

## International and Cultural Diversity Factsheet

Texas A&M University's International and Cultural Diversity (ICD) requirement was adopted at the behest of corporate and civic leaders who wanted Aggies to be well-positioned to lead and understand an increasingly diverse and global workforce. The six-hour requirement – a local graduation requirement that became effective in the 2002-03 academic year – also meshed well with Vision 2020, where Imperative No. 6 emphasizes efforts to diversity and globalize the A&M Community.

After more than a decade of experience with the ICD requirement, the Faculty Senate's Core Curriculum Council decided that, after the Faculty Senate adopted a new core curriculum, it would re-examine the ICD requirement to see if changes were warranted. That process began formally in Fall 2014, and the first open forums for faculty and students to express their views on ICD were held in Spring 2015. Here are our conclusions after two years of work on the issue:

- Texas A&M University, including its students, faculty, staff and administration, is strongly committed to diversity and to the need for courses that promote the understanding and acceptance of difference.
- A&M currently offers 362 ICD courses across a wide range of colleges and subjects. While it may be easy to cherry-pick a few course names to fit an agenda, the vast majority of courses cover broad, apolitical subjects, such as "The Geography of Texas," "Global Entrepreneurship," "International Trade and Agriculture," and "Life and Literature of the American South." (Find the full list at [icd.tamu.edu](http://icd.tamu.edu).) For these courses to continue to fulfill the ICD requirement, they would have to meet new guidelines in a new approval process proposed to the Faculty Senate.
- That new proposal, put forth by the Core Curriculum Council, includes a revision to the current ICD requirement (3 hours) and a new Cultural Discourse requirement (CD) (3 hours). The ICD requirement would include a new set of well-defined goals aimed at expanding a student's cultural or international awareness. The new CD requirement is aimed at helping our students engage in difficult conversations related to topics such as gender, race, religion, and politics.
- Open forums will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. Nov. 17 and 1 to 2 p.m. Nov. 28 in Rudder 601 to discuss these revisions to the ICD requirement and the newly proposed Cultural Discourse requirement. It is anticipated that once refined, both would become effective in Fall 2019.