A key feature of the Silver Core Curriculum is that all Core courses must be periodically reverified to remain in the Core. The Core Board has established faculty committees to advise the Core Board on all matters related to the Core Objectives (COs) and course verification.

The original implementation plan published in January 2014 envisioned that the Core Board would proceed through a five-year review schedule that considered one CO at a time, and in the final year the Silver Core itself would be reviewed. Last year, the Core Board voted to change this schedule to one that considered one program at a time, instead of one CO at a time, with an accelerated five-year cycle to be followed by a seven-year cycle that would gradually align with the existing program review schedule.

The amended schedule for reverification is shown below in this document. Reverification begins in 2016 with a pilot for the Core Writing and Core Humanities programs, and following this pilot the Core Board will consider any necessary changes to the process. In the subsequent four years, all remaining Core courses will need to be reverified by the Core Board to remain in the Core. Following this five-year review cycle, the Silver Core Curriculum will be reviewed, and then the cycle will begin anew.

Instructions for Programs and Departments

As part of their regular program assessment, all undergraduate programs must develop a three-point assessment plan for their own majors. At the same time, any program offering Silver Core courses must directly assess student learning in all of those specific Core courses, and the Core Board will review those assessment reports before they will consider re-verifying these courses.

Program administrators (e.g., the department chairs) should review the re-verification schedule, and inform the Director of the Core Curriculum if any changes are necessary. For example, cross-listed courses may need to be moved to another program with primary teaching responsibility.

At least one year prior to re-verification, program administrators must meet with the Assistant Vice-Provost (AVP) for Assessment & Accreditation to finalize a formal assessment plan. Program administrators must also contact the Director of the Core Curriculum by Sep. 30 of the year prior, to explain which Core courses will be submitted for re-verification, and when these courses will be directly assessed. Core courses which are not submitted and assessed will be removed from the Silver Core Curriculum.

Starting no later than the year prior to re-verification, student learning in Core courses must be directly assessed by the instructors, using the assessment plans developed with the AVP. For Core re-verification, the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) related to the COs must be assessed, regardless of whether those COs are being built, being satisfied,
or being integrated into the Capstone. If courses are not offered annually, they should be directly assessed at some point prior to reverification. If this is not possible, a one-year extension can be requested. However, courses which are not taught and assessed within the last full reverification cycle will be removed from the Silver Core Curriculum. Departments may reapply for verification through normal procedures.

At the end of the year prior to reverification, program administrators should gather PDF copies of course syllabi, for all instructors and sections for at least two different semesters. Programs should also submit their assessment reports to the AVP before the reverification process begins. Core committees will review these assessment reports and provide feedback or requests for more information. Core committees will then review other relevant information, and make a recommendation to the Core Board regarding reverification. The Core Director will notify program administrators by the end of the academic year regarding the Core Board’s decision.

Instructions for Core Committees

_Step 1: Review and Respond to Direct Assessment Reports_

Every course has a set of SLOs common to all sections and instructors, and periodically these SLOs must be directly assessed for all Silver Core courses. Guidelines, forms, and rubrics for academic units and their faculty are available at [http://www.unr.edu/assessment/core](http://www.unr.edu/assessment/core). Forms for the Core committees to complete are also available on this page.

Prior to course reverification, departments and programs must work with the AVP to develop an assessment plan. In the following year, after this plan is approved, a department representative will collect from instructors all Core assessment reports for a given year and submit them to the AVP.

The AVP will then provide these direct assessment reports to the relevant Core committees. The committees should review these forms and provide a response (using the appropriate form available at the link above); the AVP will send these responses back to the department representative. If the committees recommend that formal action be taken, then the instructor must respond using a third form, which will again be submitted via a department representative to the AVP and the Core committees in turn. This process of dialogue and closing the loop will be vital to effective assessment of student learning in the Core.

_Step 2: Review Other Information_

After reviewing the direct assessment reports, the Core committees should carefully review the following information:

• Syllabi for all instructors of the courses being considered for reverification for at least two recent semesters, which will be collected from the departments and provided to the committees by the Core Office;

• Indirect assessment results for these courses from the *What Do You Think?* student evaluation system, which will be provided by the AVP;

• Any other indirect assessment or feedback provided to the committee, including any relevant results from any faculty or alumni surveys.

