

Biological Sciences, B.S.

Students transferring from a college or university may use this *recommended* academic plan as a model for on-time completion of the degree. While not required for transfer to SMU, this plan prioritizes completion of major prerequisites and Common Curriculum (CC) requirements in Year 1. You may consult the [Undergraduate Catalog](#) to view all degree requirements and prerequisites. Course availability at SMU is subject to change and the plan shown below may change based on updates to SMU's course offerings. Please visit smu.edu/transfer for scholarship and admission information to plan the timing of your transfer to SMU and the online [Transfer Equivalency Guide](#) for transferable course options.

For more information about the Biological Sciences Department and their majors, go to smu.edu/Biology.

Year 1: Fall	Year 1: Spring
Composition/Writing 1 (AW)	Composition/Writing 2 (CR)
Calculus 1 (QR)	Statistics or Calculus 2
Biology 1 for STEM Majors (ES)	Biology 2 for STEM Majors (2 nd ES to fulfill TAS)
Chemistry 1 for STEM Majors	Chemistry 2 for STEM Majors
Federal Government* (SBS, CIE)	Western Civilization 1* (HC, OC)
18 credit hours	17 credit hours

Year 2: Fall (at SMU)	Year 2: Spring (at SMU)
BIOL 3304	BIOL 3350
CHEM 3371/3117	CHEM 3372/3118
Language Sequence 1 (SLR) (<i>see policies</i>)	Language Sequence 2 (SLR) (<i>see policies</i>)
Creativity and Aesthetics (CA)	Literary Analysis & Interpretation (LAI)
Community Engagement (CE)	Philosophical, Religious & Ethical Inquiry (PREI)
14-17 credit hours	17 credit hours

Year 3: Fall (at SMU)	Year 3: Spring (at SMU)
Major elective	Major elective
Major elective	Major elective
PHYS 1303/1307 and 1105	PHYS 1304/1307 and 1106 (QA)
GPS /Minor/Elective	HD /Minor/Elective
14 credit hours	14 credit hours

Year 4: Fall (at SMU)	Year 4: Spring (at SMU)
Major elective	Major elective
Major lab elective	Major lab elective
W /Minor/Elective	Minor/Elective
Minor/Elective course	Minor/Elective
Minor/Elective (<i>advanced</i>)	Minor/Elective
15 credit hours	15 credit hours

*Option to maximize fulfilling CC requirements.

Note: Students interested in pursuing a health professions career should review additional information on SMU's Pre-Health Advising website, smu.edu/Prehealth. Additional coursework outside what is noted on this plan may be needed and students should review professional program prerequisites on this website (see Suggested Plans). After enrolling at SMU, students are encouraged to schedule a meeting with the Office of Pre-Health Advising to discuss additional Pre-Health requirements.

SMU Degree

A degree from SMU is comprised of a minimum of 120 hours, of which 60 credits (for community college transfers) or 48 credits (for four-year college transfers) must be completed at SMU, and where 42 credits must be in courses at the 3000-level or higher. The degree requires completion of a major and the Common Curriculum (CC) and may include elective courses or a second major or minor.

Common Curriculum

The table below outlines the [Common Curriculum \(CC\)](#), SMU's general education and graduation requirements, and courses that typically fulfill each requirement. For policies related to the CC, please refer to the [CC External Credit Policies](#) page.

FOUNDATIONS	
Requirement	Course Examples
Academic Writing (AW)	Composition/Writing 1
Critical Reasoning (CR)	Composition/Writing 2
Quantitative Reasoning (QR)	Statistics, Calculus, Finite Math
Second Language (SLR)	Language Sequence 1 and 2, a class at 3 rd semester or higher, demonstrated proficiency in a foreign language
BREADTHS	
<i>Select one course for each Breadth requirement.</i>	
Requirement	Course Examples
Literary Analysis & Interpretation (LAI)	British literature, American literature, and world literature.
Creativity and Aesthetics (CA)	Art/music/theatre appreciation and studio art courses.
Historical Contexts (HC)	Many history courses and some art history courses.
Social & Behavioral Sciences (SBS)	Introductory psychology, sociology, anthropology, and political science.
Philosophical, Religious & Ethical Inquiry (PREI)	Many philosophy and religion courses.
Exploring Science (ES)	Most science courses, particularly if they have a lab.
Technological Advances & Society (TAS)	Courses that consider a technology and its impact on society or a second Exploring Science (ES) course.
PROFICIENCIES & EXPERIENCES	
<i>These requirements may be fulfilled through courses or co-curricular experiences you've had after graduating from high school.</i>	
Requirement	Course/Experience Examples
Community Engagement (CE)	Course: A service-learning course in which you volunteer in the local community. Experience: A volunteer experience that was 15 hours.
Global Perspectives (GPS)	Course: Courses in international politics, the recent history of countries outside the US, world literature or film, and contemporary religious studies often fulfill this requirement. Experience: Study abroad programs or another immersive, 14-day abroad experience.
Human Diversity (HD)	Course: Cultural Anthropology, Social Psychology, and courses with a focus on disability, gender, human rights, and/or ethnic groups. Experience: Volunteering 15 hours in a faith community different from your own.
Civics & Individual Ethics (CIE)	Course: A course on ethics and political thought will often fulfill this requirement. Experience: Interning with local, state, or federal government; or completing an additional 15 hours of Community Engagement (CE).
Oral Communication (OC)	Course: Speech courses often fulfill this requirement. Experience: A series of presentations, one prepared and one extemporaneous, as part of an internship or a single longer presentation.
Quantitative Applications (QA)	Course: Microeconomics or introductory Data Science. Experience: Completing and authoring a research paper.
Writing (W)	Course: A course in which you have multiple opportunities to write and receive feedback on written assignments totaling 12-15 pages. Experience: Conducting a benchmark analysis or literature review as part of an independent study with a faculty member.

External Transfer Credit Policies

Transfer credit is awarded for courses with a grade of C- or better at regionally accredited colleges or universities that meet SMU's academic standards. Courses with a grade of D+ or lower are not transferable to SMU for credit, however the grades are calculated into the transfer GPA. Vocational-technical courses, courses below college level, credit by examination earned at another college or university, PE activity courses in excess of two hours, and ROTC credit in excess of twelve hours do not transfer.

Common Curriculum Policies

The Common Curriculum policies differ depending on the type of transfer student you are when you enter (matriculate to) SMU. Read the definitions and policies below to confirm how your credits will apply to the Common Curriculum.

First Year (FYR): a student who hasn't taken any college credits since graduating from high school.

First-Year Transfer (FYT): a transfer student with 1-23 hours of college credits taken after high school graduation.

Transfer (TRN): a transfer student with 24+ hours of college credits taken after high school graduation.

Courses used to fulfill the CC must be at least 3 semester credit hours. Students transferring from a quarter system should multiply their credits by 0.667 to convert them to semester credit hours.

Requirement	First Year (FYR) & First-Year Transfers (FYT)	Transfers (TRNs)
Academic Writing & Critical Reasoning	AW and CR must be completed at SMU, regardless of external credit.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Satisfied if student transfers in WRTR 10XX and WRTR 10YY; completed as transfer credit. 2. If dual/concurrent or transfer credit is received for WRTR 10XX OR WRTR 10YY, students must take a CR course. 3. If WRTR 10XX and 10YY were both dual/concurrent credit or test credit, students must take a CR course. 4. Satisfied if WRTR 10XX is dual/concurrent credit or test credit awarded by a transferring institution AND WRTR 10YY is transfer credit.
Quantitative Reasoning	Can be satisfied with external credit.	
Second Language	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can be satisfied with AP/IB test credit (with an appropriate score). 2. Can be satisfied by a transcript confirming high school study was instructed in a language other than English. 3. Can be satisfied by transferring a language course taken as dual/concurrent credit that is equivalent to SMU's 3rd semester (2401) level or higher. 4. Can be satisfied by transferring a language course taken as post-high school transfer credit equivalent to SMU's 2nd semester (1402) or higher. 5. Can be satisfied by an appropriate score on an SMU-administered OPI or ASLPI test. 	
	N/A	6. Can be satisfied by transferring two consecutive semesters (6+ credits) taken post-high school (Transfers only)
Breadths (all)	Up to 3 may be satisfied with external credit that is three semester credit hours or more; 4 must be SMU credit.	All 7 Breadths can be satisfied with external credit that is three semester credit hours or more.
Proficiencies & Experiences	Can be satisfied by external credit or post-high school activities. All experiences and some dual/concurrent, or transfer credit may need to be petitioned.	

- **External credit:** Credit earned through test, dual/concurrent transfer credit, or transfer credit.
- **Dual/concurrent credit:** course credits completed before high school graduation. Dual credit is work completed through a college (which could be taken at the college or at the high school) that counts for college credit and high school graduation requirements. Concurrent credit is work completed through a college, and the high school does not give credit for graduation purposes.
- **Transfer credit:** college credit completed after high school graduation but before matriculation to SMU. This does not include dual or concurrent credit.