

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

November 9, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.005,  
General Education Core Course Options

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Consider approval of Public Notice of Intent to Amend Board of Governors Regulation 8.005, General Education Core Course Options.

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Sections 1007.25 and 1007.55, Florida Statutes

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

During the 2023 session, the legislature passed Senate Bill 266, which was signed into law on May 15, 2023. The law modifies section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, to require faculty committees appointed by the State Board of Education and Board of Governors to review and recommend changes to the general education core course options. The review must be completed by July 1, 2024, and every four years thereafter. Recommended changes to the core course options must be approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC), the State Board of Education, and the Board of Governors. The law also establishes section 1007.55, Florida Statutes, to specify general education course principles, standards, and content.

To implement the law, the State Board of Education and Board of Governors appointed faculty to discipline committees to review the current general education core courses, content, and descriptions for compliance with sections 1007.25 and 1007.55, Florida Statutes. These committees met in late August to discuss the requirements for the core courses. The committees attended a face-to-face meeting in St. Petersburg on September 14, 2023, to review the core course options and draft recommendations for changes. The committees also reviewed and made recommendations to the course descriptions of the core courses and proposed learning outcomes for the Statewide Course Numbering System. The recommendations from the faculty committees were published for public comment. The faculty committees reconvened on October 4, 2023, to review the public comment and to finalize recommendations. One committee convened once more on October 13, 2023, to review an additional core course for social sciences. The ACC approved the recommended list of general education core courses on October 13, 2023.

Board staff propose an amendment to Regulation 8.005, General Education Core Course Options, to align with section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, and the establishment of section 1007.55, Florida Statutes. The proposed amendment includes revising the

general education core course options to align with the list approved by the ACC on October 13, 2023, and under consideration for approval by the Board of Governors and State Board of Education. The list of core courses includes two courses to be added to the core for natural sciences, GLY X001 Introduction to Geology and OCE X001 Introduction to Oceanography, and one course, AMH X010 Introductory Survey to 1877, to be added as a core course option in the social sciences. The proposed amendment also references that the universities must follow the course descriptions for the general education core options that are included in the Statewide Course Numbering System.

The proposed amendment incorporates a provision from section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, that a state university may not require a student to complete an additional course to meet a subject area distribution requirement that was completed by the student with a course that has since been removed as a general education core course.

The proposed amendment aligns with the newly established section 1007.55, Florida Statutes. Senate Bill 266 established section 1007.55, Florida Statutes, to specify principles, standards, and content for all general education courses, providing that every undergraduate student should graduate as an informed citizen through participating in rigorous general education courses that promote and preserve the constitutional republic through traditional, historically accurate and high-quality coursework. The university boards of trustees and presidents are responsible for annually reviewing and approving general education course requirements at a public meeting as outlined in section 1007.55, Florida Statutes. The list of general education courses must include the general education distribution area, the number of State University System and Florida College System institutions that offer the course, the course level, and the statewide course number. The Board of Governors must approve or reject the list of general education courses for each state university as approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee, beginning December 1, 2024, and each December 1 after. The proposed amendment references the newly established standards and outlines the requirement for the annual review and approval of general education course requirements. As a result of these proposed changes, Board staff is recommending a revision to the name of the regulation to “General Education Course Options.”

If approved by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and the Board of Governors, the amended regulation will be available for public comment for 14 days. If no concerns are raised, the regulation will come before the Board of Governors for final approval at the next meeting.