

# CORE CURRICULUM AND GENERAL STUDIES COMMITTEE

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*Senate Presentation, March 2014:*

*Proposal to Permit the Samuel Ginn College  
of Engineering to follow the AGSC  
Engineering Exception*

# The Alabama Articulation Legislation of 1994

**“...[the Alabama Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC)], shall develop... a statewide freshman and sophomore level general studies curriculum to be taken at all colleges and universities. Nothing herein shall be interpreted as restricting any institution from requiring additional general studies courses beyond the statewide general studies curriculum.”**

<http://stars.troy.edu/legislation.html>

# The Approved AGSC General Studies Curriculum

- AREA I: Written Composition (6 hrs)
  - AREA II: Humanities & Fine Arts (12 hrs)
  - AREA III: Natural Science & Mathematics (11-12 hrs)
  - AREA IV: History, Social & Behavioral Sciences (12 hrs)
  - 41-42 total semester hours
- NOTES:
  - Students must complete the first composition course with a grade of C or above.
  - Students must complete either a history sequence and one literature survey OR a literature sequence and a history survey
  - Students must complete 3hrs of fine arts
  - Students must complete 8 hrs of sciences that include lab experiences
  - Students must complete a minimum of 3 hrs of math

[http://stars.troy.edu/agsc/what\\_agsc.htm](http://stars.troy.edu/agsc/what_agsc.htm)

# AGSC Engineering Exception

*ADOPTED BY ALL COLLEGES OF ENGINEERING AT ALABAMA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
EXCEPT AUBURN UNIVERSITY*

- AREA I: Written Composition (6 hrs)

- **AREA II: Humanities & Fine Arts  
(9 hrs instead of 12 hrs)**

- AREA III: Natural Science &  
Mathematics (11-12 hrs)

- **AREA IV: History, Social &  
Behavioral Sciences  
(9 hrs instead of 12 hrs)**

- 35-36 total semester hours

## **AREA II - Humanities and Fine Arts (9 hrs)**

Literature (3-6 hours)\*

Fine Arts (3 hours)

Additional Humanities or Fine Arts  
(0-3 hours)

## **AREA IV - History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences (9 hrs)**

History (3-6 hours)\*

Other social and behavioral  
sciences (3- 6 hours)

**\* Engineering Students must  
complete a sequence in either  
Literature or History**

**The AGSC does not permit an  
exception for any other discipline,  
college, or major.**

# An Added Concern:

## The General Education Student Learning Outcomes (2011)

**SLO 1** Students will be information literate.

**SLO 2** Students will be able to read analytically and critically.

**SLO 3** Students will be able to critique and construct an argument effectively.

**SLO 4** Students will be able to apply simple mathematical methods to the solution of real-world problems.

**SLO 5** Students will be able to select and use techniques and methods to solve open-ended, ill-defined or multi-step problems.

