NEW FRAMEWORK
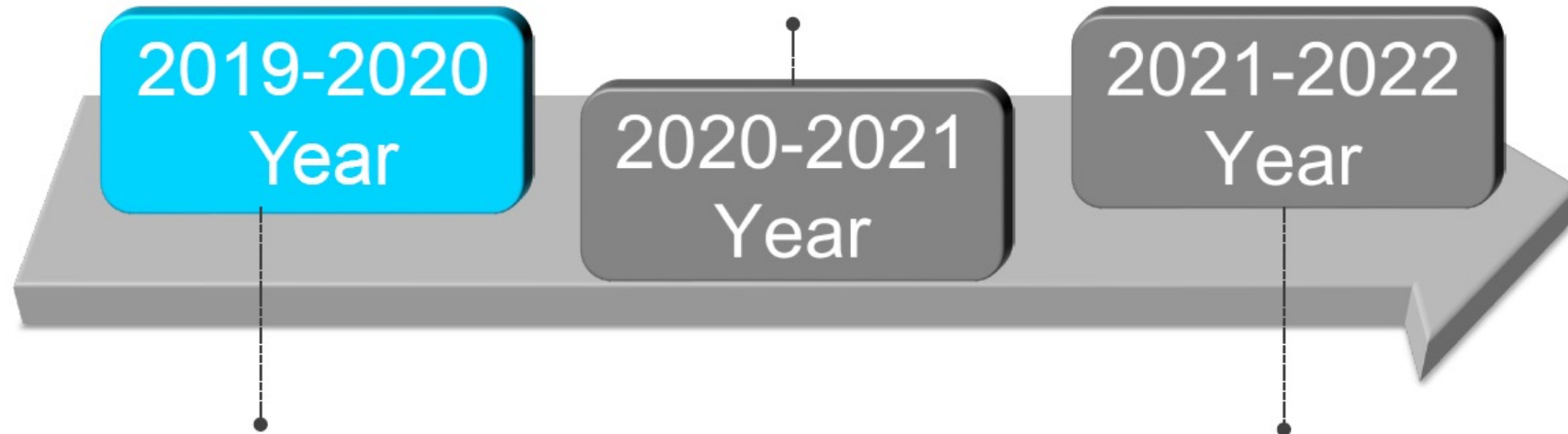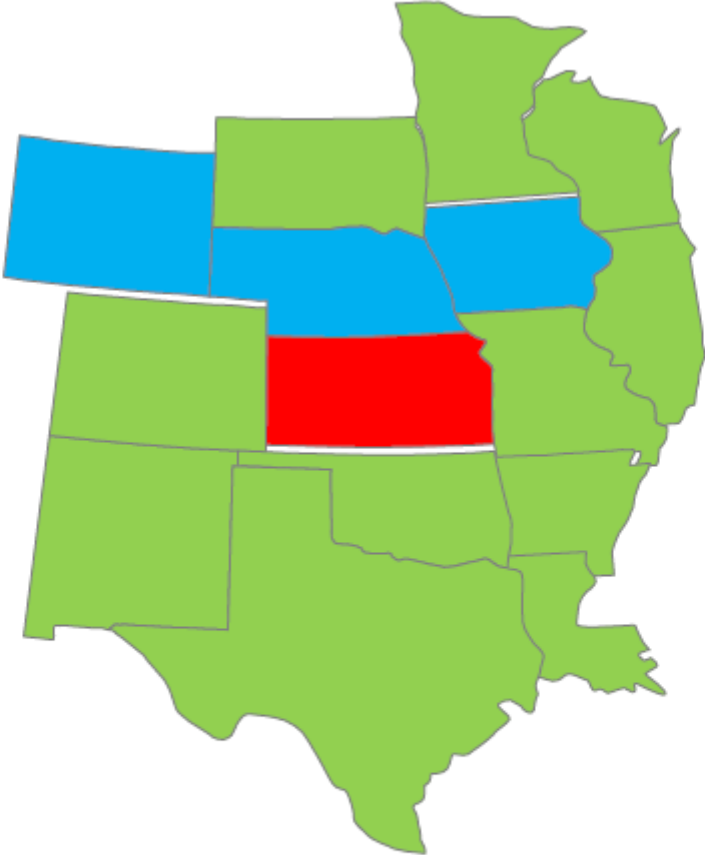
BACKGROUND

KU

BACKGROUND

1. Board goal was established to create a common general education package
2. 19-member gen ed working group was created and began working on developing a common GE package.

2019-2020 Year   **2020-2021 Year**   **2021-2022 Year**

1. Student complaints about transfer
2. Future of Higher Education Council
3. Board directive to address transfer

1. 19-member working group continued to work on ge framework
2. 9-member implementation working group created to help write policy
3. Board approved policy changes on June 15, 2022

GENERAL EDUCATION IN THE REGION

GE Package Required for Transfer Associate and Baccalaureate Degrees	GE Package Required for Transfer Associate Degrees	No GE Package Required

SYSTEMWIDE GE HOURS BY STATE

State	GE Hours
WI	30
TX	42
OK	40
MO	42
MN	40
KS	34
LA	39
IL	37
CO	30
Ark	35

https://www.kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/general-education

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ABOUT   ACADEMIC AFFAIRS   DATA   STUDENTS   UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES   WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Home ▸ Academic Affairs ▸ Systemwide General Education

SYSTEMWIDE GENERAL EDUCATION BACKGROUND

1. HOW DID THE SYSTEMWIDE GENERAL EDUCATION START?

At the end of FY 2020, the Board expressed a strong desire to develop a more robust system-based approach to facilitate student transfer. Building on this vision, in FY 2021 and 2022, the Board established a goal to develop a systemwide general education (GE) package under a common framework. When framing this goal, the Board instructed Board staff to develop a system-based GE package that would maximize the application of credit throughout the system, simplify processes for transfer students, and remove barriers for transfer students.

