1999 Texas Core Curriculum
The development of a statewide common core was mandated by state law in 1997. Each institution was able to adopt their own core in alignment with the requirements of the state law and the Coordinating Board’s rules.

2006 The Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee of THECB
THECB charged UEAC with providing recommendations to enhance undergraduate education. Detailed information about their work can be found here including a discussion about the motivation behind the changes in "Designing Texas Undergraduate Education in the 21st Century" and "Revising the State Core Curriculum - A focus on 21st Century competencies."

2011 UNT Core Curriculum Revision and Unique Elements
Upon receiving unconditional reaffirmation from SACS-COC in 2006, UNT decided to take the opportunity to examine its core curriculum in a formative manner in response to national trends, new credit requirements from THECB, and suggestions from SACS-COC. UNT’s process of revision (2006-2011) demonstrates its commitment to providing students with a mission driven and market sensitive core curriculum.

   Institutional/Component Area Option. UNT’s revision leveraged the 6-units for an “institutional designated/component area options” into two course categories called “Discovery” and “Capstone experience,” which promote high-impact educational practices, create space for innovative courses serving unique student populations, and reinforce and connect the general education objectives from the foundational component areas to the students’ majors and programs. Discovery is a doorway into higher education at a research-oriented institution, providing the learning foundations and connections necessary for students to fully engage in the undergraduate experience. The ‘capstone experience’ serves as the second doorway into the next phase of a student’s life after graduation. Some capstones are discipline specific, helping students synthesize and apply all the knowledge and skills they acquired from their major with the knowledge and skills they learned from across their educational experience. Others are interdisciplinary in nature and help students bring together knowledge and skills they learned from across their educational experience.

   Overarching Objectives. Open forums were held in which faculty participants debated, defined and described UNT specific Overarching Objectives (OAOs) to be embedded in core courses and would span the entirety of the UNT core. These OAOs were closely aligned with the Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) initiative of the AAC&U and placed UNT in alignment with research based practices. In addition, this process began an inherent transition to what was anticipated to be new mandates from THECB.

2014 Texas and UNT Core Curriculum
In response to the work of UEAC, the THECB created in new set of requirements for the Texas core curriculum. The new requirements established six “core objectives” to be developed across the core: communication skills, critical thinking, empirical and quantitative thinking, teamwork, social responsibility and personal responsibility. UNT’s process in 2006-2011 allowed the adoption of the core objectives to be viewed holistically as an adaptation of the grassroots development of UNT’s OAOs.

   UNT’s Core Action Plan. In preparing to implement the new Texas Core, the UNT Faculty Senate adopted the 2014 Core UNT Action Plan establishing Guiding Principles, Processes and Procedures required for a course to be accepted to UNT’s new 2014 Core. The realignment/approval process is complete, and UNT submitted its new Core Curriculum to the THECB for their consideration and expects a response in March.

   New assessment choices. The Core Action Plan allowed faculty proposing core courses to choose between developing and implementing individual assessment plans or opting in to a communal process for assessing the six core objectives. In 2012-13, Faculty Communities of Scholars developed common rubrics for each core objective. The communal process will launch in Fall, 2014. The development was supported by staff in the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Senate Oversight Committee on the Core Curriculum. The two processes together will allow UNT to collect data on individual core courses as well as to document core objective attainment across the core viewed as a unified and cohesive program.