It’s 2016…

UGS is now fully accomplishing what we were originally built to do … and we are doing a lot more, too.

Our programs are gaining national attention and are being copied by other universities.

What UGS has put in place will naturally support the next phase of curriculum reform at UT.
Key Recommendations

1. Create a new structure (UGS) to support academic change and oversee the core curriculum

2. Create a home for new students without majors

3. Creation of Signature Courses

4. Creation of the Skills and Experience Flags for a reimagined core curriculum
Faculty governance at its best -

UGS and each of its academic programs are overseen by broadly representative faculty committees.

UGS governance represents a unique and exemplary model of university-wide academic program oversight.
Key Recommendations

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2. Create a home for new students without majors

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4. Creation of the Skills and Experience Flags for a reimagined core curriculum
The Problems:

Most 18 year-olds do not know what they want to do.

Too many students want only a few majors.

We ask students to choose a major before they have even heard of most of what we offer.

These three problems amplify each other.
Top 5 Majors Chosen by Incoming Students

1. Biology
2. Computer Science
3. Economics
4. Business
5. Electrical and Computer Engineering
154 Majors Offered at UT Austin

Accounting • Acting • Actuarial Science • Advertising • Aerospace Engineering • African and African Diaspora Studies • All-Level
Generic Special Education • American Studies • Ancient History • Anthropology • Apparel, Functional and Technical Design •
Applied Mathematics • Architectural Engineering • Architectural Studies • Architecture • Architecture/Architectural Engineering •
Asian American • Astronomy • Athletic Training • Audiology • Biochemistry • Biomedical Engineering • Biophysics • Business •
Cell and Molecular Biology • Chemical Engineering • Chinese • Civil Engineering • Classical Archaeology • Classics • Composition •
Computation • Computational Biology • Computer Science • Corporate Communication • Dance • Dance Studies • Design •
Dietetics • Early Childhood • Early Childhood to Grade 6 Bilingual Generalist Certification • Early Childhood to Grade 6 Generalist •
East Asia • Ecology, Evolution and Behavior • Economics • Education of the Deaf/Hearing Impaired • Electrical and Computer
Engineering • English • Environmental Science (Biological Sciences) • Environmental Science (Geographical Sciences) •
Environmental Science (Geological Sciences) • European Studies • Exercise Science • Families and Personal Relationships •
Families and Society • Finance • French • Geography • Geological Sciences General • Geophysics • Geosystems Engineering and
Hydrogeology • German • German, Scandinavian and Dutch Studies • Government • Greek • Health and Society • Health Promotion •
Hindi/Urdu • History • Human Biology • Human Development • Human Ecology • Human Relations • Humanities •
Hydrogeology • Iberian and Latin American Languages and Cultures • Interior Design • International Business • International
Nutrition • International Relations and Global Studies • Islamic Studies • Italian • Japanese • Jazz Composition • Jazz Performance •
Jewish Studies • Journalism • Korean • Latin • Latin American Studies • Linguistics • Malayalam • Management • Management Information Systems • Marine and Freshwater Science • Marketing • Mathematical Sciences • Mechanical Engineering • Medical Laboratory Science • Merchandising and Consumer Sciences • Mexican American • Microbiology and Infectious Diseases • Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures • Middle Eastern Studies • Music • Music Studies • Neurobiology • Neuroscience • Nursing • Nutrition and Public Health • Nutritional Sciences • Performance • Petroleum Engineering • Pharmacy • Philosophy • Physical Culture and Sports • Plan II Honors Program • Plant Biology • Political Communication • Pre-Pharmacy • Psychology • Public Health • Public Relations • Pure Mathematics • Radiation Physics • Radio-Television-Film • Religious Studies • Rhetoric and Writing • Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies • Sanskrit • Science and Technology Management • Social Work •
Sociology • South Asia • Space Sciences • Speech/Language Pathology • Sport Management • Studio Art • Supply Chain Management • Taiwan • Tamil • Teaching • Theatre and Dance • Theatre Studies • Undeclared • Urban Studies • Visual Art Studies •
Women’s and Gender Studies • Youth and Community Studies
153 Minors Offered at UT Austin