At the outset of this work in September 2020, 14 out of 15 states in the central United States had some variation of a systemwide GE, with Kansas being the outlier without a systemwide GE. From September 2020 to May 2022, a GE working group consisting of 19 faculty and administrators from community colleges, universities, and one technical college, a nine-member GE implementation working group consisting of registrars and transfer academic advisors, and detailed feedback from institutions helped shape the GE framework and its related policies.

The policy revisions and additions pertaining to GE and the application of transfer GE credit were approved by the Board on June 15, 2022.

2. WHAT POLICY ADDITIONS AND REVISIONS WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD?

First, a new policy, the Systemwide General Education Program policy (Chapter III.A.18), creates a systemwide GE for the state universities, community colleges, and Washburn University. Most notably, this details the common system framework (disciplines, core subjects, and credit hours) that each institution will adopt, establishes institutional reporting requirements, and creates a GE Council, which will be responsible for reviewing institutional reporting, issuing recommendations regarding requests for certain majors to deviate from the GE requirements, and investigating student and

IN THIS SECTION:
- Academic Portfolio Reviews
- Adult Education
- Credit for Prior Learning
- Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships
- Developmental Education
- Employer Recognition
- Kansas EPSCoR/IDeA
- Michael Tilford Conference
- New Program Approval
- Open Educational Resources
- Performance Agreements
- Program Search
- Private/Out-of-State
- Qualified Admissions
- Reverse Transfer
- SARA
- > Systemwide General Education
  - Seven Bucket Framework
  - Implementing Systemwide General Education
  - Timeline Issues
  - Students Who Completed Systemwide GE
  - Students Who Did Not Complete Systemwide GE

KBOR Systemwide Gen Ed

Goals for establishing a common gen ed package:

1. Maximize application of credit throughout the system.

2. Simplify processes for transfer students.

3. Remove barriers for transfer students.

Systemwide General Education

In 2020, the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) launched an initiative to develop a systemwide general education package to improve the transfer student experience. The KU Core must be aligned with the systemwide framework in order comply with the new policy and meet the Fall 2024 implementation deadline.

In the fall 2022, the University Core Curriculum Committee (UCCC) began reviewing options to align the KU Core with KBOR's new Systemwide General Education Program policy (Chapter III.A.18). The policy outlines:

SYSTEMWIDE GENERAL

EDUCATION GOALS

NEW FRAMEWORK

OVERVIEW

KU

SEVEN BUCKET GEN ED FRAMEWORK

English
Discipline Area

6 Hours

Communications
Discipline Area

3 Hours

Math & Stats
Discipline Area

3 Hours

Natural & Physical
Sciences Discipline Area

4-5 Hours

Social & Behavioral
Sciences Discipline Area

6 Hours

Arts & Humanities
Discipline Area

6 Hours

Institutionally
Designated Area
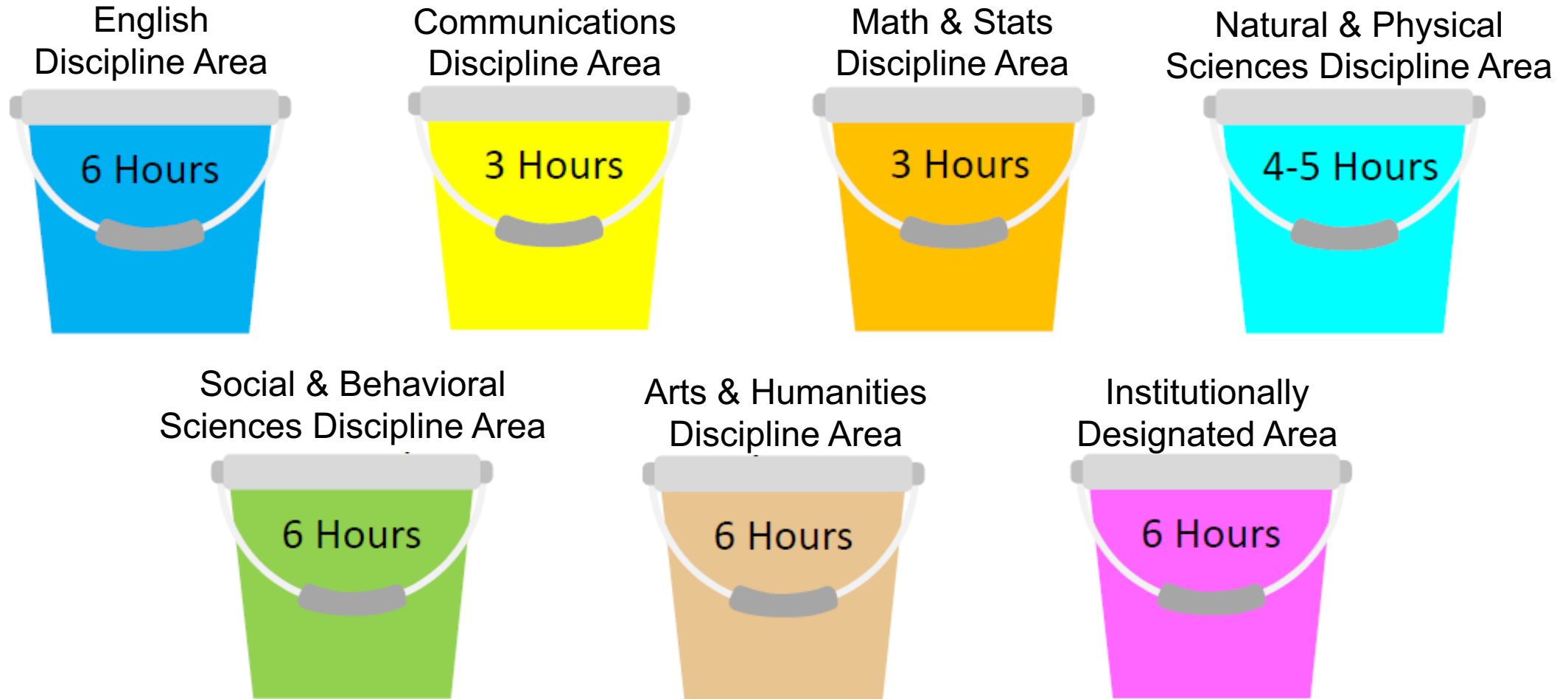
6 Hours

Framework: 34-35 credit hours

HOW DOES THIS WORK FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS?
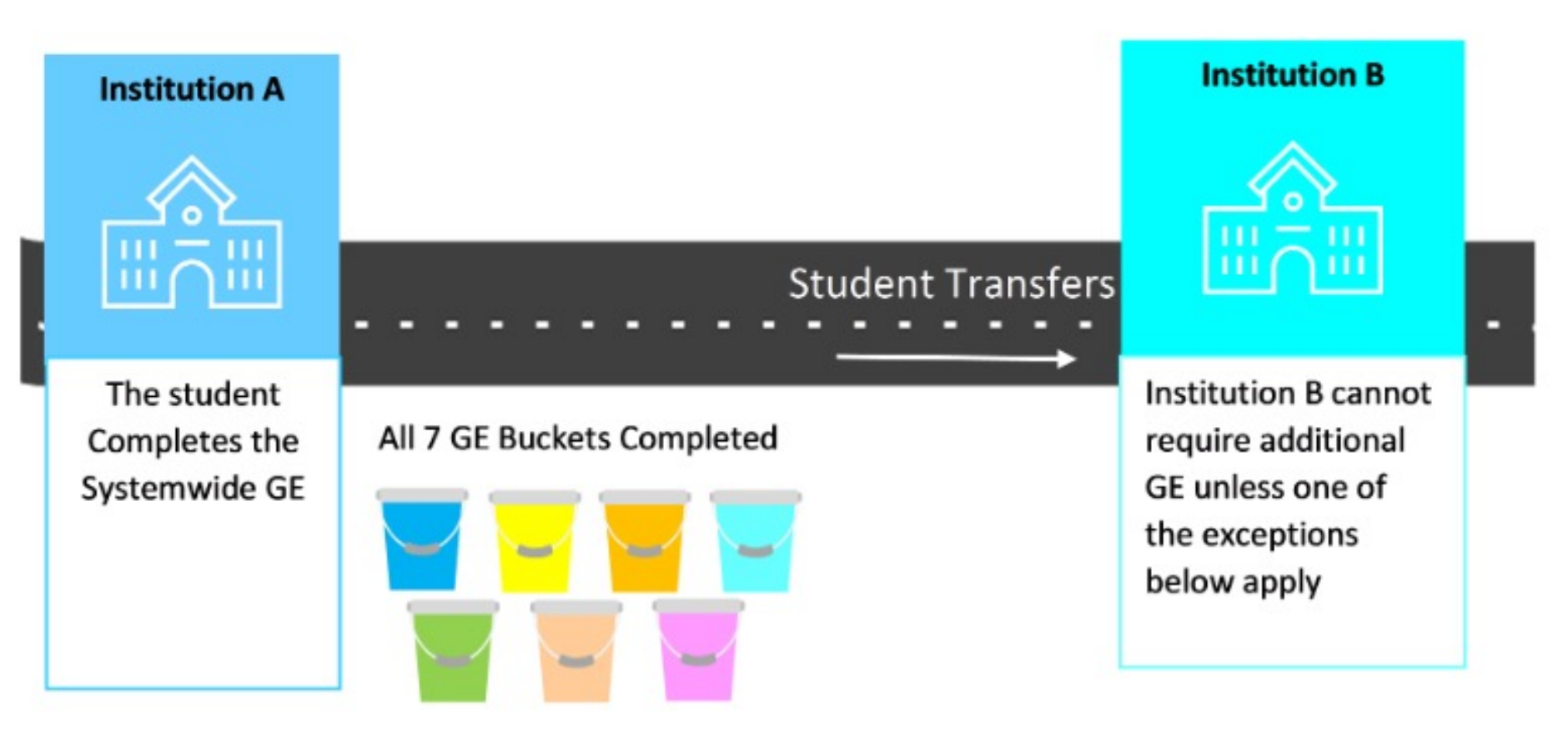
Institution A

