

## Introduction

This guide can be used to incorporate the QualityCore™ components available for eight courses: English 10, 11, and 12; Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II; Biology and Chemistry into the courses you currently teach. The guide offers practical materials—worksheets, exercises, design tools, and templates—that will help you integrate the QualityCore components into your existing curriculum.

The guide is organized according to a set of goals that reflects ACT’s vision of rigorous instruction. Each of these goals corresponds to one or more of the QualityCore components, which we believe to be highly important for increasing the rigor of high school core courses:

### **IF IT IS YOUR GOAL TO HELP**

- Align your curriculum with the key essential knowledge and skills students need to be prepared for postsecondary education or workforce training
- Identify and incorporate the pedagogical strategies that make a course rigorous, to define course content, and to set forth classroom policies that encourage deep understanding
- Align curriculum and assessments with the key essential skills
- Design instruction for specific learning goals, student needs, student characteristics, and your learning context
- Use multiple assessments for defining and analyzing learning goals: pre-assessment of student learning, ongoing assessment of student progress, and summative assessment of student achievement
- Reflect on a unit of instruction focusing on student learning and the factors that facilitate and/or impede learning

### **YOU’LL WANT TO ADD**

Course Objectives

Course Descriptions and Syllabi

Course Outline and Instructional Unit Plans, Test Blueprints

Guidelines for Developing an Instructional Unit

Formative Assessment Item Pool, End-of-Course Assessments, Test Blueprints

Instructional Units