Accounting • Acting • Actuarial Science • Advertising • Aerospace Engineering • African and African Diaspora Studies • All-Level Generic Special Education • American Studies • Ancient History • Anthropology • Apparel, Functional and Technical Design • Applied Mathematics • Architectural Engineering • Architectural Studies • Architecture • Architecture/Architectural Engineering • Asian American • Astronomy • Athletic Training • Audiology • Biochemistry • Biomedical Engineering • Biophysics • Business • Cell and Molecular Biology • Chemical Engineering • Chinese • Civil Engineering • Classical Archaeology • Classics • Composition • Computation • Computational Biology • Computer Science • Corporate Communication • Dance • Dance Studies • Design • Dietetics • Early Childhood • Early Childhood to Grade 6 Bilingual Generalist Certification • Early Childhood to Grade 6 Generalist • East Asia • Ecology, Evolution and Behavior • Economics • Education of the Deaf/Hearing Impaired • Electrical and Computer Engineering • English • Environmental Science (Biological Sciences) • Environmental Science (Geographical Sciences) • Environmental Science (Geological Sciences) • European Studies • Exercise Science • Families and Personal Relationships • Families and Society • Finance • French • Geography • Geological Sciences General • Geophysics • Geosystems Engineering and Hydrogeology • German • German, Scandinavian and Dutch Studies • Government • Greek • Health and Society • Health Promotion • Hindi/Urdu • History • Human Biology • Human Development • Human Ecology • Human Relations • Humanities • Hydrogeology • Iberian and Latin American Languages and Cultures • Interior Design • International Business • International Nutrition • International Relations and Global Studies • Islamic Studies • Italian • Japanese • Jazz Composition • Jazz Performance • Jewish Studies • Journalism • Korean • Latin • Latin American Studies • Linguistics • Malayalam • Management • Management Information Systems • Marine and Freshwater Science • Marketing • Mathematical Sciences • Mechanical Engineering • Medical Laboratory Science • Merchandising and Consumer Sciences • Mexican American • Microbiology and Infectious Diseases • Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures • Middle Eastern Studies • Music • Music Studies • Neurobiology • Neuroscience • Nursing • Nutrition and Public Health • Nutritional Sciences • Performance • Petroleum Engineering • Pharmacy • Philosophy • Physical Culture and Sports • Plan II Honors Program • Plant Biology • Political Communication • Pre-Pharmacy • Psychology • Public Health • Public Relations • Pure Mathematics • Radiation Physics • Radio-Television-Film • Religious Studies • Rhetoric and Writing • Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies • Sanskrit • Science and Technology Management • Social Work • Sociology • South Asia • Space Sciences • Speech/Language Pathology • Sport Management • Studio Art • Supply Chain Management • Taiwan • Tamil • Teaching • Theatre and Dance • Theatre Studies • Urban Studies • Visual Art Studies • Women's and Gender Studies • Youth and Community Studies
36 Certificates Offered at UT Austin

- African Studies Certificate
- Business and Public Policy
- Business Foundations Program
- Children & Society
- Communication and Society: Science Communication
- Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies
- Core Texts and Ideas
- Creative Writing
- Digital Arts & Media
- Elements of Computing Program
- Energy Management
- Environment & Sustainability
- Ethics & Leadership in Business
- Ethics & Leadership in Health Care
- Ethics & Leadership in Law, Politics & Government
- Ethics & Leadership in the Media
- Evidence and Inquiry Certificate
- Food and Society
- Forensic Science
- Hindi Urdu Flagship
- Human Rights & Social Justice
- Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Sexualities Study Certificate
- Media, Culture & Identities
- Native American and Indigenous Studies Certificate
- Pre-Health Professions
- Public Policy
- Real Estate
- Scientific Computation
- Social Entrepreneurship & Non-profits
- Social Inequality, Health & Policy
- Sports & Media
- US Latino and Latin American Media Studies Certificate
- UTeach Liberal Arts
- UTeach Natural Sciences
- UTeach Urban Teachers

1 Major and 1 Minor or Certificate = Over 29,000 Possibilities!
Vick Center
for Strategic Advising & Career Counseling

UGS provides a unique combination of career counseling and course advising to help students explore and understand their options before they must decide on a major.
new students enrolled in UGS in 2014–15. 2,011 total

Vick Center for Strategic Advising & Career Counseling

1,008 of those students have transferred to colleges from which they’ll graduate

750 student appointments with advisors during the academic year

8,000
The Outcomes: Where UGS Students End Up

2012 cohort migration

- Liberal Arts: 28%
- Education: 25%
- Business: 18%
- Engineering: 12%
- Communication: 6%
- Natural Sciences: 11%
Myth: Students who start without a major take longer to graduate.
Truth: Students starting in UGS graduate at the same rate as all UT students.
Remembering the Commission of 125:

The Commission of 125 is a group of citizens convened to express a vision of how The University of Texas can best serve Texas and the larger society during the next 25 years. The Commission was proposed during the 2001–2002 academic year, 125 years after the Constitution of 1876 mandated that Texas establish “a university of the first class.” In the spirit of that mandate, the group was named the Commission of 125.

