Major Announcement:

Beginning with the class entering in the fall of 2016:

All students are required to satisfy all six Flag requirements
UGS Programs Continue to Thrive/Expand

**Academic Programs**

**Signature Courses** (11,225 seats in 220 courses, up 2%)

**Flags** (160,000 seats in 2,752 courses carry Flags, up 12%)

**BDP’s** (700 students participating and 187 students completed a BDP Certificate, up 54%)

**University Lecture Series** (2,000 students per lecture, up 12%)
UGS Programs Continue to Thrive/Expand

Academic Support Programs

Sanger Learning Center (30,000 hours of tutoring to 11,500 students)

FIGS and 360 Connections (300 FIGS operating, up 11%)

Office of Undergraduate Research (700 students connected to Research positions, 171 posters up 23%)

Reading Roundup (950 students participated, up 15%)
Faculty governance at its best -

UGS (UGSAC) and each of its academic programs (Signature Courses, Flags, BDP’s) are overseen by broadly representative faculty committees.

UGS governance represents a unique and exemplary model of university-wide academic program oversight.
New UGS Programs for 2016

Transfer Year Office (Communication of Transfer Credit, Transfer-only Signature Courses, Transfer Interest Groups TRIGS)

Speech Center (Sanger has opened the speech center in PCL to help students learn how to make powerful oral presentations)

Undergraduate Research Showdown (University-wide competition with $2500 worth of scholarships to the best projects)

Texas Entrepreneurship Exchange (TEX) (New center to support student entrepreneurship efforts across campus, started with a $1M grant from the Blackstone Foundation)
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 year.

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 and the University of Notre Dame have reached out to learn about FIGS, Signature Courses and Flags and they are also copying our model.
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.
It’s 2016…

UGS and its programs are the best thing many people do not yet know about UT Austin.

We are UT’s infrastructure for academic change in a rapidly changing world.
The 1st Problem: Choice of Major/Availability

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

Too many students initially want only a few majors (and we cannot accommodate them).

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

- Biology
- Business
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
Top 5 Majors Chosen by Incoming Students

Accounting • Acting • Advertising • Aerospace Engineering • African and African Diaspora Studies • All-Level Special Education • American Studies • Anthropology • Applied Movement Science • Architectural Engineering • Architectural Studies • Architecture • Art History • Arts and Entertainment Technologies • Asian Cultures and Languages • Asian Studies • Astronomy • Athletic Training • Biochemistry • Biology • Biomedical Engineering • Business • Business Honors • Chemical Engineering • Chemistry • Civil Engineering • Classical Languages • Classical Studies • Communication and Leadership • Communication Sciences and Disorders • Communication Studies • Composition • Computational Engineering • Computer Science • Dance • Dance Studies • Design • Early Childhood-6th Grade Bilingual Generalist • Early Childhood-6th Grade ESL Generalist • Economics • Electrical and Computer Engineering • English • Environmental Engineering • Environmental Science • Ethnic Studies • European Studies • Exercise Science • Finance • French • Geography • Geological Sciences • Geosystems Engineering and Hydrogeology • German • German, Scandinavian, and Dutch Studies • Government • Health and Society • Health Promotion • History • Human Development and Family Sciences • Human Dimensions of Organizations • Human Ecology • Humanities • Iberian and Latin American Languages and Cultures • Interior Design • International Business • International Relations and Global Studies • Islamic Studies • Italian • Jazz • Jewish Studies • Journalism • Latin American Studies • Linguistics • Management • Management Information Systems • Marketing • Mathematics • Mechanical Engineering • Medical Laboratory Science • Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures • Middle Eastern Studies • Music • Music Performance • Music Studies • Neuroscience • Nursing • Nutrition • Petroleum Engineering • Philosophy • Physical Culture and Sports • Physics • Psychology • Public Health • Public Relations • Radio-Television-Film • Religious Studies • Rhetoric and Writing • Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies • Science and Technology Management • Social Work • Sociology • Sport Management • Studio Art • Supply Chain Management • Sustainability • Textiles and Apparel • Theatre and Dance • Theatre Studies • Urban Studies • Visual Art Studies • Women's and Gender Studies • Youth and Community Studies
57 Minors Offered at UT Austin

