Core Reform Task Force
Glossary

**BSU Core** - Set of courses categorized by Area I (Humanities) Area II (social Sciences) and Area III (natural science and math) that have an over arching philosophy and set of learning outcomes determined by the Faculty Senate

**Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE) Core** - The thirty-six credits of transferable course work specifically required by the Idaho State Board of Education within the fields of communications, English composition, mathematics, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

**General Education** - An essential collegiate-level component of associate and baccalaureate degree programs designed to foster effective independent lifelong learning by introducing students to the content and methodology of the major domains of knowledge. (Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities)

**Liberal Arts** - “College or university curriculum aimed at imparting general knowledge and developing general intellectual capacities, in contrast to a professional, vocational, or technical curriculum. In Classical antiquity, the term designated the education proper to a freeman (Latin *liber*, ‘free’) as opposed to a slave. In the medieval Western university, the seven liberal arts were grammar, rhetoric, and logic (the *trivium*) and geometry, arithmetic, music, and astronomy (the *quadrivium*). In modern colleges and universities, the liberal arts include the study of literature, languages, philosophy, history, mathematics, and science.” (Britannica Concise Encyclopedia, published by Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.)

**Foundational Courses** - A set of lower level courses from a variety of disciplines that serve as the base (foundation) for the major curriculum. For BSU, Math 143 may be seen as a foundational course for many science majors.

**Major Core** - Courses that are required by several programs within a department or college. For example, the College of Business and Economics has a set of Business courses that all students in the college must complete, regardless of major. The Department of Biological Sciences also has a set of particular courses required of Biology majors, regardless of the student’s emphasis area.

**Common Courses** - Any course that is taken by every student at a particular university at some time or other in the student’s academic career. Currently at Boise State, English 101 and 102 are the only offerings that approximate common courses.

**Diversity/Multicultural Perspective Courses** - At Boise State, any course approved by the Faculty Senate that is specifically designed to help students “recognize and appreciate the many ways in which each of us is shaped by gender, sexual orientation, class, race, culture, ability, nationality, religion, and ethnicity.” (2009-10 Undergraduate Catalog, p. 41)
University College - University College is the academic unit that provides a common gateway to the academic programs available to entering students. University College coordinates existing university resources and develops new initiatives to promote academic excellence and enhance student persistence. It provides a setting where faculty, staff, and students share in the responsibility for making the university a supportive and challenging environment for learning.


LEAP - Liberal Education and America’s Promise – “An initiative that champions the value of a liberal education—for individual students and for a nation dependent on economic creativity and democratic vitality. The initiative focuses campus practice on fostering essential learning outcomes for all students, whatever their chosen field of study.” -- from the AAC&U website