**SLO 6** Students will be able to write effectively.

**SLO 7** Students will demonstrate effective oral communication skills.

**SLO 8** Students will be informed and engaged citizens of the United States and the world.

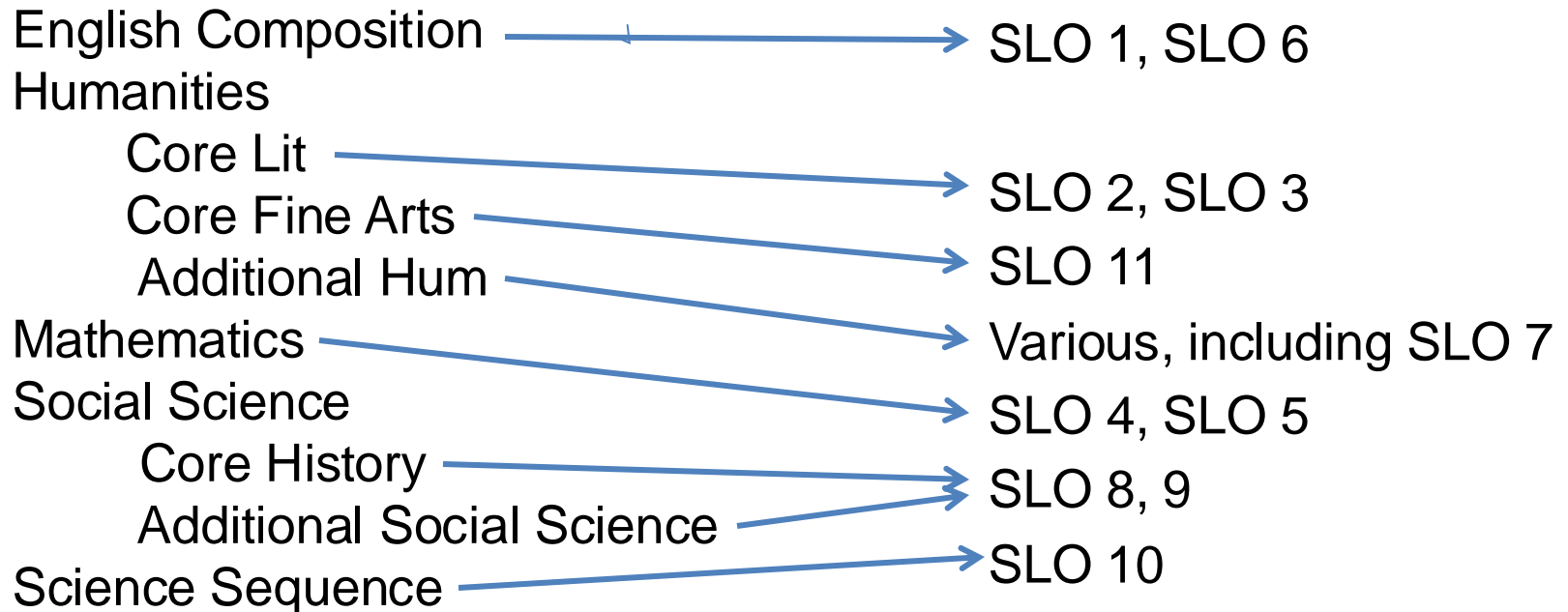
**SLO 9** Students will understand and appreciate the diversity of and within societies of the United States and the world.

**SLO 10** Students will understand and appreciate methods and issues of science and technology.

**SLO 11** Students will understand and appreciate the arts and aesthetics as ways of knowing and engaging with the world.

[http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/undergrad\\_studies/pdf/CCOC%20General%20Education%20Outcomes\\_Aproved.pdf](http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/undergrad_studies/pdf/CCOC%20General%20Education%20Outcomes_Aproved.pdf)

## Distribution + Learning outcomes



**In Engineering curricula, SLO 7 (Oral Communication) is addressed through required major courses.**

**All Engineering students who complete the Engineering Exception core would address all other general education learning outcomes.**

# Why Adopt the AGSC Exception Now?

- Auburn University Strategic Plan calls for an increase in graduation rates.
- The Provost has asked all Deans to reduce the number of required credits for a bachelor's degree to as close to 120 hours as possible.
- Current SGCOE curriculum requirements: up to **134** credit hours
- Graduation rates for students for whom SGCOE is their first college:
  - Four-year graduation rate: **24%** (AU overall—44%)
  - Six-year graduation rate: **62%** (AU overall— 68%)

# Why Adopt the AGSC Exception Now?

- ABET accreditation requirements prevent credit hour reductions in other aspects of the engineering curricula
- Governmental emphasis on graduation and completion rates is likely to continue to increase.
- Reducing credit hours is only one of a series of actions intended to improve graduation rates and student success.
- The proposal has been approved by the CCGEC and the Senate Steering Committee



