

Media Release

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St. Thomas University Partnering with HBX of the Harvard Business School to Offer Students CORE Fundamentals of Business Program

St. Thomas University is partnering with HBX of the Harvard Business School to offer its students CORE, a multi-week, intensive program of online courses on the fundamentals of business.

The Credential of Readiness (CORE) program introduces students to the language and concepts of business. The courses teach essential concepts that students need to know to begin a career in business—whether it is at a large company, a tiny start-up, or a nonprofit. The program is comprised of three courses on business analytics, economics for managers, and financial accounting.

The courses and content were created by Harvard Business School professors Bharat Anand, Jan Hammond, and V.G. Narayanan. By earning the Credential and an official HBX transcript, students will be able to signal to others, including employers, a mastery of the fundamentals of business.

St. Thomas University is the first partner university in Canada to join the program. Other universities associated with the program include Bates, Amherst College, Williams College, and Wellesley College.

Bharat Anand, faculty chair of HBX, commented on the partnership, “We are very pleased to partner with St. Thomas University to provide additional opportunities for their students to participate in HBX CORE. The program was designed to teach fundamental business knowledge and real-world problem solving skills that are valuable to any student entering the workforce.”

Upon successful completion of CORE, students receive an HBX transcript that reflects their achievement and provides a breakdown of performance in the courses. After students successfully complete the program, the courses will be counted as credit towards their degree at St. Thomas University.

“We are pleased to offer this innovative program to our students. Possessing a certificate indicating successful completion of the HBX CORE business readiness program would be a very valuable line on any resume,” said Barry Craig, Vice-President, Academic and Research.

“An international study recently found that the majority of professional leaders, particularly younger ones, hold a humanities or social science degree,” he said. “Adding business fundamentals to advanced literacy, critical thinking, and collaborative skill set is a great way to augment a liberal arts degree.”

The HBX CORE program begins with the assumption that the concept of “business” may be as unfamiliar to the students as a foreign language, so it is a primer on the fundamentals of business thinking. Given that past participants in the program came from the humanities, social sciences, and sciences, Craig added that HBX CORE will be appropriate for virtually all of the majors offered at St. Thomas. The university has students taking part in an eight-week condensed program and four cohorts will be offered over the next 12 months.