

Social and Behavioral Sciences Curriculum Standards **Category 5**

Courses must be comparable in order to be transferable. Comparability shall be determined by evaluating each course according to the set of official standards, as adopted by the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The following guidelines provide the basis for subcommittee deliberations when determining course equivalencies:

Course Titles:

General Psychology
Introduction to Sociology
American National Government
Educational Psychology
History of Western Civilization II
Principles of Macroeconomics
Principles of Microeconomics
U.S. History I
U.S. History II
History of Western Civilization I
Contemporary Social Problems
Introduction to Anthropology
Human Growth & Development
Child Psychology

Comparable Course Prerequisites

Equivalent courses shall have similar prerequisites.

Comparable Course Objectives or Learning Outcomes

Equivalent courses shall provide students with similar learning outcomes, although individual course content may differ significantly. The following objectives shall serve as guidelines for judging comparability.

- Students will be able to identify the major concepts that provide insight into the breadth of the discipline (e.g., anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology) and its relationship other disciplines.
- Students will be able to demonstrate an awareness of how the discipline (e.g., anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology) describes, analyzes, and explains human behavior.
- Students will be able to explain how people's experiences and perspectives are shaped by gender, ethnicity, culture, or other factors.

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- Students will be able to demonstrate an awareness of the social, economic, political, and/or environmental interdependence of select countries and regions of the world.
- Students will be able to identify, explain, apply and evaluate the moral and ethical codes of a social science discipline (e.g., anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology).

Catalog Descriptions

Course descriptions may provide a starting point for evaluating course equivalencies; however, the official course syllabi (viz., syllabi approved by an institution-wide curriculum committee) would supply more detailed information (e.g., the course objectives and a topical outline).

Comparable Course Level

A foundation-level course is most likely not equivalent to an advanced (300 – 400) level course regardless of similar names and course descriptions.

Similar Course Descriptions and Syllabi

Course descriptions are important to review but they do not necessarily capture the degree to which two courses overlap. Examination of the course syllabi, including textbooks, laboratory manuals, and other resources, can help bring additional clarity.

Chain equivalency—If A=B and B=C then A=C

Although chain equivalency is a useful concept for seeing similarity, there was concern that blindly following chain equivalency could lead to courses that were not significantly alike being viewed as such.