

# Questions and Strategies for the Common Core

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## Coming to the University

Who am I?

Where am I from?

Why am I here?

Where am I going?

What am I going to do?



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## Students' Different Expectations of University Education

- **“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?**
- **Others?**



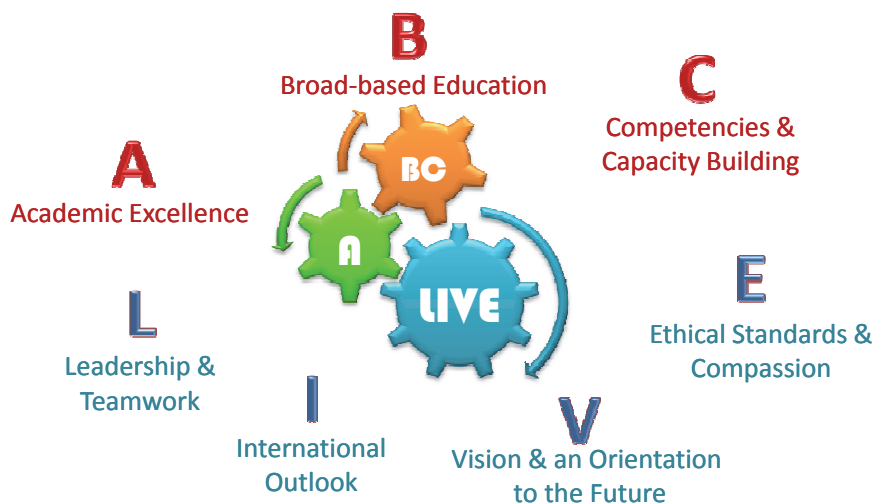
**What is a University?**

# The University has its Aspirations









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# HKUST's Desired Graduate Attributes



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## Goals & Objectives of the Common Core

-  **Spark passion for learning, broaden horizon and liberate the mind**
-  **Develop communication and analytical capacity and independent thinking**
-  **Foster appreciation of arts and culture, social issues, and scientific and technological precision**
-  **Encourage inquiry and ability to work as a team**
-  **Cultivate responsible, ethical and compassionate citizenship**
-  **Ensure balanced physical and intellectual growth**



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## What will you gain?

-  **Learn outside your major discipline**
-  **Learn to integrate different fields of knowledge**
-  **Find your direction for a lifelong pursuit**
-  **Acquire skills to realize your personal goals**
-  **Challenge you to think**
-  **Explore your role among your friends and in your family**
-  **Explore your identity in the community and the society**
-  **Contribute to the society and the world**



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# Common Core Program



**An all-round developmental experience  
A broad-based education**

**ABCLIVE – a busy life**

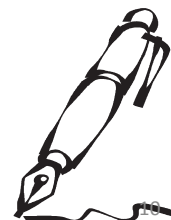


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## What do you do for Common Core?

- **9 - 18 credits in total**
- **Credits specified for each common core area vary from program to program**
- **Defined in terms of common core areas:**
  - **Science and Technology (S&T)**
  - **Complete common core requirements by taking common core courses**
  - **Social Analysis (SA)**
  - **Arts and Humanities (A&H)**

**Details for Common Core Requirements:**  
[http://uce.ust.hk/general\\_education/index.html](http://uce.ust.hk/general_education/index.html)



## Common Core Courses

- **Complete common core courses to satisfy Common Core requirements**
- **Common core courses are grouped under 3 common core areas:**
  - **Science and Technology (S&T)**
  - **Social Analysis (SA)**
  - **Arts and Humanities (A&H)**
- **Some courses may be listed under more than one area. You can choose to count towards one of the listed areas but not both.**

- **Re-use common core credits to count toward other graduation requirements**



*to check constraints in your major program and school requirement*

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## Common Core Courses

**The list of common core courses are maintained by the Undergraduate Core Education Office (UCEO)**

**[http://uce.ust.hk/course\\_information/index.html](http://uce.ust.hk/course_information/index.html)**



**Don't mix up with Designated General Education Courses. They are for students admitted in 2009-10 or before.**

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## 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 !**

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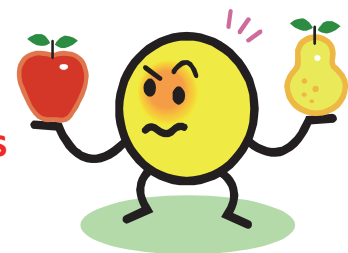
## How to Choose Common Core Course?

- ➡ Check your pattern of study
  - ➡ Room to take common core this term?
  - ➡ What are the Common Core requirements for my program?



**Special course list under SA & A&H**

- ➡ What common core courses are offered this term?
- ➡ Find out course information from the online Course Catalog
- ➡ Decide what you might like to study



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## Suggestions ...

- Get a taste of the courses during add/drop period
- Sit in the first and second classes, (seek instructor permission if you are not yet enrolled)
- If time allows, take more common core courses to broaden your horizon and to learn about your interest



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## Your Considerations ...

Interest comes first

Fit my schedule?

Match your academic ability

1000, 2000 or 3000 level course?

Attempt a variety of courses

Word of mouth?

Immediate vs long term benefit

Less workload?

Easy vs challenging course

No exam?

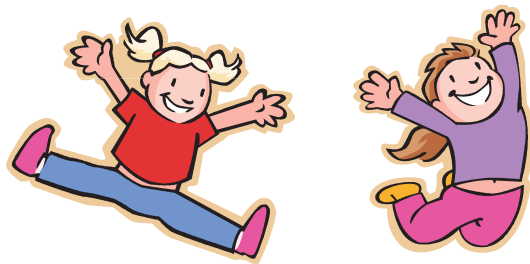


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# Common Core Program

**The source of a wonderful and  
a meaningful life ahead!**



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## Q & A

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