

Recent History of Caltech Core Curriculum

June 1, 2020

Topic	Year	Change or modification
Physics	1993	Introduction of practical and analytic track for Ph 1bc
	1996	Reduce physics requirements to 45 units (Ph1abc and Ph 2ab) from previous 54 units
	2007	Removal of take-home experiments from practical track of Ph1bc and creation of Ph 8bc
	2013	Reduced to 27 units (Ph 1abc Classical Mechanics and Electromagnetism)
Math	1996	Reduce math requirements to 45 units (Ma 1abc and Ma 2ab) from previous 54 units; introduction of practical and analytical tracks for Ma 1bc
	1998	Introduction of Ma 1a sec 1 (12 units) plus Series Ma 1d (5 units)
	2013	Reduced to 27 units (Calculus of One and Several Variables and Linear Algebra Ma 1abc) except for student placed in Ma 1 section 1 + Ma 1d (35 units)
	2016	Ma 1d reduced to 4 units from 5 units
Chemistry	1996	Reduced to 15 units (Ch 1ab) from previous 18 units (Ch 1abc each with 6 units).
Chemistry lab	2008	Introduction of Ch 3x.
	2009	Revised Ch 3a
Biology	1996	Fundamentals of Modern Biology (Bi 1) is introduced. Focus has changed: AIDS (1996-97), The Origin of Life on Earth and Mars (1998-99), Drugs & the Brain (2000-06), The Biology and Biophysics of Viruses (2006-10), Principles of Biology (2011-17), Principles of Biology – The great theories of biology and their influence in the modern world (2018-2019)
	2009	First offering of Bi 1x Great Ideas of Biology: Exploration through Experimentation
	2019	Catalog clarified that Bi can be replaced by Bi 8 and Bi 9 with 9 units on grades
Menu courses	1996	Introduction of Ay 1 and Ge 1
	2008	Addition of ESE 1, IST 4, Ch/APh 2
	2019	Ay 1, EE 1, ESE 1, Ge 1, or IST 4
Introductory humanities	2016	Addition of film to possible areas for introductory humanities (previously English, history, philosophy)
Introductory social science		No recent changes
Advanced humanities	2011	2 advanced hum classes taken on grades; foreign language courses do not fulfill requirement.
Advanced social science	2011	2 advanced social science classes taken on grades; BEM 102 does not count toward advanced course work
Additional courses in HSS	2013	The 4 additional HSS courses cannot include accounting (BEM 102)
	2015	9 units from Wr 1 or Wr 2 may be included in additional HSS units

Writing in HSS	2013	3 writing-intensive HSS courses spread out over sophomore, junior, and senior year.
Science writing	1999	Introduction of junior-level Core 1ab (1 unit for 1a; 2 units for 1b) with a 1500-word paper.
	2004	Requirement changed to or a 3-unit course approved by options/divisions or En 84 (9 units)
Physical education		No recent changes
Other courses or changes	Year	Change or modification
Freshman seminars	2011	Introduced FS. 6 units. Offered in all 3 terms
	2012	8 offered
	2014	11 offered
	2019	4 offered
Science communication (oral)	1996	Faculty committee recommends that all options require oral communication. All options have this requirement but officially, oral communication is not a part of the core.
Computing	1986	All students must complete 6 units of coursework in computing from a list including Introduction to Computing (CS 10)
	1988	Computing requirement removed (overall requirements for graduation are reduced from 516 to 486)
Overloading	2011	For students in the first two terms, academic units that students can take reduced from 51 units to 45 units; a student can take up to 6 additional units of frontier courses, seminars, PE or PA courses.
Overloading	2016	For freshman in first two terms, the overload is defined as 45 units plus a 3-unit non-academic course (PE or PA)