

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## GRADUATION INFORMATION

A formal commencement ceremony is held annually at the end of the spring semester. Commencement is for those students who are completing requirements during that spring semester or who have completed requirements during the preceding summer or fall semesters.

To be considered as a candidate for a degree or certificate, the student should submit an online graduation application by the designated deadline:

- Completing in fall semester – October 1
- Completing in spring semester – March 1
- Completing in a summer term – July 1

Hill College does review student coursework for automatic degree or certificate awards, but students are encouraged to apply for graduation during the semester they will meet the requirements of the degree or certificate. Applications submitted after the deadline may be considered the following semester.

## TYPES OF DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

Hill College grants the:

1. Associate of Arts Degree
2. Associate of Science Degree
3. Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree
4. Associate of Applied Science Degree
5. Certificate of Technology
6. Certificate of Completion
7. Occupational Skills Award

Hill College can grant up to one Associate degree for each degree level in the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Arts in Teaching if all requirements are met. Students can earn multiple Associate of Applied Science degrees, Certificate of Technology and Certificate of Completion certificates if requirements are met for each award.

The curriculum for the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associates of Arts in Teaching degrees are designed for the student planning to transfer to a senior college or university.

The Associate of Applied Science degree is awarded for successful completion of a two-year prescribed occupational competencies and curriculum.

The Certificate of Technology is awarded to those who complete the technical competencies of a two-year occupational curriculum.

The Certificate of Completion is awarded for successful completion of competencies and curriculum in an occupational program of less than two years in length.

An Occupational Skills Award is a sequence of technical-based credit courses totaling 9-14 semester credit hours (SCH) within an approved program of study.

### Associate of Arts Degree

The Associate of Arts Degree from Hill College will be granted to the student who has made formal application for graduation and who completes the following requirements:

1. The student must complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of credit.\*
2. The student must complete all core curriculum / general education requirements for graduation.
3. The student must complete at least three or four electives in their major or the major of Liberal Arts will be awarded.
4. The student must earn at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree at Hill College.
5. The student must have a 2.0 grade point average on all work from Hill College.
6. The student must satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics, unless exempt.
7. The student must have satisfactorily settled all college financial obligations.

\*Developmental courses may not be counted or used as hours towards the Associate of Arts Degree.

### Associate of Science Degree

The Associate of Science Degree from Hill College will be granted to the student who has made formal application for graduation and who completes the following requirements:

1. The student must complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of credit.\*
2. The student must complete all core curriculum / general education requirements for graduation.
3. The student must complete at least three or four electives in Science and/or Mathematics.
4. The student must earn at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree at Hill College.
5. The student must have a 2.0 grade point average on all work from Hill College.
6. The student must satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics, unless exempt.
7. The student must have satisfactorily settled all college financial obligations.

\*Developmental courses may not be counted or used as hours towards the Associate of Science Degree.

### Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree

The Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree from Hill College is for students seeking initial Texas teacher certification either in EC-4 (except Early Childhood Specialization), 4-8, EC-12 or in Early Childhood Specialization only. The degree will be granted to the student who has made formal application for graduation and who completes the following requirements:

1. The student must complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of credit.\*
2. The student must complete all core curriculum / general education requirements for graduation.
3. The student must complete at least three or four electives in their major or the major of Liberal Arts will be awarded.
4. The student must earn at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree at Hill College.
5. The student must have a 2.0 grade point average on all work from Hill College.
6. The student must satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics, unless exempt.
7. The student must have satisfactorily settled all college financial obligations.

\*Developmental courses may not be counted or used as hours towards the Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree.

### Associate of Applied Science Degree

The Associate of Applied Science Degree from Hill College will be granted to the student who has made formal application for graduation and who completes the following requirements:

1. The student must complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of credit.\*
2. As part of the minimum 60 semester hour degree requirement, the student must complete a minimum of 15 semester hours of general education courses. The core of general education courses must include at least a 3 semester credit hours (SCH) from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and mathematics/natural sciences.
3. The student must complete the prescribed competencies and curriculum for a two-year occupational program as outlined in the degree plan listed under Career Pathways.
4. The student must earn at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree at Hill College.
5. The student must have a 2.0 grade point average on all work from Hill College.

6. The student must satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics, unless exempt.
7. The student must have satisfactorily settled all college financial obligations.

\*Developmental courses may not be counted or used as hours towards the Associate of Applied Science Degree.

### Certificate of Technology

The Certificate of Technology from Hill College will be granted to the student who has made formal application for graduation and who completes the following requirements:

1. The student must complete between 30-51 semester hours of credit.\*
2. The student must complete the prescribed technical competencies and curriculum for the occupational program as outlined in this catalog under Career Pathways.
3. The student must earn at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree at Hill College.
4. The student must have a 2.0 grade point average on all work from Hill College.
5. The student must satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics, unless exempt.
6. The student must have satisfactorily settled all college financial obligations.

