

University Curriculum Committee

Year-End Summary Report (2025–2026)

Reporting Period: September 2025 – March 2026

1. Committee Overview and Charge

The **University Curriculum Committee (UCC)** is responsible for reviewing, approving, and recommending curricular proposals that maintain the integrity of the university catalog and ensure academic programs remain aligned with disciplinary standards, accreditation expectations, and workforce demands.

During the **2025–2026 reporting cycle**, the committee focused on three primary priorities:

- Maintaining **catalog integrity and regulatory compliance**
- Supporting **program innovation aligned with workforce needs**
- Managing a **major transition in curriculum management systems**

All proposals summarized in this report were **approved by committee consensus** and forwarded to the **Office of the Provost for final administrative certification**.

2. Major Administrative Initiative

Transition from Curriculog to Coursedog

A major operational effort this year involved the transition from **Curriculog** to **Coursedog** for curriculum management and academic catalog publication.

Key Milestones

Curriculog Deactivation

- Final deadline for curricular submissions: **December 1, 2025**
- System retained for reference access through **July 2026**

Coursedog Implementation

- Planned launch: **May 1, 2026** (possible summer rollout)
- **Schedule Builder module completed**

Catalog Development

- On **March 16, 2026**, Jasmine O'Brien demonstrated the new **Coursedog Academic Catalog interface**, highlighting:
 - Improved student navigation
 - Clear visualization of **four-year graduation pathways**
 - Enhanced accessibility for advising and degree planning

This transition represents a significant modernization of the university's **curriculum workflow and catalog presentation infrastructure**.

3. Overview of Curricular Activity

During this cycle, the committee processed a **substantial volume of curriculum proposals**, including:

- **New courses**
- **Program restructures**
- **Certificates and concentrations**
- **Catalog updates and corrections**
- **Policy revisions**

These actions ensure the **University Bulletin remains current, accurate, and aligned with disciplinary and workforce expectations**.

4. New Course Approvals

Several new courses were approved to address **emerging technologies, professional skill development, and specialized disciplinary study.**

Technology and Media

- **COMM 3555 – AI and Professional Communication**
- **ART 3890 – Visual Content for Social Media**
- **CSCI 3551 / 3552 – 3D Game Development and Production**
- **COMM 3215 – Sports Multimedia Journalism**

Business and Leadership

- **BUS 5340 – Agile Project Management**
- **BUS 5320 – Applied Supply Chain Management**
- **ECON 5230 – Global Business, Economics, and Policy**
- **LDSP 1010 – Leadership Skill Development**

Education and Special Education

- **SCI 6550 – Social Issues in Science Education**
- **SPED 5395 – Advanced Assistive Technology**
- **EDUC 5930 – Graduate Clinical Mentoring (capstone for job-embedded teachers)**

Humanities and Social Sciences

- **ENGL 5210 – Black Women Writers**
- **ENGL 5220 – Black Queer Literature**
- **ENGL 5720 – Cultural Rhetorics**
- **Peace Studies sequence:**
 - **PCST 2000**
 - **PCST 3000**
 - **PCST 4000**

Health and Science

- BIOL 2030 / 2031 – **Human Anatomy and Physiology Bridge**
- KINS 4900 – **Functional Fitness Programming Capstone**

These additions expand the curriculum in areas such as **AI, digital media, leadership development, and interdisciplinary studies.**

5. Major Program Modifications

Several programs underwent **significant structural revisions** to strengthen academic rigor and improve program clarity.

Psychological Science (B.S.)

Major restructuring included:

- Credit hours increased from **43 to 48**
- Creation of a **17-credit Core** and **12-credit Foundation**
- Required inclusion of:
 - Physiological Psychology
 - Introduction to Psychopathology
- Implementation of a **Topic Area requirement:**
 - Clinical/Counseling
 - Applied
 - Experimental
- Reduction of free electives from **12 to 6 hours**

These changes ensure **consistent exposure to essential disciplinary content.**

English (M.A.) and Linguistics

A comprehensive restructuring of the graduate curriculum included:

- Reorganization of **5000-level ENGL and LING course numbering**
- Improved sequencing within the graduate catalog
- Removal of **nearly 20 inactive courses**
- Improved alignment between **English Studies and Linguistics concentrations**

This restructuring improves **program clarity and administrative efficiency.**

Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)

Program revisions created additional pathways for graduate students:

- **Option B:** Job-Embedded pathway
- **Option C:** Non-Licensure pathway

These changes streamline program completion while maintaining alignment with **state licensure standards.**

Actuarial Science Concentration (Mathematics B.S.)