Accounting • African and African Diaspora Studies • American Sign Language • Ancient Greek • Anthropology • Arabic • Architectural History • Architectural Studies • Art History • Arts Management and Administration • Asian American Studies • Asian Religions • Business • Chinese • Classical Studies • Communication and Society: Science Communication • Communication Studies • Comparative Literature • Core Texts and Ideas • Economics • English • Evolutionary and Functional Anatomy • Finance • French • German, Scandinavian, and Dutch Studies • Government • Health Communication • Hebrew • History • Information Studies • Interior Design • Islamic Studies • Italian • Journalism • Korean • Latin • LGBTQ and Sexuality Studies • Management • Management Information Systems • Marketing • Middle Eastern Studies • Persian • Philosophy • Philosophy of Law • Philosophy of Mind and Language • Primatology • Religious Studies • Rhetoric and Writing • Russian • Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies • Slavic and Eurasian Languages • Sociology • Supply Chain Management • Turkish • Visual Media • US Latino/Latin American Media Studies • Women’s and Gender Studies
42 Certificates Offered at UT Austin

African Studies • Business and Public Policy • Business of Healthcare • Children and Society • Computational Science and Engineering • Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies • Core Texts and Ideas • Creative Writing • Digital Arts and Media • Elements of Computing • Energy Management • Environment and Sustainability • Ethics and Leadership in Business • Ethics and Leadership in Health Care • Ethics and Leadership in Law, Politics & Government • Ethics and Leadership in the Media • Evidence and Inquiry • Food and Society • Forensic Science • History and Philosophy of Science • Human Rights and Social Justice • Indigenous Studies • Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship • Japanese • Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Sexualities Studies • Media, Culture and Identities • Museum Studies • National Academy of Engineering Grand Challenges • Pre-Health Professions • Public Policy • Real Estate • Scientific Computation • Security Studies • Social Entrepreneurship and Non-profits • Social Inequality, Health and Policy • Sports and Media • Textile Conservation and Museum Studies • UTeach Fine Arts • UTeach Liberal Arts • UTeach Natural Sciences • UTeach Urban Teachers

1 Major and 1 Minor or Certificate = Over 10,900 Possibilities!
How is UGS Addressing this Problem?
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.
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.
Truth: Students starting in UGS graduate at the same rate as all UT students.
Vick Center
for Strategic Advising & Career Counseling

90%

Of UGS students who graduated in 2016 graduated from the same college into which they first transferred when they left UGS.

In 2015, the Vick center was given the Outstanding Advising Program Award from the National Academic Advising Association.
The Outcomes: Where UGS Students End Up

2013 cohort migration
Discovery Scholars Success Program

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.
The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Problem: Erosion of the Core Curriculum
The University of Texas at Austin

“What starts here changes the world”
The University of Texas at Austin

“What starts here changes”

Experts predict our graduates will change careers at least once and their last career may not have been invented yet.

We must prepare them to be flexible, adaptable, nimble.

For many of our students, educational breadth will be more important than their choice of major.
How is UGS Addressing this Problem?
The University of Texas at Austin

“What starts here changes”

Adding an interdisciplinary certificate provides exceptional educational breadth

For many of our students, educational breadth will be more important than their choice of major
Bridging Disciplines Certificate Program

Each BDP certificate is created from classes taught in different colleges and schools.

Advising takes place in UGS, customized coursework plans developed by students.

