

Introduction to the Common Core at HKU



Prof Julian Tanner
Director, Common Core

What is Common Core (CC)?

- Holistic interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary education at HKU
- 17,000 Undergraduates, all 10 Faculties
- Each regular course is 6 Credits, with 160+ Courses
- **Curriculum:** Mandatory for HKU undergraduate students to usually take 4 or 6 courses (24 to 36 credits) from across four Areas of Inquiry

Science,
Technology
and Big Data



Arts and
Humanities



Global Issues



China: Culture,
State and Society



Why Common Core (CC)?

- Motto of "Engage, Experiment, Enjoy"
- Learning beyond your discipline
- Personal Growth and Jump-Starting Careers
- Makes friends and networks across the University
- Focus on Sustainability



Flexibility

- 18 Fully Online Courses
- 6-Credit Summer Courses
- 3-Credit Micro-credentials Courses (Intensive over 1 or 2 weeks over summer, winter, reading weeks)
- Option to exempt one out of six 6-credit CC courses from GGPA



6 new microcredential courses (3 credits)

- CCST6001 Change for a Better Self
- CCST6002 Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Experiential and Cultural Learning Opportunities in Israel
- CCHU6001 For Films' Sake! The Power of Short Films
- CCGL6001 Change for a Better Community
- CCGL6002 Material Ecologies: Local Practices and Global Impacts
- CCCH6001 Human Monkeys: Unethical Research in Manchuria

Transdisciplinary Clusters and Minors

- Sustaining Cities, Cultures, and the Earth
- The Human Lifespan
- Creative Arts
- Gender, Sexuality, & Diversity
- The Quest for a Meaningful Life
- Big Data & Social Impact (Upcoming)



Co-curricular opportunities

- Short co-curricular and light touch but authentic experiences.
- International, regional, and local learning opportunities
- Building your CV/ portfolio and valuable skills for future careers
- Explore different fields, disciplines, cultures, and social sectors. More expansive and creative outlook of your careers and aspirations



Start your own projects



- Transdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Project
- Transdisciplinary Experiential Learning Fund
- Competitions (U21 Real Impact on Society and Environment)

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Structured Research Projects



<https://commoncore.hku.hk/cc-ug-research/>

Connections to Community

- Projects in partnerships with industry and community organisations across different topics
- Help students to build networks outside of university
- Support students with projects that brings about impact



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Courses, Enrolment, Minors and Student Groups



<https://commoncore.hku.hk/>



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Key Takeaways

- Enroll in the courses that interest you (don't wait too long)
- Apply for co-curricula projects that can support where you want to go (or help you figure it out)
- Think beyond just disciplinary skills
- We are always available to help: commoncore@hku.hk



Engage, Experiment, Enjoy

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