

General Education Core Course Options
Pursuant to Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes

Final Recommendations of the
General Education Steering and Faculty Committees
August 2013



STATE
UNIVERSITY
SYSTEM
of FLORIDA
Board of Governors



Introduction

In 2012 HB 7135 (Chapter 2012-195, Laws of Florida), amended Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, to make significant changes to the general education program. The current 36-hour requirement was changed to 30 hours in the five subject areas of communication, humanities, mathematics, natural science, and social science. Faculty committees appointed by the chairs of the State Board of Education and Board of Governors, or designees, were directed to identify a listing of no more than five postsecondary courses in each subject area, making up the general education core course options. The statute mandates that all institutions must offer and accept these general education core courses, and that students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2014-2015 must complete at least one identified core course in each subject area. To be in compliance with the statute, this general education core must be adopted in rule by the State Board of Education and in regulation by Board of Governors.

The chairs of the State Board of Education and Board of Governors designated the Chancellors of the Florida College System (FCS) and State University System (SUS), respectively, to implement the directives of this legislation. The Chancellors then appointed a General Education Steering Committee made up of five members each from the Florida College System and State University System; alternates were also appointed. The Steering Committee directs the work of the faculty committees and the entire general education project. Co-chairs from each sector were approved by the membership.

Current Steering Committee Membership

Sector	Name	Inst.	Alternate	Inst.
FCS	Barbara Howard	FSCJ		
FCS	George Bishop	GCSC		
FCS	Sharon Erle	NFCC	Ken Ross	PSC
FCS	Leana Revell	SFSC	Michael Vitale	DSC
FCS	Karen Borglum*	VC	Craig Johnson	HCC
SUS	Douglas Robertson	FIU	Tom Westcott	UWF
SUS	Karen Laughlin	FSU	Jim Wohlpart	FGCU
SUS	Diane Chase*	UCF	Donald Palm	FAMU
SUS	Bernard Mair	UF	Bob Sullins	USF
SUS	Edward Pratt	FAU		

*Co-chairs

Senate Bill 1720 (Laws of Florida 2013-51)

During the process of faculty committee and Steering Committee meetings, several issues were raised regarding the implementation of the general education core course options, with recommendations for revision. The 2013 Legislature acted upon these recommendations in Senate Bill 1720, which enacted the following:

- The general education program is restored to 36 hours.
- Revisions to the core or additional courses in excess of the five-course maximum in each subject area is allowed if recommended by faculty committees and the Articulation Coordinating Committee, and approved by the State Board of Education and Board of Governors.

- The mandate that each institution offer each core course is removed. Each institution must still accept the core course in transfer as a general education core course in that subject area.
- The implementation of the general core course options are for students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2015-2016.

See Appendix A for the full text of Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, effective July 1, 2013.

Summary of Major Activities

July 31, 2012

The University of Florida hosted a meeting of more than 50 institution administrators, faculty, Department of Education and Board of Governors staff, and legislative staff to review the legislation and, with the attendance of Representative Proctor, confirm legislative intent. The group discussed the project, faculty committees, communication plans, and timeline.

August 14, 2012

The General Education Steering Committee conducted a conference call to discuss the scope of the project, agree to a timeline, and determine the process for selecting faculty committees. The Committee agreed to five subject area faculty committees of 12 members each, evenly represented among FCS and SUS faculty.

September 21, 2012

Valencia College hosted a meeting of the Steering Committee to select members and determine the activities of the faculty committees. Each sector selected six members for each committee, with one sector alternate. Steering Committee members would serve as faculty committee co-chairs, but would be non-voting members of the committee.

October 25, 2012

The University of South Florida hosted the initial meeting of the general education faculty committees. Faculty were provided information about the process and were allowed time to discuss details and implications of the project. They then split into the five committees representing communication, humanities, mathematics, natural science, and social science to begin the process of determining competencies and a maximum of five core course options.

Between the conclusion of this meeting and these initial draft recommendations, the faculty committees participated in a number of discussions about the proposed competencies and course lists. These engaging conversations, via both conference calls and listservs, afforded each member a forum for continuing conversations about the project. These resulted in revisions and additions to the recommendations from the October meeting. Many members also shared these recommendations with institution colleagues to provide greater input to the deliberations.

November 13, 2012

The General Education Steering Committee met via conference call to discuss the status of each faculty committee's recommendations and provide guidance for next steps in the project.

December 14, 2012

The General Education Steering Committee met via conference call for updates about legislative staff discussions and faculty committee recommendations. The Committee agreed to a draft set of recommended subject area competencies and core courses, and a communication plan.

December 20, 2012

The initial draft recommendations of the faculty committees and Steering Committee were distributed to the chief academic officers of the Florida College System institutions and state universities. The institutions were requested to distribute these materials to faculty members and submit comments on the recommendations.