Required experiential learning component called a “connecting experience.”
Bridging Disciplines Certificate Program

- Children and Society
- Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies
- Digital Arts and Media
- Environment and Sustainability
- Ethics and Leadership in Business
- Ethics and Leadership in Health Care
- Ethics and Leadership in Law, Politics & Government
- Ethics and Leadership in the Media
- Human Rights and Social Justice
- Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship
- Media, Culture and Identities
- Museum Studies
- Public Policy
- Social Entrepreneurship and Non-profits
- Social Inequality, Health and Policy
Bridging Disciplines Certificate Program

Defines **interdisciplinary training** on the UT campus, and serve as an organizational model for future interdisciplinary degrees (will not be in UGS)

187 Students graduated with a BDP Certificate this year, up 54% over last year

93% Agreed or Strongly Agreed that their BDP Certificate gave them the ability to apply perspectives from multiple disciplines
The University of Texas at Austin

“What starts here changes”

For many of our students, educational breadth will be more important than their choice of major
The University of Texas at Austin

“What starts here changes”

Students are supposed to gain educational breadth from the Core Curriculum requirements

For many of our students, educational breadth will be more important than their choice of major
Unfortunately, there are many storm clouds on the horizon related to the Core Curriculum

Students are supposed to gain educational breadth from the Core Curriculum requirements
Three problems reinforce each other

UT Austin is required by a new state law to give college credit for an AP score of 3 or more

Dual credit/early high school programs have increased 650% since 2000 so that 133,000 students were enrolled in 2015

2.5 week on-line courses are available for 3 unit credit for every core subject
Students are left with the impression that the Core Curriculum is not that important and is the domain of high schools, not higher education.
The Problem is National

“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”
40% of core hours were completed non-residence by 2016 FTIC grads.
On average, **23 non-residence** core hours were completed by **2015 and 2016** grads.

FTIC Degrees Awarded:
- 2016: 5168
- 2015: 4511
The majority of total core hours in **Humanities, Rhetoric, History, and Government** were completed non-residence by 2016 FTIC grads.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>In-Residence (%)</th>
<th>Non-Residence (%)</th>
<th>Min. Req. Hrs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Science and Technology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual and Performing Arts</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td></td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhetoric 306</td>
<td></td>
<td>86%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature Course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US History</td>
<td></td>
<td>61%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American and Texas Government</td>
<td></td>
<td>55%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Flags</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Min. Req. Hrs.* refers to the minimum required hours for the 5168 degrees awarded.
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.
How is UGS Addressing this Problem?
Signature Courses

Interdisciplinary courses required of every entering UT undergraduate

Taught by faculty from all colleges and schools.

220 courses provide 11,000 seats. 270 proposed for 2015

Signature Course assessment served as the QEP during our latest SACS accreditation.

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

Although much more difficult, we are also assessing inspiration provided by the Signature Course program.
Signature Course Stories

Published May, 2015

A collection of student and faculty essays describing how these courses connect our newest students with distinguished faculty members.

An amazing new website will allow us to spread the word and export this groundbreaking teaching model.
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.

Flags can ONLY be taken at UT Austin.
Flags: Essential skills and experiences for this century.

Cultural Diversity in the United States: Examines the variety and richness of the American cultural experience.

Global Cultures: Examines various cultural groups outside the United States.

Ethics and Leadership: Equips students to make ethical decisions in their adult and professional lives.

Quantitative Reasoning: Improves understanding of quantitative arguments.
Flags: Essential skills and experiences for this century.

**Independent Inquiry:** Independent investigation of a question, problem, or project related to their major.

**Writing:** Improves the quality of students’ writing.

**Writing:** Improves the quality of students’ writing.

**Writing:** Improves the quality of students’ writing.
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...
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.”
How is UGS Addressing the Short Format On-line Courses?

**Proposed Policy**

UT Austin will not accept for credit toward core curriculum requirements courses of less than 3 weeks (fewer than 21 days) duration taken at another institution by a degree-seeking student at UT Austin.
How is UGS Addressing the Student Attitude about the Core Curriculum?

We will be launching a publicity campaign to students along the lines of:

“Make your Core Count. You will need it.”
Beyond UGS Efforts, What Should We Do?

I would like the University to develop strategic plans that address:

1) How UT Austin will create availabilities in majors (interdisciplinary?) to better match student demand, including a corresponding change in the academic funding model.

2) Better student career exploration combined with opportunities to switch majors that do not extend time to graduation.

3) Proactively managing Core Curriculum courses being transferred into the University after a student enrolls at UT.