\*Developmental courses may not be counted or used as hours towards the Certificate of Technology.

### Certificate of Completion

The Certificate of Completion from Hill College will be granted to the student who has made formal application for graduation and who completes the following requirements:

1. The student must complete a minimum of 15 semester hours of credit.\*
2. The student must complete the prescribed technical competencies and curriculum for the occupational program as outlined in this catalog under Career Pathways.
3. The student must earn at least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree at Hill College.
4. The student must have a 2.0 grade point average on all work from Hill College.
5. The student must have satisfactorily settled all college financial obligations.

\*Developmental courses may not be counted or used as hours towards the Certificate of Completion.

## Occupational Skills Award

A Occupational Skills Award is a sequence of technical-based credit courses totaling 9-14 semester credit hours (SCH) within an approved occupational program. Typically, an external workforce advisory committee identifies the coursework (classes) to be included in the award. Students may receive a dual benefit from earning an award because it helps to create a 'pathway' to program completion and can also demonstrate to potential employers a level of aptitude and workplace preparedness.

## CORE CURRICULUM

### Statement of Purpose

Hill College adopts the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's statement of purpose concerning the core curriculum which states: through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

### Elements of the Texas Core Curriculum

The Texas Core Curriculum (TCC) is a 42 Semester Credit Hour (SCH) core curriculum for all undergraduate students in Texas public higher education. Each institution selects the specific courses it will offer to fulfill that framework of the TCC in a way that takes into account the individual role and mission of the institution. The TCC implementation at each institution must receive approval from the Coordinating Board and institutions must evaluate the effectiveness of their TCC at regular intervals.

One of the most important provisions of the TCC is that it allows students who successfully complete a 42 semester credit hour (SCH) core curriculum at one institution to transfer the entire set of completed courses to another public Texas higher education institution without having to repeat any core courses. Students who transfer without completing the entire 42-SCH core curriculum also receive credit for each of the core courses they successfully complete. Although the courses included in the TCC may vary by institution, every Texas higher education institution's core curriculum must include the following Foundational Component Areas and semester credit hours:

- Communication (6 SCH)
- Mathematics (3 SCH)
- Life and Physical Sciences (6 SCH)
- Language, Philosophy and Culture (3 SCH)
- Creative Arts (3 SCH)
- American History (6 SCH)
- Government/Political Science (6 SCH)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 SCH)
- The Component Area Option (6 SCH)

Students have flexibility to choose courses from an institution's core curriculum. However, that flexibility may be limited by the student's major. For example, most science majors have prescribed math and science requirements as part of their degree program requirements. Students should always consult with an academic advisor or counselor at their institution to determine what courses they should take.

## Field of Study Curricula

A Field of Study (FOS) is a selection of lower-division courses that are guaranteed by state law to transfer and apply to a degree program. If a student takes all the courses in an FOS and then transfers to another Texas public institution of higher education, the FOS is guaranteed to transfer as a block and be applied to the appropriate major. If a student has completed the FOS, the Texas common core curriculum, and any university or college courses required of all students regardless of major, then the student is finished with all the lower-division courses for the degree program at any Texas public institution. If a student transfer with an incomplete FOS, then each completed FOS course is guaranteed to transfer and apply to the degree program, although the institution may require additional lower-division courses.

### Hill College Core Curriculum

<b>CORE CURRICULUM</b>			
Core Component			Hours
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	<b>REQUIRED HOURS</b>		<b>6.00</b>
Overflow hours are: Counted in CAO or Degree Program.			
ENGL	1301	Composition I	
ENGL	1302	Composition II	
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>REQUIRED HOURS</b>		<b>3.00</b>
Overflow hours are: Counted in CAO or Degree Program.			
MATH	1314	College Algebra (3 SCH version)	
MATH	1316	Plane Trigonometry	
MATH	1324	Mathematics for Business & Social Sciences I (Finite Mathematics)	
MATH	1325	Mathematics for Business & Social Sciences II (Bus. Calculus, 3 SCH version)	
MATH	1332	Contemporary Mathematics	
MATH	1342	Elementary Statistical Methods (3 SCH version, freshman level)	
MATH	1350	Mathematics for Teachers I (Fundamentals of Mathematics I)	
MATH	2412	Pre-Calculus Math (4 SCH version)	
MATH	2413	Calculus I (4 SCH version)	
<b>LIFE &amp; PHYSICAL SCIENCES</b>	<b>REQUIRED HOURS</b>		<b>6.00</b>
Overflow hours are: Counted in CAO or Degree Program.			
BIOL	1406	Biology for Science Majors I (lecture + lab)	
BIOL	1407	Biology for Science Majors II (lecture + lab)	
BIOL	1408	Biology for Non-Science Majors I (lecture + lab)	
BIOL	1409	Biology for Non-Science Majors II (lecture + lab)	
BIOL	1411	General Botany (lecture + lab)	
BIOL	2401	Anatomy & Physiology I (lecture + lab)	
BIOL	2402	Anatomy & Physiology II (lecture + lab)	
BIOL	2406	Environmental Biology (lecture + lab)	
CHEM	1406	Introductory Chemistry I (lecture + lab, allied health emphasis)	

