

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG****HKU Common Core Curriculum  
under the New 4-Year Undergraduate Curriculum Structure (SS6 Entrants)****CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**

The HKU Common Core Curriculum consists of a range of courses categorized under four Areas of Inquiry (AoIs) and their constituent themes. To fulfil the requirements of the Common Core Curriculum, satisfactory completion of six courses, at least one course from each AoI and no more than two from the same AoI. Normally, four courses should be completed in the first year of study and two in the second year.

All Common Core courses are 6-credit courses. Each course consists of 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity and assessment). Since the courses are large in number, and span a range of disciplinary areas, they inevitably employ a variety of teaching/learning and assessment modes.

The teaching/learning mode of the majority of courses is lecture and tutorial, supplemented by directed activities and private study. Such courses normally have 36 hours of contact, with a 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week over a period of 12 weeks. However, some courses may use other teaching/ learning modes such as e-learning, laboratory work, fieldwork, seminars, workshops and internship. Consequently, they may have fewer contact hours but no less than 24 contact hours.

The method of assessment is at the discretion of the individual course teachers who are encouraged to use diverse assessment tasks with a view to ensuring that student performance in relation to the stated learning outcomes of their course is effectively assessed. Such tasks typically include essays, project reports, in-class tests, mid-course and end-of-course examinations (both seen and unseen), journals and portfolios. Given the diversity of assessment methods, it is difficult to quantify and standardize the output. As a general guide, regardless of the method used, the total output should be 2,500-5,000 words. Teachers are required to produce and provide to students grade descriptors for their course and are strongly encouraged to construct marking rubrics for each assessment task.

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