

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

Initial Draft Recommendations of the
General Education Steering and Faculty Committees
December 2012



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. See Appendix A for the full text of Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes.

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.

Steering Committee Members

Sector	Name	Inst.	Alternate	Inst.
FCS	Judy Bilsky*	FSCJ	Barbara Howard	LSCC
FCS	Pamela Menke**	MDC	George Bishop	GCCC
FCS	Sharon Erle	NFCC	Ken Ross	PSC
FCS	Leana Revell	SOFL	Michael Vitale	DSC
FCS	Karen Borglum	VCC	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	Mark Workman	UNF	Edward Pratt	FAU

*Co-chairs

**Approved as a co-chair in December 2012

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 13, 2012

The initial faculty committee draft recommendations were completed and submitted to the Steering Committee for review.

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.

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

The following represents the draft recommendations of the general education faculty committees. This document represents the work of more than 60 faculty members and hours of in-person and electronic discussions. Each faculty committee reached consensus, if not unanimity, in these recommendations. While there are many issues still to be resolved, these recommendations represent a significant step forward in implementing the statutory requirements. The General Education Steering Committee appreciates the faculty time given thus far and the diligence with which they have approached the task.

These initial draft recommendations will be distributed to Florida College System and State University System chief academic officers in December 2012. This initial institution review period will conclude by February 2013, at which time the Steering Committee will conduct a review and revision of the recommendations. An institution faculty review period is scheduled from March to August 2013, with a public comment period beginning in June 2013. Please refer to Appendix B for the project timeline.

General Education Faculty Committee Initial Draft Recommendations
General Education Competencies and Core Courses
December 2012

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 demonstrate interpretive ability and cultural literacy.
Students will demonstrate competence in reflecting critically upon the human condition.

ARH X000 Art Appreciation
HUM X020 Introduction to Humanities
LIT X100 Introduction to World Literature
MUL X010 Introduction to Music Literature/Music Appreciation
PHI X010 Introduction to Philosophy

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
STA X023 Statistical Methods
MGF X106 Liberal Arts Mathematics I
MGF X107 Liberal Arts Mathematics II

Natural Sciences*

Students will demonstrate the ability to critically examine and evaluate scientific observation, hypothesis, or model construction, and the use of scientific method to explain the natural world.
Students will successfully recognize and comprehend fundamental concepts, principles, and processes about the natural world.

BSC X005 General Biology
CHM X020 Chemistry for Liberal Studies
PHY X020 Fundamentals of Physics
ESC X000 Introduction to Earth Science
EVR X001 Introduction to Environmental Science

Social Science

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.

PSY X012	Introduction to Psychology
SYG X000	Principles of Sociology
WOH X040	20th Century World History
CPO X001	Comparative Politics
ANT X000	Introduction to Anthropology

*For the mathematics and natural science core course options, the following policy should apply:

If a student completes a course in a subject area for which one of the general education core course options in the same subject area is a prerequisite, that student should be considered to have completed the portion of the core in that subject area. In some instances there may be courses similar in content in the general education program that are at a more advanced level, but do not include a core course as a prerequisite, in these instances the more advanced, similar course will be considered to have completed the portion of the core in that subject area.

Appendix A

The 2012 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. 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 2014-2015 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 offer and 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, beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2014-2015 and thereafter, shall include 30 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, beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2014-2015 and thereafter, include 30 semester hours of general education coursework and demonstration of competency in a foreign language pursuant to s. [1007.262](#). Except for college-preparatory coursework 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, beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2014-2015 and thereafter, include 30 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 and, beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2014-2015 and thereafter, include 30 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.

Appendix B

General Education Project: Timeline (Revised December 20, 2012)

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
March 2013	Steering Committee/Faculty Committee Meeting, Date-Location TBD
March – April 2013	Steering Committee Sends Second Draft to Institutions for Review and Institutional Approval
June 2013	State Board of Education and Board of Governors Initiate Rule/Regulation Development
June 2013	Recommendations Released for Public Comment**
July - August 2013	Articulation Coordinating Committee Review Draft Recommendations
July - August 2013	Faculty/(CAVP/CIA)/Public Comment Reviewed
August 2013	All Feedback Received
August 2013	Steering Committee Finalize Recommendations
September 2013	Final Recommendations Submitted to Chancellors
September 2013	State Board of Education and Board of Governors Rule/Regulation Approval of Core Course Options
September 2013	Communications to Florida College System and State University System Institutions, Courses and Competencies

*CAVP/CIA/Institution Review: Faculty on the campus will submit comments to Provost/Chief Academic Officer (or designee)

**DOE/BOG will manage wider public comment in a separate process

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.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges policy statement on “Substantive Change for Accredited Institutions of the Commission on Colleges” includes “developing a new general education program” as an example of an expansion of the institution’s degree level. These actions listed in this document will represent key changes in the general education program at each institution. As such, submission and approval of a new general education program would require a minimum six-month period commencing upon the approval of State Board of Education rule and Board of Governors regulation.