# Some Benchmark Comparisons

	<b>2011 4-Year Grad Rate</b>	<b>% Full-Time 2009 Freshmen Who Returned in 2010- 11</b>	<b>4-Year Grad Rate</b>	<b>6-Year Grad Rate</b>	<b>Transfer-Out Rate</b>	<b>% Still Enrolled</b>
<i>M.I.T</i>	<i>85.1%</i>	<i>97.0%</i>	<i>85.1%</i>	<i>92.9%</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>1.3%</i>
<i>Cal Tech</i>	<i>76.4%</i>	<i>98.0%</i>	<i>76.4%</i>	<i>86.7%</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>0.4%</i>
Florida	58.6%	96.0%	58.6%	83.7%	4.0%	1.7%
Georgia	54.4%	94.0%	54.4%	82.4%	6.1%	1.3%
Florida State	49.5%	92.0%	49.5%	73.8%	8.4%	1.2%
Alabama	37.7%	85.0%	37.7%	65.8%	21.1%	2.9%
Auburn	35.7%	87.0%	35.7%	66.3%	22.4%	4.1%
Georgia Tech	31.3%	94.0%	31.3%	78.9%	N/A	3.0%
UAB	23.1%	80.0%	23.1%	44.6%	28.3%	6.1%

Data from: <http://www.collegeresults.org/>. Note that MIT and CalTech are private, smaller, and have a significantly different student body.

## Some Benchmark Comparisons

### Mechanical Engineering – Humanities and Social Sciences

	<b>Composition</b>	<b>Humanities and Fine Arts</b>	<b>History, Social and Behavioral Sciences</b>	<b>Total Humanities and Social Science Core hours</b>	<b>Total graduation requirements</b>
<i>M.I.T</i>	<i>2 subjects (plus 2 in major)</i>	<i>8 subjects (combined w/ Ssci)</i>	<i>8 subjects (combined w/ Hum)</i>	<i>18 subjects</i>	<i>159 subjects</i>
<i>Cal Tech</i>	<i>3 units</i>	<i>36 units (plus 36 combined with Ssci)</i>	<i>36 units (plus 36 combined with Hum)</i>	<i>111 units</i>	<i>486 units</i>
Florida	3 hrs	9 hrs	9 hrs	21 hrs	128 hrs
Georgia	6 hrs	12 hrs	6 hrs	24 hrs	130 hrs
Florida State	6 hrs	5-11 hrs	6-12 hrs	23 hrs	128 hrs
Alabama	6 hrs	9 hrs (plus 6 hrs foreign or computer language)	9 hrs	24 or 30 hrs	127-128 hrs
Auburn	6 hrs	12 hrs	12 hrs	30 hrs	134 hrs
Georgia Tech	6 hrs	6 hrs	12 hrs	24 hrs	129 hrs
UAB	6 hrs	9 hrs	9 hrs	24 hrs	128 hrs

# Resolution:

that the College of Engineering be permitted to adopt the AGSC Engineering core exception, so that students enrolled in the SGC OE would be required to:

- Complete 9 hrs. of Humanities/Fine Arts (including at least 3 hrs. of Fine Arts and 3 hrs. of Literature)
- Complete 9 hours of History/Social Sciences (including at least 3 hrs. of History and 3 hrs. in a non-history social science).
- Complete a sequence in either History or Literature as part of the Humanities/Social Science hours.
- Complete the current Auburn University core Math and Science requirements.

**NOTE:** *If this motion is approved, all revised undergraduate curriculum models will need to be reviewed and approved by the University Curriculum Committee.*

# Questions?

## *Members of the Core Curriculum and General Education Committee*

**Constance Relihan**, Chair, APUS  
(Non-voting)

**Drew Clark**, Director, OIRA (Non-voting)

**William Schaffer**, CLA – Music

**James Shelley**, CLA – Philosophy

**Michael Kozuh**, CLA – History

**Alexander Richter**, CLA –  
Economics

**Theodore (Ted) Kilgore**, COSAM  
– Mathematics

**Scott Ketring**, CHS

**Daniel Henry**, COE

**Eleanor (Missy) Josephson**, CVM

**Roy Knight**, SGCOE

**Mary Mendonca**, COSAM –  
Biological Sciences

**Iris Mullins**, SON

**Todd Shipman**, RBDL

**Christian Dagg**, CADC

**Peter Panizzi**, HSOP

**Craig Bertolet**, CLA – English

**Julie Howe**, COAg

**Brian Via**, SFWS

**Cecilia Champion**, HCOB

**Patrick Michael**, SGA (Non-voting)