• Institutional data, such as instructor characteristics, enrollments, course sizes, and wait lists, as provided by the Core Office.

If a committee wants more information than what is provided above, it should make this request to the AVP or the Core Director, not directly to the program or department.

In its review, the committee should consider the following questions:

1) Does the course still meet the written standards for the Silver Core Objective? Courses change over time, sections may vary widely, and CO standards may have changed.

2) Is the course being directly assessed? Is the assessment appropriate to the content, and is the outcome of the direct assessment being used to improve the course?

3) Do the results of indirect assessment activities (e.g., course evaluations) differ significantly from university averages, and do they point out particular concerns that need to be addressed?

4) Are there any problems with how the course is being taught? Are the section sizes appropriate for the course? Are enough sections and seats available for the university’s needs, and does the course scheduling appear to respond to changing demand? Is the course staffed appropriately?

**Step 3: Make a Recommendation to the Core Board**

After reviewing direct assessment reports and considering other information, the committee should write one memo from the committee chair to the Core Director for each particular department or program, listing each course being reviewed along with one of the following recommendations:

**A** – The committee is confident that the course meets the written standards and is being appropriately assessed, with satisfactory results, and the committee has no other concerns about how the course is being provided. The Core Board should reverify it.

**B** – The committee is confident that the course meets the written standards, but the committee has some concerns about assessment or how the course is being provided. The Core Board should reverify the course, but should also bring these concerns to the attention of the program administrator. In this case, the Core
committee may also request some action on the part of the instructor to address concerns regarding student learning.

C – The committee is not confident that the course should be reverified. Perhaps the course may not be meeting the written standards, assessment is not being done, or the committee has more serious concerns about how it is being provided. The program should be given an opportunity to address concerns or correct any deficiencies, and the course should be reconsidered after the next semester in which it is taught.

D – The committee believes that the course has serious deficiencies and should not be reverified. The program will be given no more than one year to correct the deficiencies before the course is reconsidered for reverification.

F – The course received a C or D recommendation in the prior year (or two), but the instructor or program has failed to address the committee’s concerns or correct the issues. The committee recommends that the Core Board remove the course from the Silver Core.

In its memo, the Core committee should feel free to note any areas of concern raised by their review. Individual students and faculty should never be named in the committee’s report.

Finally, the Core committee should consider whether its review suggests any deficiencies in the CO standards themselves, or in the structure of the Silver Core Curriculum. Any related recommendations should be written in a separate memo, and kept separate from the program recommendations regarding course reverification.

The Core Director will provide these memos to the Core Board, which shall promptly review and consider recommendation memos from the committees. The vote of the Core Board is advisory to the Executive Vice-President & Provost, whose decision shall be final.

**Removal of Core Courses from the Curriculum**

There are three conditions under which a course may be recommended for removal from one or more COs of the Silver Core Curriculum:

1. The program takes no action to submit the course for reverification, or to directly assess SLOs. The Core Director will give the program administrator adequate reminders, and will bring the removal to the Core Board for a vote.
2. The program chooses to remove the course from the Silver Core. The Core Director will confirm this with the program administrator, and bring the removal to the Core Board as a consent item.
3. The program submits the course for reverification, but the Core Board votes against reverification for one or more COs. This would result from an F rating, as explained above, which in turn would result from an uncorrected C or D rating.
If a course receives a C or D rating from the Core Board, or if the Core Board votes to recommend removal, the Core Director will immediately notify the program administrator as well as the appropriate dean and department chair, and run an impact report to determine the possible effects of removal on the availability of classes for students needing to satisfy COs for graduation. If the impact is potentially significant, the Core Director will also inform the Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Education.

Following a vote of the Core Board, removal of a course from the Core should be initiated by the Core Director through Curriculog, and the proposal should be reviewed by the department, college, and the University Courses and Curriculum Committee before proceeding as a recommendation to the Provost.

