

VIDEO 2: CNS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Welcome back! This is the CNS Orientation Video 2 – if you haven't watched video 1 titled Advising, go ahead and watch that one first before this one. In this video we'll go over CNS degree requirements.

Degree Requirements

As a CNS major, it's probably no surprise that you'll be taking some math and science courses throughout your time at UT, but, in addition to that, you'll also be expected to complete our core and flag requirements and electives if needed. First, let's talk about core classes.

Core

The core curriculum includes general education courses that all UT students must complete in order to graduate. It includes courses like government, visual and performing arts, as well as a first-year signature course. You must complete all your core requirements by the time you graduate.

Core classes that CNS students commonly take can be found in the document title "*CNS Core Recommendations*" on your orientation canvas page.

If you have completed all the core classes at your previous college or university, you may be considered "core complete" – this is usually transfer students. Students who come in core complete are not required to take a signature course, which is a core class specific to UT. If you think you may be core complete, be sure to mention this to the advisor you meet with during orientation.

Core FAQ

You might have noticed that the core requires math and science courses, but as a CNS Student, you will already take math and science courses that fulfill the core science and math requirements.

Flags

Next, let's talk about flags. Flags are unique to UT and are an opportunity to gain specific skills that are built into some of your classes. There are 7 flags that you will need to fulfill in order to graduate. They include things like quantitative reasoning and global cultures. Now, it's important to know that you won't have to take a class called Global Cultures, rather you will take a course that exposes you to global cultures as part of its curriculum. If a course covers one of these flags, we'll say that the course "carries" a flag.

Some courses you'll take for your major or core requirements will already carry flags, but it's important to know that flags cannot be fulfilled by claiming or transferring credit from another school.

Not all UT courses carry flags, but if they do, they'll be noted like this on the course schedule.

They will be designated by a yellow box with a two-letter abbreviation for which flag it represents. As you can see in this example, some courses can carry multiple flags – that means that one course can fulfill all the flag requirements it corresponds with.

Electives

So, let's talk about electives. Electives are essentially courses you take that do not count toward a specific requirement for your degree. They're courses you take purely out of interest. Because of this, there is no set number of electives you will need, but you can work them into your degree plan based on your interests. Most students will take electives later in their college career as they begin to complete all their other degree requirements

Balanced Schedule

Using everything we've discussed so far your goal is to create what is called a "balanced schedule" for the semester. That usually includes 2-3 science or math courses, 1-2 core and flag courses, and, if you have room, a course for a possible minor or elective. You should review the linked document on canvas titled "*CNS Sample Schedules*" to see what a possible fall schedule might look like for you.

Wrap-up

And that wraps up Video 2. Next up is our final video titled Registration 101.