The modern world presents challenges that our graduates must be prepared to meet. In particular, they must learn to achieve in a world made smaller by technology and even more complex by the importance of different cultures and peoples. A narrow education, no matter how deep in its field, will not be sufficient. Future citizens will need to think critically and have a confident grasp of the arts, the humanities, mathematics, science, and technology.
The Problems:

- Too many students believe that the core curriculum is nothing more than a series of obstacles to be sidestepped (however possible).
- There are too many low quality core course choices available outside UT.
- Legislation undermines quality of the core (dual enrollment courses in high schools, HB 1992—we must accept AP score > 3).

These three problems amplify each other.
Ahead of our time: The core curriculum is now attracting national attention

“An example of the new breed...A University of Michigan graduate....He had a good job at a local engineering firm and drove a nice car”

“He was surprised to learn Russia had fought in World War II”

“He’d done well in AP high-school English, which had gotten him out of having to take literature classes, and he hadn’t read a book since graduating from college”
Key Recommendations

1. Create a new structure (UGS) to support academic change and oversee the core curriculum

2. Create a home for new students without majors

3. **Creation of Signature Courses**

4. Creation of the Skills and Experience Flags for a reimagined core curriculum
Signature Courses

Required of every UT undergraduate

Taught by over 200 faculty from all colleges and schools. 220 courses provide 10,500 seats. 270 proposed for 2015

Key points of interest
1. UT’s most distinguished faculty encouraged to teach the subject about which they are most passionate
2. Departments compensated financially in proportion to participation
3. UGS oversees the program, maintains quality, handles administration
Ongoing assessment is critical

Signature Courses served as the QEP during our latest SACS accreditation.

Over several years, thousands of pieces of writing analyzed according to a 15-point rubric.

Was praised by SACS as a national model of assessment.
Ongoing assessment is critical

However, higher education is as much about student inspiration as it is about them learning information.

Information often becomes obsolete, especially in technical fields, but inspiration lasts a lifetime.

Although much more difficult, we are also assessing inspiration provided by the Signature Course program.
“My Signature Course was the only class where I could explore things outside my major and talk about real world issues. Today, I have spoken in front of 60,000 high school students to share the lessons I learned in class; your voice matters, and it can change the world.”

“I took a class on English words and their origins and was amazed. As a mechanical engineering student, this class was very different from my major classes and added a lot to my undergraduate experience!”

“The course was one of my favorites I've taken at UT. It was over something completely different than anything else I've studied. It improved my writing, and I read books I probably never would have read otherwise. The professor of this course is probably my favorite professor of my undergraduate career and I took one of her English classes afterwards!”
How to Change the World

Students often want to jump into doing things to make a difference. They want to do volunteer work in the community to help the homeless, work with troubled youth. But they also want to help homeless or troubled youth, who need this?
Key Recommendations

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True Core Curriculum Reform

Flags  Essential skills and experiences for this century.

An evolution of the core curriculum that fills in the gaps of the 42-hour core.

A direct answer to the Commission of 125’s challenge.
True Core Curriculum Reform

**Flags** Essential skills and experiences for this century.

An evolution of the core curriculum that fills in the gaps of the 42-hour core.

A direct answer to the Commission of 125’s challenge.

**Putting the Flags in Texas’ Flagship University.**
Major Announcement:

Beginning with the class entering in the fall of 2016:

All students will be required to take the Flags
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>2010-11 Seats Taken</th>
<th>2011-12 Seats Taken</th>
<th>2012-13 Seats Taken</th>
<th>2013-14 Seats Taken</th>
<th>2014-15 Seats Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Diversity</td>
<td>12,786</td>
<td>13,593</td>
<td>15,073</td>
<td>17,738</td>
<td>19,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Cultures</td>
<td>8,857</td>
<td>13,619</td>
<td>17,056</td>
<td>21,164</td>
<td>24,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics and Leadership</td>
<td>8,160</td>
<td>9,626</td>
<td>12,560</td>
<td>16,473</td>
<td>20,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Inquiry</td>
<td>4,756</td>
<td>6,293</td>
<td>6,607</td>
<td>10,634</td>
<td>13,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>36,024</td>
<td>38,853</td>
<td>40,443</td>
<td>47,189</td>
<td>50,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>21,645</td>
<td>25,504</td>
<td>30,004</td>
<td>31,356</td>
<td>31,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of all undergrad seats taken that were flagged</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Highlight: Ethics and Leadership Flag

Equips students with the tools necessary for making ethical decisions in adult and professional life. Courses carrying this flag expose you to ethical issues and to the process of applying ethical reasoning in real-life situations.