The student Completes the Systemwide GE

AACRAO Sample University
222 University Drive, Washington, D.C. 22222
www.aacrao.edu (222) 111–3333

Page 1 of 1

Student Name: Ricky Bobby
Student ID: 11111111
Birth Date: November 21
Major: ART

Fall 2024

Course	Num.	Title	Hrs	Grade	Points
HIST	101	History Since 1877	3	A	12
ENGL	101	English Comp. I	3	A	12
SOC	101	Intro to Sociology	3	A	12
MATH	102	Contemporary Math	3	B	9
BIO	101	Gen Bio & Lab	4	A	16

Sem Hrs Ttl=16   Sem GPA 3.81

Spring 2025

Course	Num.	Title	Hrs	Grade	Points
MUSIC	101	Music Appreciation	3	A	12
ENGL	102	English Comp. II	3	A	12
COMM	101	Intro to Pub Spk	3	A	12
ACCT	101	Personal Finance	3	A	12
POLS	101	American Govt	3	A	12

Sem Hrs Ttl=15   Sem GPA 4.0

Summer 2025

Course	Num.	Title	Hrs	Grade	Points
COMP	101	Intro to Comp Sci	3	A	12

Sem Hrs Ttl=15   Sem GPA 4.0

KS Systemwide General Education Completed

CUM HOURS=34   CUM POINTS=133   CUM GPA=3.91

END OF TRANSCRIPT---

THIS INFORMATION IS
CONFIDENTIAL. ITS
RELEASE IS GOVERNED BY

Source: KBOR General Education Presentation (January 20, 2023)

Systemwide Transfer Courses

Institution A

Student Does **Not** Complete the Systemwide GE but Completes Some GE Courses

Student Transfers →

Institution B

Official Transcript Evaluation (of credit earned at Institution A)

For each course, is the transfer course a Systemwide Transfer course that falls under one of the Systemwide GE buckets?

Six Discipline Buckets: See Systemwide Transfer Courses by GE Bucket Resource Below for More Information

Yes

The Systemwide Transfer course is applied toward satisfying GE credit hour requirements in the applicable bucket at Institution B unless one of the exceptions noted below apply.

No

Since the course is not a Systemwide Transfer course, the application of the course towards satisfying a GE requirement is at the discretion of Institution B

Source: KBOR https://kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/general-education/students-who-did-not-completed-ge