Once the Provost has approved the removal of a Core course, the change will be effective beginning in the following semester. College advisors should be immediately informed of the change, along with all students who register for the course in the following two semesters. The course will no longer satisfy the CO, and the Catalog will be amended as soon as possible. This should not be allowed to adversely affect any students who took the course prior to its removal from the Core.
DRAFT REVERIFICATION SCHEDULE, August 8, 2016

Year 1: Fall 2016-Spring 2017 Pilot
Includes CO1, CO3, CO5, CO8, and CO9.
• Core Humanities: CH 201, CH 202, CH 203, and CH 212.
• Core Writing: ENG 102, ENG 104, and ENG 114.

Year 2: Fall 2017-Spring 2018
Includes CO2, CO4, CO4L, CO6, CO7, CO8, CO9, CO10, CO11, CO12, CO13, and CO14.
• CABNR - BMB: BIOT 419 and BIOT 447.
• Liberal Arts:
  o World Languages: ARA 221, CHI 220, CHI 221, CHI 223, FREN 221, FREN 316, FREN 341, FREN/WMST 406, JPN 221, SPAN 222, SPAN 309, SPAN 316, SPAN 321, SPAN 322, SPAN 323, SPAN 350, SPAN 353, SPAN 354, SPAN 355, SPAN 356, SPAN 357, SPAN 400, SPAN 461, WLL 450, WLL 460, and WLL 470.
  o Philosophy: PHIL 135, PHIL 202, PHIL 207C/PSC 227C, PHIL 210, PHIL 244, PHIL 245, PHIL 450, PHIL 452, PHIL 453, PHIL 454, PHIL 457/PSC 409A, PHIL 476, and PHIL/PHIL 480.
• Science – Math & Stats: MATH 120, MATH 120E, MATH 126, MATH 126E, MATH 127, MATH 128, MATH 176, MATH 181, MATH 420, MATH 487, and STAT 152.
• DHS - Nursing: NURS 317, NURS 433, NURS 435, NURS 438, NURS 445, NURS 453, and NURS 454.
Year 3: Fall 2018-Spring 2019
Includes CO2, CO4L, CO6, CO8, CO9, CO10, CO11, CO12, CO13, and CO14.

- **CABNR – ANVS:** ABNR/SCI 415, AGSC 410, AGSC 415, AGSC 416, AGSC 418, NUTR 121, NUTR 223, NUTR 325, NUTR 471, NUTR 485, and VM 481.

- **Business:**
  - **Economics:** ECON 100, ECON 102, ECON 103, ECON 305, ECON 334, ECON 359, ECON 420, ECON 441, ECON 442, ECON 454, ECON 461, ECON 462, ECON 463, and ECON 489.
  - **Information Systems:** IS 301 and IS 495.
  - **Managerial Sciences:** FIN 308, MGT 462, MGT 480, MGT 496, and MKT 456.

- **Liberal Arts:**
  - **Communications:** COM 113, COM 311, COM 395, COM 405, COM 406, COM 407, COM 412, COM 422, COM 468, COM 468, and COM 475.
  - **GRI:** ETS 280, ETS 307, GRI 201, GRI 257, GRI 415, HGPS 201, HGPS 410, HGPS 415, HGPS 421, RST 101, RST 495, WMST 101, WMST 250, WMST 300, WMST 419, WMST 430, WMST 450, WMST 452, and WMST 498.
  - **Political Science:** PSC 100, PSC 101, PSC 211, PSC 231, PSC/WMST 255, PSC/WMST 353, PSC/WMST 354, PSC 403J, PSC 407W, PSC 407X, and PSC 407Y.
  - **Psychology:** PSY 101, PSY 240, PSY 301, PSY 375, PSY 395, PSY 408, PSY 410, PSY 431, PSY 452, PSY 467, and PSY 475.
  - **Sociology:** APST 270, SOC 101, SOC 333, SOC 342, SOC 345, SOC 369, SOC 376, SOC 379, SOC 391, SOC 393, SOC 405, SOC 406, SOC/WMST 409, SOC 425, SOC/WMST 453, SOC 457, SOC 458, SOC 463, SOC 464, SOC 480, SOC 483/WMST 486, SOC 490, SOC 493, and SOC 495.