Key revisions included:

- Addition of **MATH 1200 – Introduction to Actuarial Science**
- Reduction in required major courses
- Increase in elective flexibility from **11 to approximately 28 hours**

Additional Program Adjustments

- **Kinesiology (B.S.)**
 - Prefix change from **HHP** → **KINS**
- **African Studies Minor**
 - Adjusted after termination of AAST 3200 study abroad
 - Added:
 - POLS 3160 – African Politics
 - GEOG 4500 – Special Problems in Geography

6. New Certificates and Academic Credentials

The committee approved several new certificates designed to enhance **professional preparation and workforce alignment**.

Undergraduate Certificates

- **Essential Skills for Career Readiness** (12 credits)
- **Peace Studies Certificate** (16 credits)

Graduate Certificates

- **Team Leadership**
- **Leadership in Law Enforcement**

These programs focus on **communication skills, leadership development, and interdisciplinary problem solving**.

7. New Academic Units and Program Implementations

Several new structural initiatives were approved.

Department of Aviation Science

A new academic unit was established to house aviation programs independently from Engineering Technology, allowing for:

- Dedicated administration
- Industry-specific program development
- Expanded aviation workforce partnerships

Secondary Physics Education Concentration (6–12)

Reintroduced to strengthen the pipeline for **physics teachers and STEM educators**.

LPN-to-BSN Concentration

A structured pathway for licensed practical nurses, including:

- NURS 2001 – Transitions to Professional Practice
- NURS 2002 – Foundations of Practical Nursing

This pathway recognizes **prior professional learning and clinical experience**.

8. Professional Development and Workforce Readiness Initiatives

Several approved initiatives focus on **durable professional skills and emerging technologies**.

Essential Skills for Career Readiness Certificate

Focus areas include:

- Professional communication
- Digital literacy
- Group collaboration
- Navigating digital information environments

Leadership Development Programs

Graduate certificates include:

- **Leadership in Law Enforcement**
- **Team Leadership**

These programs combine leadership theory with applied organizational skills.

Emerging Technology and Artificial Intelligence

New courses addressing the impact of AI include:

- COMM 3555 – AI and Professional Communication
- MGT 3235 – Role of Artificial Intelligence in Business
- ECON 5420 – AI in Economic Analysis and Decision Making

These additions ensure the curriculum reflects **rapid technological transformation across industries.**

9. Policy and Degree Designation Updates

Several administrative updates were implemented to ensure compliance with **state and institutional policies.**

Degree Designation Change

Following a request from the **Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC):**

- **Master in Athletic Training (M.A.T.)**
redesignated as
- **Master of Science in Athletic Training (M.S.A.T.)**

Policy Revisions

Policy 2:001 – Curricular Development

- Updated titles and clarified procedural language.

Policy 2:016 – Textbooks / OER

- Updated terminology and guidance.

Policy 2:024 – Reverse Transfer

- Increased minimum credits earned at the two-year institution from **15% to 25%** before eligibility for reverse transfer degree auditing.

10. Course-Level Modifications Summary

The committee also processed many routine but essential catalog updates.

Action Type	Approximate Volume	Primary Purpose
Course Description Updates	~82	Clarification and addition of experiential learning requirements
Course Title Updates	Dozens	Alignment with program restructuring and industry terminology
Course Number / Credit Changes	High volume	Graduate program revisions and degree alignment
Prefix Changes	11	Administrative realignment (ECSP, KINS)

These updates help maintain **catalog clarity, advising accuracy, and degree audit precision.**

11. Concluding Remarks

The **2025–2026 academic year** represented a period of significant curricular development and administrative modernization.

Key outcomes include:

- Implementation of a **new curriculum management system (Coursedog)**
- Expansion of **industry-relevant courses in AI, media, aviation, and healthcare**
- Structural improvements to **major academic programs**
- Development of new **professional certificates and leadership programs**
- Continued maintenance of an **accurate and modern academic catalog**

Through these efforts, the University Curriculum Committee continues to support **academic innovation, student success, and institutional accountability.**