



2021–2022 Innovative Course Application Instructions

1. The Texas school district/charter school or other organization seeking approval of an innovative course must complete the innovative course application.
2. The innovative course application must be completed prior to submission. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant, which will delay the review process. Applications deemed incomplete by the due date will not be considered.
3. The contact person listed on the application should be authorized to work with TEA during negotiations, as necessary.
4. School districts and charter schools are required to obtain the approval of the local board of trustees **prior to** submitting an application to the TEA.
5. A single application may contain multiple course titles **if** the application seeks approval for multiple levels of the same course. For example, an applicant may apply for approval of Latin Literature I, II, and III with a single application. Single applications for multiple levels of the same course **must include** essential knowledge and skills that are **separate and unique for each level of the course**.
6. The essential knowledge and skills for the proposed innovative course(s) must be presented as student expectations and should be written in the same format as the TEKS. Examples of the format are available in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), [Chapters 110–128 and 130](#).
7. The essential knowledge and skills **must** include:
 - a level of rigor appropriate for the subject matter and grade level of the course;
 - allowance for a variety of instruction and assessment methods;
 - measurable and observable student expectations; and
 - clear, specific, and understandable language.
8. **Applications that duplicate the content of a Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)-based course or can reasonably be taught within an existing TEKS-based course will not be approved. Please refer to guidance within the application regarding specific requirements for career and technical (CTE) or ethnic studies courses.**
9. The application must provide sufficient guidance for teachers to implement the course with little additional information.
10. Submit the application:
 - Submit the application as an attachment via email.
 - Label/Save the attachment: [Course title_District name_2021-22].
 - Address the email to innovative.courses@tea.texas.gov.
 - Use “[District/Organization name] Innovative Course Application” as the subject line of the email.
 - Expect an email receipt confirmation within five working days.
11. The TEA will review the applications in the order received. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible.

Please visit the [Innovative Courses page](#) for additional information.