- **Science – Earth Sciences:**
  - **Geography:** GEOG 103, GEOG 106, GEOG/ATMS 121, GEOG 200, GEOG 350, GEOG 400/NRES 400, GEOG 407, GEOG 418, GEOG 422, GEOG 438, GEOG 440, GEOG 446, GEOG 464, GEOG 466, GEOG 476, GEOG 477, GEOG/HIST 488, and GEOG/HIST 488B.
  - **Geology:** GE 487, GEOL 100, GEOL 101, GEOL 451, GPH 492, GPH 492, MET 482, MINE 400, MINE 418, MINE 456, and MINE 472.

- **DHS - Social Work:** SW 351, SW 420, SW 424, SW 440, SW 461, SW 462, SW 466, SW 467, and SW 480.
Year 4: Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Includes CO4, CO4L, CO7, CO9, CO10, CO11, CO12, CO13, and CO14.

- **CABNR:** BCH 408, ENV 101, ENV 467/NRES 467, NRES 210, NRES 212, NRES 214, NRES 405, NRES 482, NRES 488, NRES 494, and NRES 498.
- **Education:** HDFS 391, HDFS 436, HDFS 438, and HDFS 470.
- **CLA Criminal Justice:** CRJ 106, CRJ 301, CRJ 380, CRJ 381, CRJ 427, CRJ 450, CRJ 451, CRJ 475, CRJ 479, and SRJS 492.
- **CLA School of the Arts:** ART 100, ART 124, ART 141, ART 151, ART 208, ART 211, ART 214, ART 216, ART 231, ART 253, ART 260, ART 261, ART 365, ART 445, ART/BASQ 448, ART 475, ART/WMST 484, ART 486, ART 487, DAN 101, DAN 365, DAN 388, DAN 467, MUS 121, MUS 122, MUS 123, MUS 124, MUS 420, MUS/WMST 421, MUS 425, MUS 431, MUSA 151, MUSE 101, SOTA 101, THTR 100, THTR 105, THTR 210, THTR 401, THTR 402, THTR 403, THTR 472, THTR 473, THTR 481, and THTR 482.
- **Science – Natural Sciences:** AST 109, AST 110, AST 497, ATMS 117, ATMS 497, BIOL 100, BIOL 125, BIOL 191, BIOL 314, BIOL 394, BIOL 395, BIOL 415, BIOL 475, BIOL/PSY 479, BIOL 492, BIOL 495, BIOL 497, CHEM 121A/L, CHEM 122A/L, CHEM 201, CHEM 202, CHEM 423, CHEM 435, CHEM 439, CHEM 444, CHEM 495, MICR 483, PHYS 100, PHYS 151, PHYS 152, PHYS 180/L, PHYS 181/L, PHYS 400, PHYS 497, and SCI 425.
- **DHS Community Health Sciences:** CHS 340, CHS 345, CHS 360, CHS 405, CHS 410, CHS 421, CHS 440, CHS 450, CHS 461, CHS 470, CHS 473, CHS 474, CHS 476, and CHS 494.

Year 5: Fall 2020-Spring 2021

Includes CO8, CO9, CO10, CO11, CO12, CO13, and CO14.

- **Engineering:** CEE 120, CEE 427, CHE 320, CHE 450, CHE 482, CS 105, CS 135, CS 426, CS 446, EE 491, ENGR 100, ENGR 301, ME 452, MSE 450, and MSE 482.
- **Education:** ECE 493, EDEL 483, EDSC 483, EDU 210, EDUC 413, EDUC/ENGR/SCI 435, EDUC 489, and NVTC 492.
- **DHS - Speech Pathology:** SPA 301, SPA 370, SPA 400, SPA 421, and SPA 466.
- **Journalism:** JOUR 305, JOUR 401, JOUR 481, JOUR 482, and JOUR 499.
- **Honors:** HON 220, HON 410, HON 491, and HON 495.

Year 6: Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Program Review of the Silver Core Curriculum.