

“Templated” Courses

What is a templated course?

A templated course is a course with a common prefix, number, title, course description, credit hours, student learning outcomes, and course outline. It is listed in [section 2.4.8 of the Academic and Student Affairs handbook](#) with the designation “This is a templated course.”

How are templated courses developed and approved?

Regents Advisory Committees (RACs) must use [existing common-numbered courses](#) or [propose new common-numbered courses](#). In order for a course to become a templated course, RACs must develop and approve complete information about the proposed course, including prefix, number, title, credit hours, student learning outcomes, and a comprehensive course outline. The intent is that all institutions offering sections of the templated course will adhere to the specified prefix, number, title, credit hours, and student learning outcomes. The course content outline must be constructed in such a way that mandatory content to be taught in every section offered at every institution would be spelled out, as would optional content to be offered at in different sections at different institutions.

Mandatory content is expected to account for 70 – 80% of course content, with optional content accounting for the remaining 20 – 30%. The RAC would propose the domain of the Core IMPACTS General Education curriculum into which the course would be most likely to fit at the majority of institutions. The RAC must approve the course template prior to submitting it to the Council on General Education for further review using a standard [Council course proposal form](#).

The Council on General Education will review the templated course proposal for appropriateness, completeness, and fit within the Core IMPACTS domain for which the course is proposed. If the templated course is approved for a domain in Core IMPACTS, individual institutions may subsequently use an expedited process to apply to the Council on General Education to offer the course as part of that domain in their own General Education curricula.

What must institutions do to add templated courses to their General Education curricula using the expedited process?

Institutions must fill out a [templated course proposal form](#) to add a templated course to their Core IMPACTS domain(s). This expedited form may only be used to add the course to the domain area for which the Council on General Education has tentatively approved the course. (Institutions may propose to add templated courses to other domains, but may not use the expedited process or templated course form for this.) Institutions must fill out the templated course proposal form completely. It is essential that institutions demonstrate on this form that they have completed their institutional governance processes to add the course to their Core IMPACTS curricula, that the course learning outcomes match their approved learning outcomes for the Core IMPACTS domain, and that they are adhering to the course outline that was approved by the RAC.

Prior to review by the Council on General Education, the Council will submit the templated course proposal to the chair of the RAC that developed the templated course and ask the chair to verify that the course proposal is compliant with the course outline developed by the RAC. The Council on General Education will then review the proposal to verify that institutional governance processes have been followed and that the learning outcomes of the templated course meet the institution’s approved learning outcomes for the Core IMPACTS domain for which the course is proposed.

Are there existing examples of templated courses?

As of July 2024, the Council on General Education has only approved one templated course: [DATA 1501 Introduction to Data Science](#). This course was reviewed prior to Core IMPACTS implementation with a notation that it was approved for non-math-science/non-health professions majors. Since one of the key elements of Core IMPACTS is that institutions cannot require specific courses in the Core IMPACTS Domains for specific majors this course can now be used by any major as fulfilling requirements in the STEM domain.