KU CORE

ALIGNMENT

KU
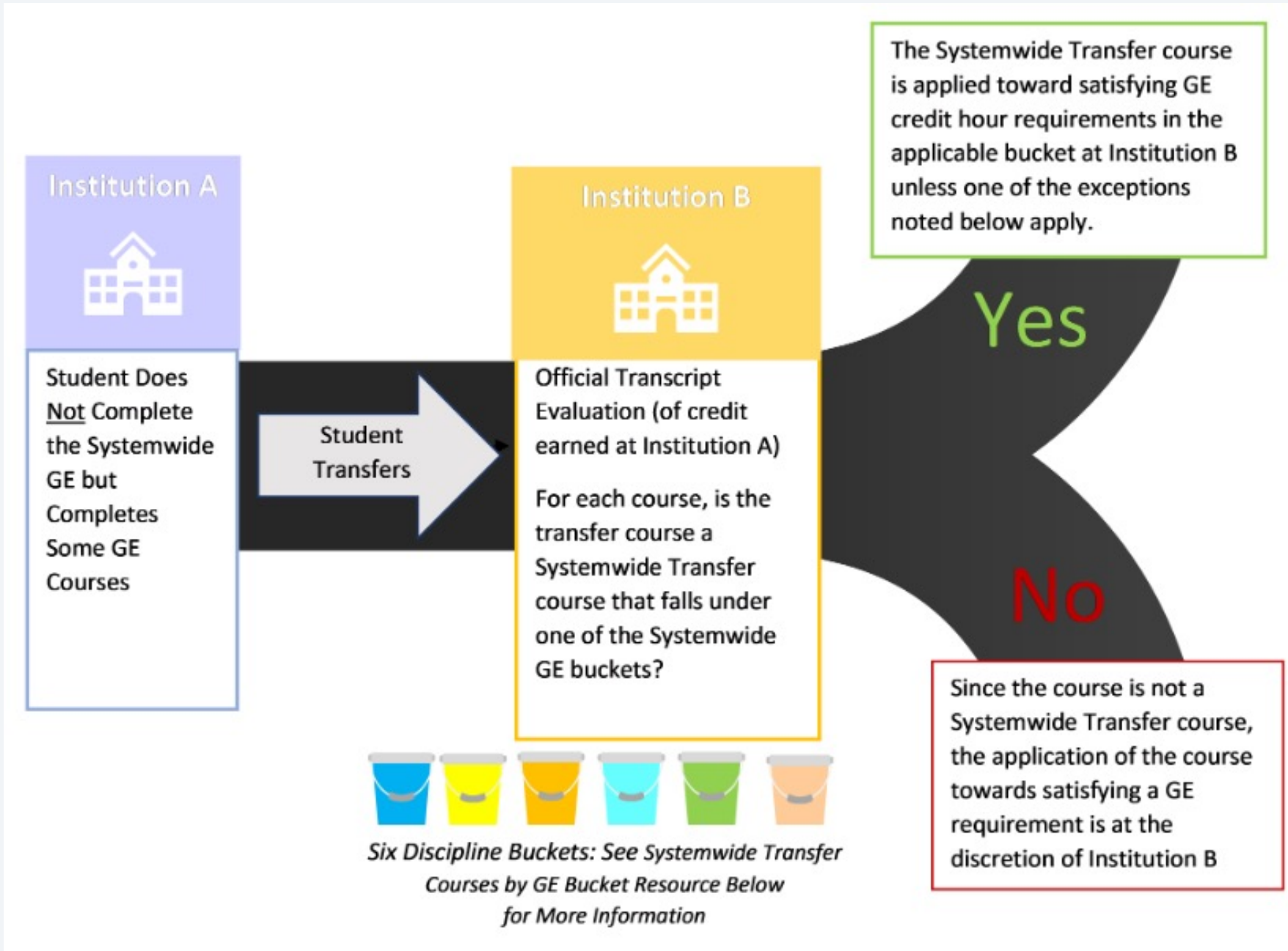
SEVEN BUCKET GEN ED FRAMEWORK

Current KU Core Requirements – 36 Hours

Goal 1: Critical Thinking & Quantitative Literacy
Goal 1.1 - Critical Thinking (3 hours)
Goal 1.2 – Quantitative Literacy (3 hours)

Goal 2: Communication
Goal 2.1 – Written Communication (6 hours)
Goal 2.2 – Oral Communication (3 hours)

Goal 3: Breadth of Knowledge
Goal 3AH – Arts & Humanities (3 hours)
Goal 3N – Natural Sciences (3 hours)
Goal 3S – Social Sciences (3 hours)

Goal 4: Culture & Diversity
Goal 4.1 – United States (3 hours)
Goal 4.2 – Global Community (3 hours)

Goal 5: Social Responsibility & Ethics
Goal 5.1 or 5.2 (3 hours)

Goal 6: Integration & Creativity
Goal 6.1 or 6.2 (3 hours)

English Discipline Area
6 Hours

Communications Discipline Area
3 Hours

Math & Stats Discipline Area
3 Hours

Natural & Physical Sciences Discipline Area
4-5 Hours

Social & Behavioral Sciences Discipline Area
6 Hours

Arts & Humanities Discipline Area
6 Hours

Institutionally Designated Area
6 Hours

Framework: 34-35 credit hours

SEVEN BUCKET GEN ED FRAMEWORK

English Discipline Area aligns with KU Core Goal:

- 2.1 – Written Communication (6 hours)
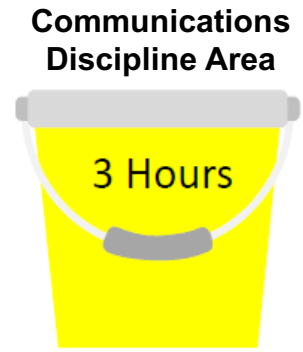
Communications Discipline Area aligns with KU Core Goal:

- 2.2 – Oral Communication (3 hours)

English Discipline Area
6 Hours

Communications Discipline Area
3 Hours

Math & Stats Discipline Area
3 Hours

Natural & Physical Sciences Discipline Area
4-5 Hours

Social & Behavioral Sciences Discipline Area
6 Hours

Arts & Humanities Discipline Area
6 Hours

Institutionally Designated Area
6 Hours

SEVEN BUCKET GEN ED FRAMEWORK

Math & Statistics Discipline Area aligns with KU Core Goal:

- 1.2 – Quantitative Reasoning (3 hours)*

*This will be redefined by the KBOR math pathways initiative and take full effect in either 2025-26 or 2026-27.