“History 316L: The United States Since 1865”
Professor Megan Seaholm

“Public Relations 378: Communicating Sustainability”
Professor Lucy Atkinson

“Nursing 321: Ethics in Healthcare”
Professor Gayle Timmerman

“At least one-third of the course grade must be based on work in practical ethics, i.e., the study of what is involved in making real-life ethical choices.”
Ongoing assessment is critical
Ethics and Leadership Rubric Evaluation

- Rubric applied to samples of student work from Spring 2015 courses from Government, History, and Music.
- Hundreds of student work samples assessed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERION</th>
<th>% MEETING OR EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recognition of ethical issues in complex situations</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familiarity with the vocabulary of practical ethics</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articulation and critical evaluation of ethical viewpoints</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application of ethical lens to arguments involving ethical issues</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ongoing assessment is critical

Ethics and Leadership Student Survey

- Fall 2014 Survey of all EL-flagged courses across campus
- 2,934 Completed Surveys

Overall, the ethics component enhanced my learning
This class challenged my ideas about the ethical issues
This course prompted me to reflect on how ethics
This course prompted me to reflect on how ethics
Because of this course, I have improved my ability to

“I feel that the ethics portion of this course truly enhanced the course material, since it provided a way for me to learn more about current events and their ethical dimensions. It certainly has helped me evaluate the ethical dimensions of real-world issues.”

The University of Texas at Austin
School of Undergraduate Studies
Ongoing assessment is critical

Writing Flag Student Survey

- Fall 2014 Survey of all WR-flagged courses across campus
- 2,625 Completed Surveys

I feel my writing has improved as a result of taking this class.

I received helpful feedback on my writing from the instructor or TA.

% Strongly Agree  % Agree
UGS Offers Academic Professional Development:

4 Faculty writing retreats that teach faculty the latest pedagogy in writing instruction

Attended by faculty from 9 colleges and schools

“This was the most valuable professional development workshop I have ever been a part of.”

“The info was living and breathing useful – made changes in syllabus and assignments as we worked.”
Attracting National Attention:

Presentations by UGS staff have attracted a great deal of attention at national conferences such as the recent Lilly conference earlier this month.

Inspired by our success, several universities are developing their own versions of Signature Courses. (Multiple UT System and Texas A&M System campuses).

National universities such as Ohio State have reached out to learn about Signature Courses and Flags.
Beyond the Task Force recommendations:

We have accomplished a whole lot more.
Discovery Scholars

Academic support program features small classes, in-depth discussion sections with supplemental instruction, network-building activities, a team approach to advising, and workshops on topics like study skills and career development.

Year 1 to 2 Retention – 2013 entering class

- Returned: 171
- Dismissed: 5
- Transfer/Withdrew: 12
75% of students reported they would feel comfortable contacting the professor they met to ask for guidance.
Sanger Learning Center

Provides tutoring, peer academic coaching, study skills workshops, and other innovative programs

110,000 total hours of academic assistance provided in 2014-15

30,000 number of student visits to the center in 2014-15

12,900 students attending workshops and course reviews in 14-15
Transfer-Year Experience

New this year:
Resource for academic transition that connects incoming transfer students with the particular programs and services they need during their first year on campus.

- Transfer Student Signature Courses
- Transfer-Year Interest Groups
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>BDP Certificates Completed</th>
<th>Students Pursuing BDP Certificates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>678</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+22% scholarships totaling $65,250 awarded in 2015
Undergraduate Research

STUDENTS WHO PURSUED RESEARCH THROUGH OUR

139 student researchers presented posters at the 2015 longhorn research BAZAAR
Texas Student Research Showdown

First place
Sanjai Bashyam, Electrical engineering junior
Project: Innovation Station, a 3D printing vending machine

Second place (tie)
Ashley C. Rivera, Sociology senior
Project: Discovering meaning: Drumming and Garifuna identity
Tarale Murry, Accounting senior
Project: The relationship between basketball, Christianity, and hip-hop on the influence of black male adolescent identity development

$1,500 in scholarships to recognize students’ excellence in research communication
Priorities for 2016

• Improve communication in UGS, with the UT community, and beyond
• Greatly enlarge our undergraduate research support footprint
• Provide support for newly forming academic success programs
• Open the Speech Center in PCL
• Pioneer academic support for online courses
• Provide eager support for Project 2021
It’s 2016…

UGS is now fully accomplishing what we were originally built to do … and we are doing a lot more, too.

Our programs are gaining national attention and are being copied by other universities.

What UGS has put in place will naturally support the next phase of curriculum reform at UT.
Former UT President Bill Powers and Paul Woodruff, the inaugural dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies, deserve most of the credit for getting this far.

My final thought: Academic reform is not a destination, it is a constantly evolving journey. The right approach is to build an infrastructure to support constant change and improvement.
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My final thought: Academic reform is not a destination, it is a constantly evolving journey. The right approach is to build an infrastructure to support constant change and improvement. I see UGS as that infrastructure.