May 16, 2013

The Steering Committee met at Valencia College to discuss the results of institution feedback and to finalize the general education core course recommendations. Based on legislative activity and institution feedback the core course recommendations in Humanities, Natural Science, and Social Science were revised. The Committee voted to approve the competencies and core courses in each section. The authorization to include additional courses was determined to be appropriate in the Mathematics and Natural Science subject areas. An institution survey would assist in determining the process of identifying these additional core courses.

August 21, 2013

The Steering Committee met via conference call to discuss the results of the additional core course survey and to finalize the core course list in Mathematics and Natural Science. The Committee determined that institutions should have discretion to employ a course that has an identified core course as an immediate prerequisite. These will be reported to the Statewide Course Numbering System. The Committee also added to the core course list those more advanced courses in which a student may be directly placed, but do not have as a prerequisite one of the designated core courses. These final recommendations will be distributed to institutions for faculty review and approval.

More information related to the general education project can be found at:
<http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/hb7135gep.asp>.

General Education Faculty Committee Final Recommendations
General Education Competencies and Core Courses
August 2013

Communication

Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively.

Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze communication critically.

ENC X101 English Composition I

Humanities

Students will confirm the ability to think critically through demonstrating interpretive ability and cultural literacy.

Students will acquire competence in reflecting critically upon the human condition.

ARH X000 Art Appreciation
HUM X020 Introduction to Humanities
LIT X000 Introduction to Literature
MUL X010 Music Literature/Music Appreciation
PHI X010 Introduction to Philosophy
THE X000 Theatre Appreciation

Mathematics

Students will determine appropriate mathematical and computational models and methods in problem solving, and demonstrate an understanding of mathematical concepts.

Students will apply appropriate mathematical and computational models and methods in problem solving.

MAC X105 College Algebra
MAC X311 Calculus I
MGF X106 Liberal Arts Mathematics I
MGF X107 Liberal Arts Mathematics II
STA X023 Statistical Methods

Any student who successfully completes a mathematics course for which one of the general education core course options in mathematics is an immediate prerequisite shall be considered to have completed the mathematics core.

Natural Sciences

Students will demonstrate the ability to critically examine and evaluate scientific observation, hypothesis, or model construction, and to use the scientific method to explain the natural world.

Students will successfully recognize and comprehend fundamental concepts, principles, and processes about the natural world.

AST X002	Descriptive Astronomy
BSC X005	General Biology
BSC X010	General Biology I
BSC X085	Anatomy and Physiology I
CHM X020	Chemistry for Liberal Studies
CHM X045	General Chemistry I
ESC X000	Introduction to Earth Science
EVR X001	Introduction to Environmental Science
PHY X020	Fundamentals of Physics
PHY X048	General Physics with Calculus
PHY X053	General Physics I

Any student who successfully completes a natural science course for which one of the general education core course options in natural science is an immediate prerequisite shall be considered to have completed the natural science core.

Social Sciences

Students will demonstrate the ability to examine behavioral, social, and cultural issues from a variety of points of view.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavioral, social, and cultural issues, past and present, local and global.

AMH X020	Introductory Survey Since 1877
ANT X000	Introduction to Anthropology
ECO X013	Principles of Macroeconomics
POS X041	American Government
PSY X012	Introduction to Psychology
SYG X000	Principles of Sociology

Appendix A

The 2013 Florida Statutes

1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites; other degree requirements.—

- (1) The department shall identify the degree programs offered by public postsecondary educational institutions.
- (2) The department shall identify postsecondary career education programs offered by Florida College System institutions and district school boards. The department shall also identify career courses designated as college credit courses applicable toward a career education diploma or degree. Such courses must be identified within the statewide course numbering system.
- (3) The chair of the State Board of Education and the chair of the Board of Governors, or their designees, shall jointly appoint faculty committees to identify statewide general education core course options. General education core course options shall consist of a maximum of five courses within each of the subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. The core courses may be revised, or the five-course maximum within each subject area may be exceeded, if approved by the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors, as recommended by the subject area faculty committee and approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as necessary for a subject area. Each general education core course option must contain high-level academic and critical thinking skills and common competencies that students must demonstrate to successfully complete the course. Beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2015-2016 and thereafter, each student must complete at least one identified core course in each subject area as part of the general education course requirements. All public postsecondary educational institutions shall accept these courses as meeting general education core course requirements. The remaining general education course requirements shall be identified by each institution and reported to the department by their statewide course number. The general education core course options shall be adopted in rule by the State Board of Education and in regulation by the Board of Governors.
- (4) The department shall identify those courses offered by universities and accepted for credit toward a degree. The department shall identify courses designated as either general education or required as a prerequisite for a degree. The courses shall be identified by their statewide course numbers.
- (5) The department shall identify common prerequisite courses and course substitutions for degree programs across all institutions. Common degree program prerequisites shall be offered and accepted by all state universities and Florida College System institutions, except in cases approved by the State Board of Education for Florida College System institutions and the Board of Governors for state universities. The department shall develop a centralized database containing the list of courses and course substitutions that meet the prerequisite requirements for each baccalaureate degree program.
- (6) The universities and Florida College System institutions shall work with their school districts to ensure that high school curricula coordinate with the general education curricula and to prepare students for college-level work. General education curricula for associate in arts programs shall be

identified by each institution and include 36 semester hours in the subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.