English Discipline Area

6 Hours

Communications Discipline Area

3 Hours

Math & Stats Discipline Area

3 Hours

Natural & Physical Sciences Discipline Area

4-5 Hours

Social & Behavioral Sciences Discipline Area

6 Hours

Arts & Humanities Discipline Area

6 Hours

Institutionally Designated Area

6 Hours
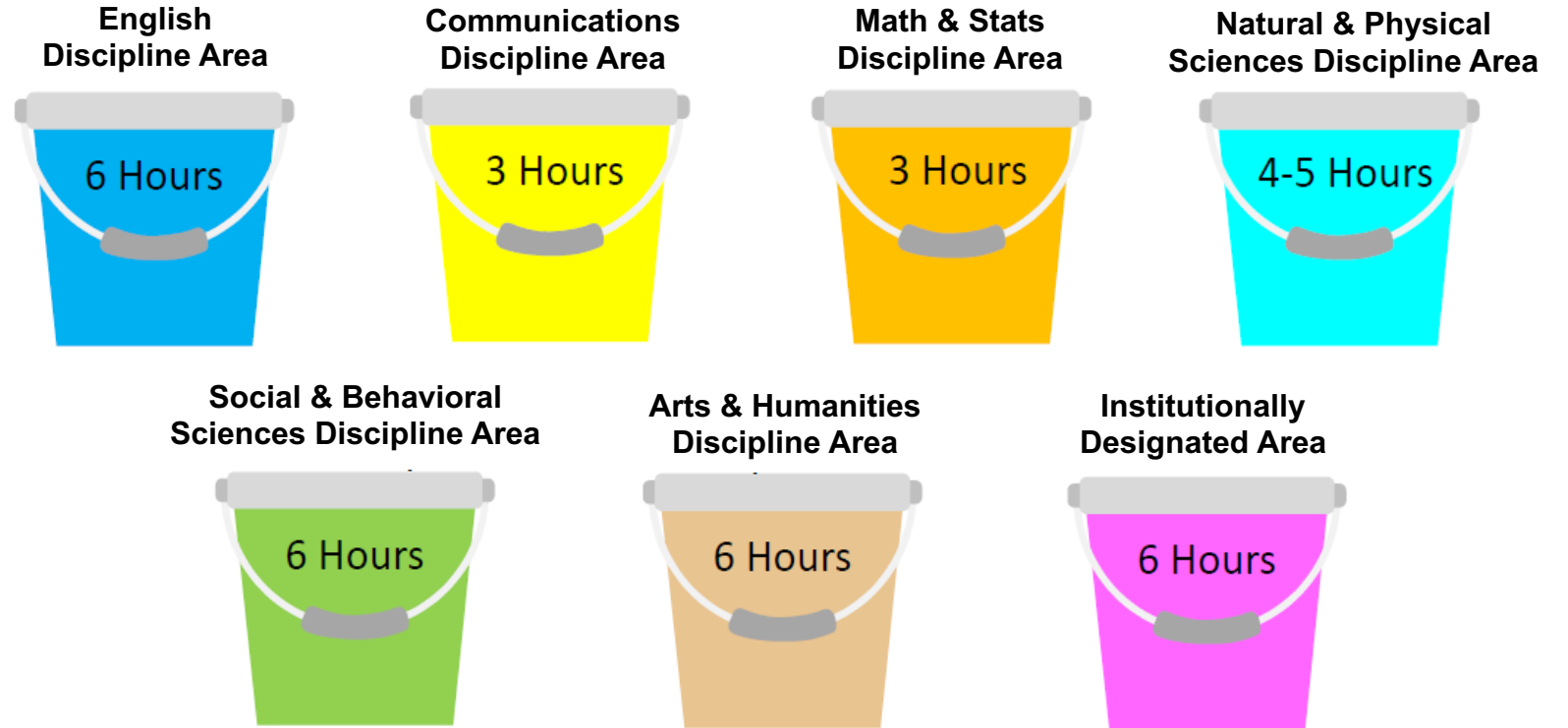
SAMPLE MATH PATHWAYS

		Majors
Elementary Statistics		Social Sciences · Public & Protective Services Health Technologies · Library & Info Science Social Work

		Majors
Quantitative Reasoning		Arts & Humanities · Ag & Natural Resources Applied Arts/Sciences · Journalism Hospitality & Culinary · Communication English

		Majors
Algebra to Calculus		Biology · Physical Sciences Engineering & Architecture · Business Math

WHAT IS A MATH PATHWAY?

Charles A. Dana Center at UT Austin:
https://www.utdanacenter.org/

What counts for the Math & Stats Discipline Area will be defined by the KBOR math pathways initiative and take full effect in either 2025-26 or 2026-27.

Source: KBOR General Education Presentation (January 20, 2023)

SEVEN BUCKET GEN ED FRAMEWORK

Natural & Physical Sciences Discipline Area aligns with KU Core Goal:

- 3N – Natural Sciences (3 hours)*

*KU will need to require one additional hour of science and a lab.

Note: Students in some programs are already required to complete a lab requirement.

English Discipline Area
6 Hours

Communications Discipline Area
3 Hours

Math & Stats Discipline Area
3 Hours

Natural & Physical Sciences Discipline Area
4-5 Hours

Social & Behavioral Sciences Discipline Area
6 Hours

Arts & Humanities Discipline Area
6 Hours

Institutionally Designated Area
6 Hours

SEVEN BUCKET GEN ED FRAMEWORK

Social & Behavioral Sciences Discipline Area requires at least two courses from two subject areas:

- Anthropology
- Criminal Justice
- Economics
- Ethnic and/or Gender Studies
- Geography
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Other subjects that the offering institution determines fit within the social sciences area

Social & Behavioral Sciences Discipline Area aligns with KU Core Goals:

- 3S – Social Sciences (3 hours)
- 4.1 – U.S. Diversity (3 hours)

Requires at least two courses from two subject areas; one course from each KU Core Goal in this area.