CHEM	1411	General Chemistry I (lecture + lab)	
CHEM	1412	General Chemistry II (lecture + lab)	
ENVR	1401	Environmental Science I (lecture + lab) (Course cannot be taken with GEOL1405)	
GEOL	1401	Earth Sciences I (lecture + lab)	
GEOL	1402	Earth Sciences II (lecture + lab)	
GEOL	1403	Physical Geology (lecture + lab)	
GEOL	1404	Historical Geology (lecture + lab)	
GEOL	1405	Environmental Geology (lecture + lab) (Course cannot be taken with ENVR1401)	
GEOL	1445	Oceanography (lecture + lab)	
GEOL	1447	Meteorology (lecture + lab)	
PHYS	1401	College Physics I (lecture + lab)	
PHYS	1402	College Physics II (lecture + lab)	
PHYS	1403	Stars and Galaxies (lecture + lab)	
PHYS	1404	Solar System (lecture + lab)	
PHYS	2425	University Physics I (lecture + lab)	
PHYS	2426	University Physics II (lecture + lab)	
<b>LANGUAGE, PHILOSOPHY &amp; CULTURE</b>			<b>REQUIRED HOURS</b>
			<b>3.00</b>
Overflow hours are: Counted in CAO or Degree Program.			
ENGL	2322	British Literature I	
ENGL	2323	British Literature II	
ENGL	2327	American Literature I	
ENGL	2328	American Literature II	
ENGL	2331	World Literature (single-semester course)	
ENGL	2332	World Literature I	
ENGL	2333	World Literature II	
HUMA	1301	Introduction to the Humanities I	
HUMA	1302	Introduction to the Humanities II	
SPAN	2311	Intermediate Spanish I (3rd semester Spanish)	
SPAN	2312	Intermediate Spanish II (4th semester Spanish)	
<b>CREATIVE ARTS</b>			<b>REQUIRED HOURS</b>
			<b>3.00</b>
Overflow hours are: Counted in CAO or Degree Program.			
ARTS	1301	Art Appreciation	
ARTS	1303	Art History I	
ARTS	1304	Art History II	
DRAM	1310	Theater Appreciation	
DRAM	2366	Film Appreciation	
MUSI	1306	Music Appreciation	
MUSI	1307	Music Literature	
MUSI	1310	American Music	
<b>AMERICAN HISTORY</b>			<b>REQUIRED HOURS</b>
			<b>6.00</b>
Overflow hours are: Counted in CAO or Degree Program.			
HIST	1301	United States History I	



HIST	1302	United States History II		
GOVERNMENTAL/POLITICAL SCIENCE			REQUIRED HOURS	6.00
Overflow hours are: Counted in CAO or Degree Program.				
GOVT	2305	Federal Government (Federal constitution & topics)		
GOVT	2306	Texas Government (Texas constitution & topics)		
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES			REQUIRED HOURS	3.00
Overflow hours are: Counted in CAO or Degree Program.				
ECON	2301	Principles of Macroeconomics		
ECON	2302	Principles of Microeconomics		
PSYC	2301	General Psychology		
PSYC	2314	Lifespan Growth & Development		
SOCI	1301	Introductory Sociology		
SOCI	1306	Social Problems		
SOCI	2301	Marriage & the Family		
TECA	1354	Child Growth & Development		
COMPONENT AREA OPTION			REQUIRED HOURS	6.00
BCIS	1305	Business Computer Applications (3 SCH version)		
EDUC	1100	Learning Framework (1 SCH version)		
PSYC	1100	Learning Framework (1 SCH version)		
SPCH	1315	Public Speaking		
Total Core Curriculum				42.00

## GRADUATION FEE

Hill College believes that every student should have the opportunity to participate in commencement following the completion of a program of study. Therefore, the college does not charge a graduation fee.

## GRADUATION WITH HONORS

Students who are graduating with an Associate Degree, who have at least 24 semester hours in residence, who have completed at least two semesters at Hill College, and who have a grade point average of at least 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) on all work attempted will graduate *cum laude* (with honors). Students who are graduating with an Associate Degree, who have at least 24 semester hours in residence, who have completed at least two semesters at Hill College, and who have a grade point average of at least 3.75 (on a 4.0 scale) on all work attempted will graduate *magna cum laude* (with high honors). Students who are graduating with an Associate Degree, who have at least 24 semester hours in residence, who have completed at least two semesters at Hill College, and who have a grade point average of at least 3.9 (on a 4.0 scale) on all work attempted will graduate *summa cum laude* (with highest honors).