Version 2.0 of the SLU Core Framing Document Revisions :: Executive Summary

The University Undergraduate Core was designed around nineteen Core components that provide students with a structured learning approach to meet nine graduation-level student learning outcomes. This curriculum, which was approved in March 2020, was piloted in the Fall of 2021 and first launched university-wide in Fall 2022. Each area of the Core was carefully designed and has generally been implemented as initially laid out in the framing document. However, the realities of implementing a new curriculum at scale have necessitated several minor changes to processes and procedures to practically and effectively deliver the Core across all SLU colleges, schools, and campuses.

This past academic year, the Core updated the original Core Framing Document to accurately reflect the processes and procedures now in place. Version 2.0 of the SLU Core Framing Document was approved by the UUCC in April 2025. This updated version includes standardization of language; references to a new "Open Seminar" Core policy and clarification of the Core's pre-existing Teaching Qualifications policy; and revisions to the language of the Ultimate Questions components based on the recommendations from the SLO 1 Assessment Report. Also, several appendices were removed from the updated version, as these Appendices will now be located within the UUCC bylaws.

These changes are summarized below.

Language Updates

Minor changes to language have been made to standardize descriptions of Core areas across all Core components. More clarification has also been provided around credit hours, pre- and co-requisites, types of assignments, and references to colleges, schools, and Core leadership. All references to future implementation of the Core have been replaced with evergreen language.

UUCC Policy Updates

The UUCC passed the Policy on University Undergraduate Core "Open" Core Courses, which was endorsed by CADD and the Provost in March 2025. This policy governs the Core's Open Seminars—the Ignite Seminar and Collaborative Inquiry—and the link to this policy was added to both Core component areas. This updated version of the Core Document also includes clarifying language around teaching qualifications for the Ignite Seminar, Ultimate Questions: Philosophy, and Ultimate Questions: Theology, added to each description of these Core components.

SLO 1 Assessment Updates

The UUCC approved the SLO 1 Assessment subcommittee's recommendation to revise the language in the Core Component Learning Outcomes and the Essential Criteria sections of the Ultimate Questions worksheets.

The language in Ultimate Questions: Philosophy has been revised as follows:

- **Core Component Learning Outcomes updated language:** Explain and evaluate arguments for philosophical answers, including those in the Catholic tradition, to ultimate questions concerning the nature of humanity, reality and God, knowledge, **and**/or the good life

- **Essential Criteria updated language:** Address, (one or more) **individually and collectively as part of an intellectual tradition**, the following topics: the nature of material and transcendent reality; belief, knowledge, and rationality; human nature and meaning; the good life.

The language in Ultimate Questions: Theology has been revised as follows:

- **Core Component Learning Outcomes updated language:** Explain how one or more religious traditions, including the Catholic Tradition, respond(s) to questions about the nature of faith; the nature, existence, and personhood of God; the nature and ends of creation and human life; **and**/or evil (in ourselves and in the world) and salvation

- **Essential Criteria original language:** Address (one or more) **individually and collectively as part of an intellectual and religious tradition** the following areas of inquiry: the nature of faith; the nature, existence, and personhood of God; the nature, existence, and personhood of God; the nature and ends of creation and human life; and evil (in ourselves and in the world) and salvation