yet taken a second theology class or a global studies class. If you're a current student, it's best to think in terms of the *courses* you must take rather than the number of credits you need.

Will transfer credits still be accepted for Core credit?

Yes. Any credits *already accepted* in transfer for Core credit will continue to count. And credits taken elsewhere after the new Core launches in fall 2019 will be considered for transfer. As always, speak to your advisor or the registrar before you take any courses at another college with the intention of transferring the credits to King's.

What if I need to repeat a course from the previous Core?

You can. See the college catalog for information on how to proceed. If you cannot find a course in the new Core that precisely matches the one you wish to repeat, the Associate Vice President for Academic Success will help you find an equivalent substitution.

If I have questions about the new Core or the new requirements, whom should I ask?

Always start with your advisor.

You can also take your questions to several offices:

Academic Advisement
Mr. John Kratz
Mulligan Physical Science Center, Room 95
Phone: 570-208-5872
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday

Registrar's Office
Mr. Dan Cebrick
Administration Building, Room 100
Phone: 570-208-5870
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday

Academic Affairs
Dr. Neal Bukeavich or Dr. James Wallace
Administration Building, Room 327
Phone: 570-208-5895
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday