

Questions and Strategies for the Common Core

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Office of The Provost**

October 24, 2012

Common Core?



A significant component of the undergraduate curriculum



A requirement for all undergraduates, 3Y or 4Y



What is the Common Core requirement?

Common Core Requirements for **3Y** Students Admitted in 2012-13

- 9 – 18 credits in total
- Take courses from 3 common core areas:
 - Science and Technology (S&T)
 - Social Analysis (SA)
 - Arts and Humanities (A&H)
- Credits specified for each common core area vary from program to program

Detailed requirements at:

http://uce.ust.hk/teaching_learning/admit_12togg.html

Common Core Requirements for 4Y Students Admitted in 2012-13

| Common Core Areas | Credits | | Note |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------|--|
| | Required | Elective | |
| Humanities (H) | 6* | 6 | * 3 credits must be from H SSCs |
| Social Analysis (SA) | 6* | | * 3 credits must be from SA SSCs |
| Science and Technology (S&T) | 6* | | * 3 credits must be from S&T SSCs |
| Quantitative Reasoning (QR) | 3 | | |
| Arts | 0 | | |
| English Communication | 6 ** | Nil | **Must be taken in the 1st year of study |
| Chinese Communication | 3 | Nil | |
| Healthy Lifestyle | Non-credit | Nil | |
| Total credits required | 36 | | |

SSCs = School-Sponsored Courses



Quiz Time



Quiz 1 – About 3Y programs

**Name one of the 3 common core areas
you need to complete**



Quiz 2 – About 4Y programs

**How many credits of SSCs in total
do you need to complete?**



Quiz 3 – About 4Y programs

**How many common core areas
are there altogether?**

Which one is not a compulsory area?

Common Core Course Lists

- **Two separate lists** for 2012-13 intake: **3Y** and **4Y**
 - Check what program you are in and select courses from the list applicable to you
 - Courses are identical for most of the common core areas in common except: 3Y Arts & Humanities ≠ 4Y Humanities
- Courses are grouped by **broad categories** in all areas except Communication and Healthy Lifestyle common core areas
 - help you select courses / focus on subjects
 - free to take courses from any categories

Lists maintained by UCE Team, Office of the Provost

3Y: http://uce.ust.hk/course_information/2012_course_list_for_2012_3Y_intake.html

4Y: http://uce.ust.hk/course_information/2012_course_list_for_2012_4Y_intake.html

Course Rules

- **Cross-listed courses**

Some common core courses may be listed under more than one common core area. You can choose to count towards **one** of the listed areas **but not both**.

- **Re-use of credits**

Common core credits **may be re-used** to count toward other graduation requirement, subject to other restrictions as specified by the School/major program.

- **Which common core course counts**

A common core course can be counted towards the common core requirement **only when** it is taken in the year it is listed on the common core course list.

Remember: Check the course list before registration



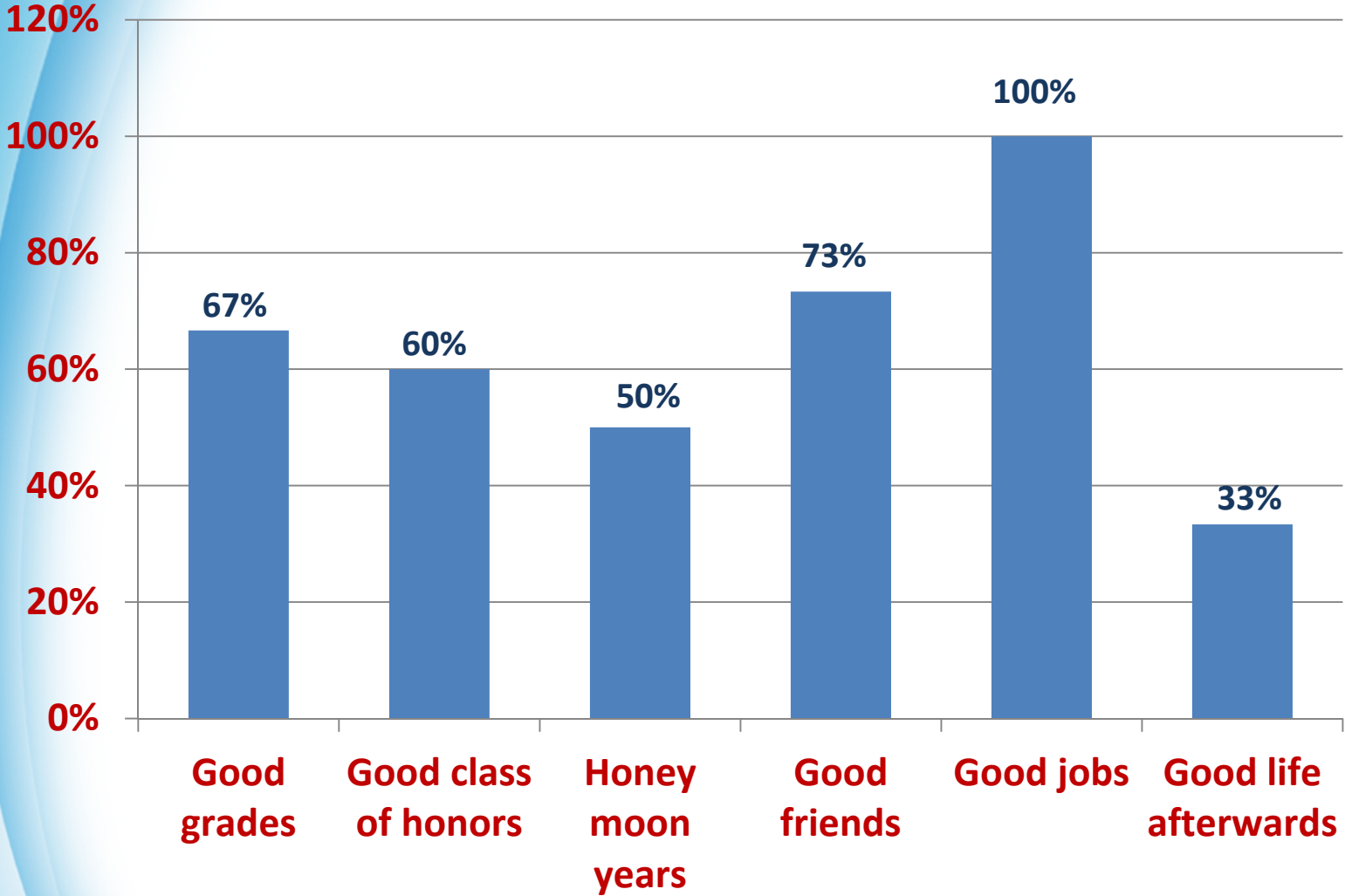
Why do we need the Common Core?

Your Expectations of University Education

Let's do a quick survey...

- **“Good” grades ?**
 - Scholarship ?
 - Exchange?
- **“Good” class of honors ?**
- **Honey moon years – little work, high return ?**
- **“Good” friends – boy friends, girl friends ?**
- **“Good” jobs after graduation ?**
- **“Good” life afterward?**

Survey Results



We wish you to achieve these through the Common Core...

Learn **outside**
your major
discipline

Acquire skills
to **realize your**
personal goals

Explore your
identity in the
community
and the
society

Find your
direction for
a lifelong
pursuit

Learn to
integrate
different fields
of knowledge

Challenge
you to **think**

Explore your
role among
your friends
and in your
family

Contribute
to the
society and
the world

The University Aspirations



Coming to the University

Where
am I
from?

Why
am I
here?

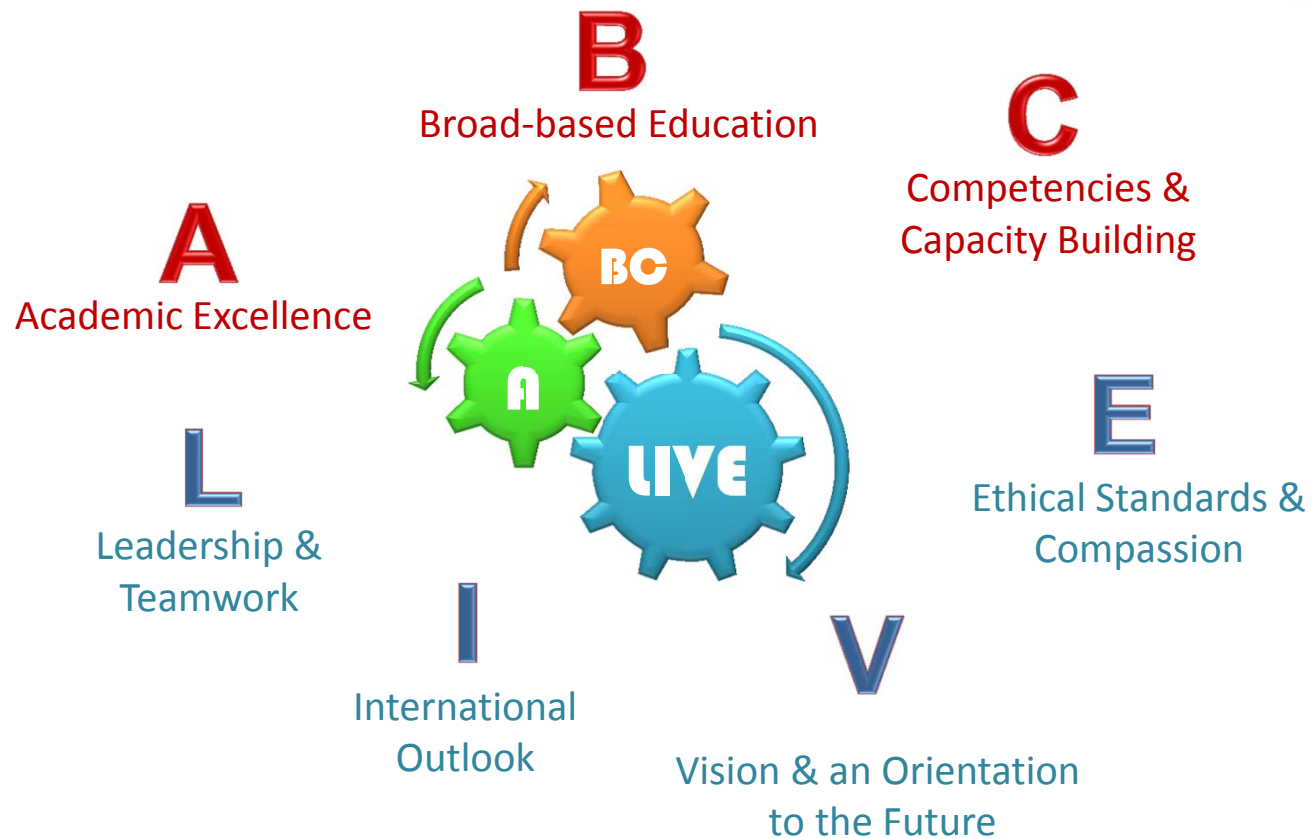
Who
am I?

Where
am I
going?



What am I going to do?

HKUST's Desired Graduate Attributes




Common Core Program

An all-round developmental experience

A broad-based education

ABC LIVE – a busy life





How to choose the right Common Core courses?

Registering in Common Core Courses: Preparations to be done...

- **What are the common core requirements of my program?**

4Y: http://uce.ust.hk/teaching_learning/admit_12tocore.html

3Y: http://uce.ust.hk/teaching_learning/admit_12togee.html

- **Shall I take common core courses next term?**

Check from the program pathway (or your academic advisor) which term(s) your program suggests you to take common core courses

4Y: http://publish.ust.hk/prog_crs_ar/ugprog/4yr_index.html

3Y: <http://arr.ust.hk/reg/in/pos/pos1213.html>

- **What courses are offered next term?**

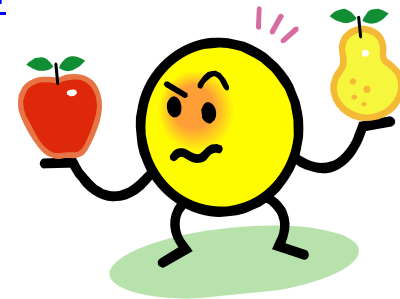
<https://w5.ab.ust.hk/wcq/cgi-bin/1210/>

- **Am I interested in the courses?**

Browse the course descriptions on the Online Course Catalog

http://publish.ust.hk/prog_crs_ar/ugcourse/index.html

- **Decide on what you might like to study**



Chinese Communication Courses

| My Background | I may take... | I may learn to... |
|--|--|---|
| HKDSE Chinese Level 3 or below; <u>OR</u> Mainland JEE Chinese below 100 | LANG 1113 | Improve spoken Putonghua and Standard Written Chinese |
| HKDSE Chinese Level 4 | LANG 1114 | Raise proficiency level in reading and writing |
| | LANG 1115 | Raise proficiency level in reading and speaking |
| HKDSE Chinese Level 5 or above; <u>OR</u> Mainland JEE Chinese 100 or above | LANG 1114 LANG 1115 | (see above) |
| | HUMA 1660 HUMA 2050 HUMA 2420 HUMA 2421 HUMA 2480 HUMA 2481 HUMA 2660 HUMA 2830 HUMA 3440 HUMA 3810 | Improve Chinese while focusing on the study of a particular content area (e.g. Chinese History, Philosophy, etc.) |

**Consult the Advisor at the Center for Language Education
if you are unsure which of these courses is most suitable to you**

Chinese Communication Courses

Courses for Native Speakers of Chinese

| | |
|-------------|---|
| LANG 1113 | Effective Chinese Communication |
| # LANG 1114 | Critical Reading and Writing in Chinese |
| # LANG 1115 | Critical Reading and Speaking in Chinese |
| *HUMA 1660 | Introduction to Chinese Art |
| *HUMA 2050 | Classical Chinese |
| *HUMA 2420 | Late Imperial China |
| *HUMA 2421 | Pre-modern China: The Song and Yuan Dynasties, 960-1368 |
| *HUMA 2480 | Daily Life in Imperial China |
| *HUMA 2481 | Common Beliefs in Pre-modern China |
| *HUMA 2660 | Introduction to Chinese Painting |
| *HUMA 2830 | The Confucian Heritage and Its Modern Implications |
| *HUMA 3440 | Issues in Chinese History from Han to Tang |
| *HUMA 3810 | Taoism and the Chinese Tradition |

Planned to be offered from Spring 2013

* Also listed as a Humanities common core course

Chinese Communication Courses

| My Background | I may take... | I may learn to... |
|--|--|---|
| Mother tongue is a language other than Chinese <i>[Exclude students who have completed HKDSE Chinese]</i> | LANG 1120 LANG 1121 LANG 1122 LANG 1123 LANG 1124 LANG 1125 LANG 1126 LANG 1127 | Develop communicative competence in Chinese in social, professional and business situations |

These courses ranges from Beginner to Advanced levels.

Consult the Advisor at the Center for Language Education if you are unsure which of these courses is most suitable to you

If you have registered for a course at an inappropriate level, you may be arranged to be placed in a different course during the Add/Drop period

Chinese Communication Courses

Courses in Chinese as a Foreign Language

| | |
|-------------|---|
| LANG 1120 | Chinese for Non-Chinese Language Background Students I |
| LANG 1121 | Chinese for Non-Chinese Language Background Students II |
| LANG 1122 | Chinese for Non-Chinese Language Background Students III |
| LANG 1123 | Chinese for Non-Chinese Language Background Students IV |
| # LANG 1124 | Chinese for Non-Chinese Language Background Students V |
| # LANG 1125 | Chinese for Non-Chinese Language Background Students VI |
| # LANG 1126 | Chinese for Non-Chinese Language Background Students VII |
| # LANG 1127 | Chinese for Non-Chinese Language Background Students VIII |

Planned to be offered from Spring 2013

Some Myths About Common Core Courses ...

**How do you feel about
your common core classes so far?**

Some Myths About Common Core Courses ...

- They are difficult: too abstract, very boring
- They are not useful: not related to my major study
- I need to read and write a lot
- They are the necessary evils, especially to science and engineering students

They may be true if you are thinking only of your immediate future.



NO Pain, NO Gain !

Tips for Choosing...



Interest comes first

- Decide what you may like to study – the broad categories may help
- Attempt a variety of courses to explore your interests
- Use the add/drop period to get a taste of the courses
- If you know what your interests are, consider taking courses from the same broad category to get a focus on your study
- Be brave to take seemingly “unrelated” subjects – one never knows whether these may become “useful” sometime in the future



Match your academic ability

- 1000, 2000 or 3000 level course
- Easy or challenging courses
- Try not to overload

BUT: If ability and study load permitting, you may take more common core courses to broaden your horizon and to understand where your interests lie



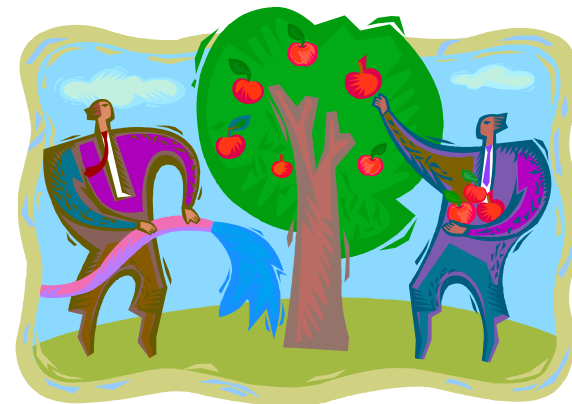
Do not regard common core as a fringe subject with little weight

You could make contributions to the Common Core Program...

- Join us as student interns to work in a team:
 - To **research, identify and present** on the University Common Core Program website interesting and enlightening **talks, articles, books or activities spanning a wide variety of disciplines, interests and issues**
 - To suggest feasible ways to **update and enrich the contents of “NetKnowledge” and the GE Forum** on the website and **increase hit-rate**
- Meet with faculty and UCE team to report progress on a regular basis
- Work on part-time basis (Nov 2012 – Jan 2013)

You will learn to...

- Develop an awareness of the value of general education and appreciate its relevance and importance in the undergraduate education
- Work with students from different backgrounds in a team to practice communication and analytical skill
- What's more...



Tiffany Wan

EVMT – Year 2

Her internship
experience
with us
this summer



Join us if you are...

- An UG student (whatever major)
- Creative, hardworking, and responsible
- Self-motivated and capable of working in a team
- Able to work with some computer software (e.g. Microsoft Office, Dreamweaver, Photoshop etc.)

Send cover letter and CV to UCE Team (uceo@ust.hk)

Deadline: 29 Oct 2012

More details about the internship at:
https://career.ust.hk/upload/jobs/4476-UCCEO_PA.pdf

Questions or Assistance?

<http://uce.ust.hk>
uceo@ust.hk

Undergraduate Core Education Team
Office of the Provost



Rm 4592 (lifts 29-30)



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