English Discipline Area — 6 Hours

Communications Discipline Area — 3 Hours

Math & Stats Discipline Area — 3 Hours

Natural & Physical Sciences Discipline Area — 4-5 Hours

Social & Behavioral Sciences Discipline Area — 6 Hours

Arts & Humanities Discipline Area — 6 Hours

Institutionally Designated Area — 6 Hours

SEVEN BUCKET GEN ED FRAMEWORK

Arts & Humanities Discipline Area requires at least two courses from two subject areas:

- Art *
- Communications
- Cultural Studies
- Dance*
- English
- General Humanities
- History
- Literature
- Modern and Classical Languages
- Music*
- Philosophy
- Religion
- Theater*
- Other subjects that the offering institution determines fit within the arts and humanities

*The application of performance courses in this subject area is at the discretion of the institution

English Discipline Area

6 Hours

Communications Discipline Area

3 Hours

Math & Stats Discipline Area

3 Hours

Natural & Physical Sciences Discipline Area

4-5 Hours

Social & Behavioral Sciences Discipline Area

6 Hours

Arts & Humanities Discipline Area

6 Hours

Institutionally Designated Area

6 Hours

Arts & Humanities Discipline Area aligns with KU Core Goals:

- 3AH – Arts & Humanities (3 hours)
- 5 – Social Responsibility & Ethics (3 hours)

Requires at least two courses from two subject areas; one course from each KU Core Goal in this area.

SEVEN BUCKET GEN ED FRAMEWORK

Institutionally Designated Area aligns with KU Core Goals:

- 1.1 – Critical Thinking (3 hours)
- 4.2 – Global Diversity (3 hours)

Requires one course from each KU Core Goal in this area.

English Discipline Area

6 Hours

Communications Discipline Area

3 Hours

Math & Stats Discipline Area

3 Hours

Natural & Physical Sciences Discipline Area

4-5 Hours

Social & Behavioral Sciences Discipline Area

6 Hours

Arts & Humanities Discipline Area

6 Hours

Institutionally Designated Area

6 Hours

WHAT ABOUT KU CORE GOAL 6?

GOAL 6: INTEGRATION & CREATIVITY (CAPSTONE)

- Goal 6 is focused on the integration of knowledge within or across disciplines.

- Should be completed at the junior or senior level.

- Capstone courses are not meant to be completed elsewhere and transferred.

- Capstone courses are High-Impact Practices.

- NSSE measures student engagement with High-Impact Practices including culminating senior experiences (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, portfolio, etc.). NSSE 2021 results:

  - 51% of KU Seniors indicated a culminating senior experience was done or in progress

  - 22.9% of KU Seniors indicated they plan to complete a culminating senior experience

RECOMMENDATION TO GOVERNANCE

- Add a Capstone requirement as part of the requirements for graduation with the Bachelor's Degree (USRR Article 3, Section 1).

- Shift Goal 6 out of the KU Core and establish as a program specific requirement.

- Bachelor's degrees must remain at 120 credit hours (unless already approved for exception).

EXCEPTION REQUESTS

EXCEPTION TYPE #1: REQUEST FOR A SPECIFIC MAJOR TO DEVIATE FROM THE SYSTEMWIDE GE

- An academic program wishes to deviate from a GE bucket in the systemwide GE. This would apply to cases in which a program wishes to be exempt from a GE bucket requirement.

- Reviewed by KBOR under high scrutiny and only cases in which programmatic accreditation and/or licensure make it IMPOSSIBLE to require every component within the framework.

EXCEPTION TYPE #2A: REQUEST TO CONTINUE REQUIRING – AND NOT WAIVE – A SPECIFIC GE COURSE REQUIREMENT FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS IN A SPECIFIC MAJOR.

- An academic program wishes for a transfer student to complete a specific GE course to satisfy a GE bucket requirement on its campus – even when the transfer student completed the systemwide GE or the applicable discipline bucket requirement through systemwide transfer coursework.

- Example: A chemistry program requires all native majors to take a specific science course in the natural and physical sciences bucket. When a transfer student has not completed such a course before transferring, it does not wish to waive such a course requirement – even when the transfer student completed the science bucket or completed the systemwide GE.

- A legitimate case would include a specific course is necessary to meet a programmatic accreditation and/or licensure requirement and there are no other means by which to meet such a requirement outside of requiring a specific course that is needed to complete a GE bucket requirement.

EXCEPTION REQUESTS (CONT.)

EXCEPTION TYPE #2B: EXPEDITED REQUEST AND REVIEW FOR PREREQUISITE COURSES

- The student is pursuing a major in which a specific general education course is needed as a prerequisite to prepare for a postrequisite course in the major portion of the degree (content knowledge in the prerequisite GE course is necessary to succeed in a postrequisite course in the academic discipline area that is associated with the student's major).

- Example: Chemistry I for Chemistry Majors: A Chemistry Major needs to acquire Chemistry I and Lab for Majors requisite knowledge in the Natural and Physical Sciences Bucket to succeed in subsequent chemistry courses in the major portion of the degree.

EXCEPTION REQUESTS

PROCESS & TIMELINE

- Academic units must consult with UCCC Chair and VP for Academic Success for <u>any courses</u> they believe need to be considered for exception by March 31, 2023.

- After consultation, units will be directed to complete the appropriate [exception request form(s)](#) available through KU Core website. Forms must be submitted no later than April 14, 2023 to be considered and allow for appropriate time for review before submission to KBOR.