(7) An associate in arts degree shall require no more than 60 semester hours of college credit and include 36 semester hours of general education coursework. Beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2014-2015 and thereafter, coursework for an associate in arts degree shall include demonstration of competency in a foreign language pursuant to s. 1007.262. Except for developmental education required pursuant to s. 1008.30, all required coursework shall count toward the associate in arts degree or the baccalaureate degree.

(8) A baccalaureate degree program shall require no more than 120 semester hours of college credit and include 36 semester hours of general education coursework, unless prior approval has been granted by the Board of Governors for baccalaureate degree programs offered by state universities and by the State Board of Education for baccalaureate degree programs offered by Florida College System institutions.

(9) A student who received an associate in arts degree for successfully completing 60 semester credit hours may continue to earn additional credits at a Florida College System institution. The university must provide credit toward the student's baccalaureate degree for an additional Florida College System institution course if, according to the statewide course numbering, the Florida College System institution course is a course listed in the university catalog as required for the degree or as prerequisite to a course required for the degree. Of the courses required for the degree, at least half of the credit hours required for the degree shall be achievable through courses designated as lower division, except in degree programs approved by the State Board of Education for programs offered by Florida College System institutions and by the Board of Governors for programs offered by state universities.

(10) Students at state universities may request associate in arts certificates if they have successfully completed the minimum requirements for the degree of associate in arts (A.A.). The university must grant the student an associate in arts degree if the student has successfully completed minimum requirements for college-level communication and computation skills adopted by the State Board of Education and 60 academic semester hours or the equivalent within a degree program area, including 36 semester hours in general education courses in the subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences, consistent with the general education requirements specified in the articulation agreement pursuant to s. 1007.23.

(11) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint faculty committees representing both Florida College System institution and public school faculties to recommend to the commissioner for approval by the State Board of Education a standard program length and appropriate occupational completion points for each postsecondary career certificate program, diploma, and degree offered by a school district or a Florida College System institution.

History.—s. 351, ch. 2002-387; s. 107, ch. 2004-357; s. 115, ch. 2007-217; s. 20, ch. 2009-59; s. 93, ch. 2011-5; s. 8, ch. 2011-177; s. 10, ch. 2012-195; s. 15, ch. 2013-51.

Appendix B

General Education Project: Timeline (Revised May 16, 2013)

Dates	Activity
July 31, 2012	Cross-Sector Meeting with Representative Proctor/ Organizational Meeting
August 15, 2012	First Steering Committee Meeting, Conference Call
September 21, 2012	Steering Committee Meeting, Valencia College
October 5, 2012	Chancellors Approve Faculty Committees
October 24, 2012	Articulation Coordinating Committee Update
October 25, 2012	Initial Meeting of Faculty Committees
November 13, 2012	Steering Committee Meeting, Conference Call
November-December 2012	Ongoing Faculty Committee Discussion of Draft Recommendation Courses and Competencies via Listserv and Conference Calls
December 2012	Faculty Discipline Committee Draft Recommendations, Courses and Competencies to Steering Committee
December 14, 2012	Steering Committee Final Draft Recommendations, Courses and Competencies via Conference Call
December 2012	Faculty Discipline Committee Initial Draft Recommendations, Courses and Competencies
December 21, 2012 – January 31, 2013	Faculty Review/Institution (CAVP/CIA) Review, Initial Feedback
February 1-8, 2013	DOE/BOG Compile Institution Initial Feedback
Mid-Late February 2013	Steering Committee and Faculty Committee Review Initial Institution Feedback
May 16, 2013	Steering Committee Meeting to Finalize Core Course Recommendations
May 20	Provide final SC core recommendations to institutions and request identification of related/advanced courses
August 1	Institutions submit related/advanced courses
August 15	Steering Committee Meeting
August 16	Provide final SC recommendation of related/advanced courses for review by SUS/FCS
August-October	Review by institution curriculum or general education committees
November 1	Institution submits final faculty and administrative approval of core
November 7	Steering Committee Meeting
November 8	Chancellors review
November 15	Initial State Board rule development/public comment period begins
January 2014	Board of Governors regulation noticing
March 2014	State Board/Board of Governors rule/regulation on agenda

The activities listed in this timeline reflect those leading to State Board of Education and Board of Governors approval of rule and regulation, respectively. Each institution has its own internal process regarding the approval of new general education programs—these internal processes are not reflected in this timeline.