  - Exception Type #1: Request for a Specific Major to Deviate from the Systemwide GE

  - Exception Type #2a: Request to Continue Requiring – and not waive – a Specific GE Course Requirement for Transfer Students in a Specific Major

  - Exception Type #2b: Expedited Request and Review for Prerequisite Courses

- Exception forms that need additional information will receive follow-up from UCCC Chair or VP for Academic Success. Issues must be resolved no later than May 19, 2023.

- KBOR has requested that only the Chief Academic Officer or their designee submit exception forms through the KBOR site no later than July 30, 2023.

- KBOR will review exception requests and issue responses to KU by September 30, 2023.

IMPLEMENTATION

PROCESS & TIMELINE

ADJUSTMENTS NEEDED TO ALIGN WITH THE FRAMEWORK

- Discontinue use of "General Education" requirements that are separate from the Core.

- KU Core is the General Education requirement for the University.

- Courses that are currently approved for the KU Core that count for multiple goals will need to be realigned to fulfill only one goal.

- Transition away from KU Core sequences.

- Degree maps will need to be available online and align with KBOR requirements.

- Courses approved to fulfill the KU Core must also be allowed to transfer into KU if taken elsewhere.

- Bachelor's degrees must remain at 120 credit hours (unless already approved for exception).

- Update USRR Article 3, Section 1 to include a capstone requirement for bachelor's degree completion.

- Adjust science requirements to meet 4-5 hour minimum and lab requirement.

- Once a student completes KU Core requirements, KU transcripts will note that Systemwide GE is complete.

- Students who complete the GE framework and transfer into KU will be considered done with the KU Core, and therefore cannot be required to take any additional GE/KU Core courses.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Phase One: February 2023 – May 2023

- **February:**
  - Individual meetings with academic units begin as requested. Complete this form to request a meeting.
  - Inventory of current KU Core courses that fulfill multiple goals sent to academic units for review.
- **March:**
  - Academic units begin evaluating degree requirements in the catalog ensuring they are accurate.
  - Academic units must consult with UCCC Chair and VP for Academic Success for any courses they believe need to be considered for exemption by March 31, 2023. Please complete this form to schedule a consultation.
- **April:**
  - Provost's Office submits GE Check-in Form due to KBOR by April 1.
  - All exception request forms filed with UCCC by April 14.
  - Academic units return list of courses that fulfill multiple goals identifying single goal alignment by April 14. Please complete this decertification form for courses you'd like removed from the KU Core or goals you'd like removed from the courses.
- **May:**
  - Exception follow-up meetings with units (as needed) and multiple Core goal list cleanup complete by May 19.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Phase Two: June 2023 – September 2023

- **June:**
  - Exceptions materials submitted to the Provost for final review and submission to KBOR.
  - Provost's Office submits GE Master Course List due to KBOR by June 1.
- **July:**
  - KBOR completes review of master course submission and confirms KU alignment with framework.
  - Exception materials submitted by Provost's Office due to KBOR no later than July 30.
- **September:**
  - Fall 2024 catalog available for editing beginning September 1. Fall 2024 catalog and course offerings must provide opportunities for students to complete GE courses in each bucket in alignment with the framework
  - Academic units are required to update/confirm degree requirements by September 30.
  - KBOR completes review of exception requests and issues responses to KU by September 30.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Phase Three: October 2023 – January 2024

- Academic units notified of exception responses from KBOR.
- October 2023: SIS will update all DPRs based on degree requirements listed in the Catalog.

Phase Four: February 2024 – July 2024

- April 1, 2024: Fall 2024 Catalog launches
- Degree maps for <u>all programs</u> must be ready for students beginning in the 2024-25 academic year, must align with KBOR standards, and be available online by July 1, 2024. Submission of degree maps will be done through degree level assessment activities in AY22/23 and AY23/24.
- Policy detailing requisite AP, CLEP, and IB scores and corresponding GE credit must be available online by July 1, 2024.

WHAT CAN UNITS DO NOW?

- Examine how the updated science requirement (4-5 credit hours with a lab) will fit within program requirements.

  - What options are available to meet this requirement without exceeding 120 credit hour bachelor's degree requirement?

- Review current course offerings that fulfill Goal 6 and existing capstone requirements for degree programs.

  - If no capstone requirement, what options are available to add one without exceeding 120 credit hour bachelor's degree requirement?

- Review KU Core courses approved for multiple goals and begin to identify courses that are no longer offered, being discontinued, and determine how to align courses to only fulfill one goal.

- Identify "general education" or KU Core courses that:

  - are prerequisites for program requirements

  - must be completed in residence (e.g., cannot be transferred to KU)

  - must be completed due to programmatic accreditation and/or licensure requirement and there are no other means by which to meet such a requirement outside of requiring a specific course that is needed to complete a GE bucket requirement.

- Identify "general education" requirements that are separate from the KU Core.

  - Are these courses prerequisites for program requirements? Should these courses be program requirements?

QUESTIONS?

Email: KUCore@ku.edu
Website: https://kucore.ku.edu/alignment-systemwide-general-education

Jon Brumberg, UCCC Chair & Provost Fellow
Susan Klusmeier, Vice Provost for Academic Success
Millinda Fowles, Director – Academic Programs & Experiential Learning

KU