

**FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDED REGULATION**

DATE: November 9, 2023

REGULATION NUMBER AND TITLE: 8.005 General Education Core Course Options

SUMMARY:

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.”

At the Board of Governors November 9, 2023, meeting, an amendment to the general education core course list was approved. The amendment removed SYG X000 Principles of Sociology as a general education core course option.

FULL TEXT OF THE REGULATION IS INCLUDED WITH THIS NOTICE.

AUTHORITY TO PROPOSE REGULATION(S): Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; BOG Regulation Development Procedure dated March 23, 2006.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS’ OFFICIAL INITIATING THE PROPOSED REGULATION:

COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED REGULATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO THE CONTACT PERSON IDENTIFIED BELOW. The comments must identify the regulation on which you are commenting:

General Counsel, Board of Governors, State University System, 325 W. Gaines St., Suite 1614, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, (850) 245-0466 (phone), (850) 245-9685 (fax), or generalcounsel@flbog.edu.

8.005 General Education Core Course Options.

(1) General education core courses. Courses listed in this subsection implement the required principles, standards, and content in accordance with section 1007.55, Florida Statutes. Prior to the award of an associate in arts or baccalaureate degree, a student entering a state university as a first-time-in-college student in the fall term 2015 and thereafter must complete at least one course from each of the general education subject areas listed in this section. ~~These courses comprise the general education core as required per section 1007.25(3), Florida Statutes. The remaining courses and credits that will fulfill the total 36-hour general education requirement are at the discretion of the state university. Completing the general education core and remaining university-specified general education courses are required to complete an undergraduate degree.~~

(a) ~~Complete one of the following courses in Communication:~~

1. ENC X101 English Composition I; or
2. A course with an ENC prefix for which ENC X101 is a direct prerequisite.

(b) ~~Complete one of the following courses in Humanities:~~

1. ARH X000 Art Appreciation; or
2. HUM X020 Introduction to Humanities; or
3. LIT X000 Introduction to Literature; or
4. MUL X010 Introduction to Music Literature/Music Appreciation; or
5. PHI X010 Introduction to Philosophy; or
6. THE X000 Theatre Appreciation.

(c) ~~Complete one of the following courses in Mathematics for students entering in fall term 2015 through the 2023-2024 academic year:~~

1. MAC X105 College Algebra; or
2. MAC X311 Calculus I; or
3. MGF X106 Liberal Arts Mathematics I; or
4. MGF X107 Liberal Arts Mathematics II; or
5. STA X023 Statistical Methods; or
6. A mathematics course for which one of the above general education core course options in Mathematics is a direct prerequisite.

(d) ~~Complete one of the following courses in Mathematics for students entering in the 2024-2025 academic year and thereafter:~~

1. MAC X105 College Algebra; or
2. MAC X311 Calculus; or
3. MGF X130 Mathematical Thinking; or
4. STA X023 Statistical Methods; or
5. A mathematics course for which one of the above general education core course options in Mathematics is a direct prerequisite.

(e) ~~Complete one of the following courses in Natural Sciences:~~

1. AST X002 Descriptive Astronomy; or
2. BSC X005 General Biology; or

3. BSC X010 General Biology I; or
4. BSC X085 Anatomy and Physiology I; or
5. CHM X020 Chemistry for Liberal Studies; or
6. CHM X045 General Chemistry I; or
7. ESC X000 Introduction to Earth Science; or
8. EVR X001 Introduction to Environmental Science; or
9. GLY X001 Introduction to Geology;
10. OCE X001 Introduction to Oceanography;
11. PHY X020 Fundamentals of Physics; or
12. PHY X048 General Physics with Calculus; or
13. PHY X053 General Physics I; or
14. A natural science course for which one of the above general education core course options in Natural Sciences is a direct prerequisite.

(f) ~~Complete one of the following courses in Social Sciences:~~

1. AMH X010 Introductory Survey to 1877;
2. AMH X020 Introductory Survey Since 1877; or
3. ANT X000 Introduction to Anthropology; or
4. ECO X013 Macroeconomics; or
5. POS X041 American Government; or
6. PSY X012 Introduction to Psychology; or
7. SYG X000 Principles of Sociology.

~~(2) A student who transfers into a state university or between state universities shall be required to meet the above general education core requirements if the student was classified as first time in college at their original postsecondary institution fall term 2015 and thereafter. Any course accepted by an institution in the Florida College System or State University System as meeting the general education core at that institution shall be accepted as meeting the core requirements at all institutions. All credit earned by other transfer students shall be evaluated by the receiving institution on a course by course basis to determine core equivalency.~~

(2) Other means by which students can satisfy general education core course requirements.

- (a) A student who has completed an associate in arts or baccalaureate degree conferred by a Florida College System or State University System institution is considered to have met general education requirements, including requirements for general education core courses.
- (b) Institutions must recognize credit earned through an acceleration mechanism in Section 1007.27, Florida Statutes, as meeting the related general education core course requirement as prescribed in Board of Governors Regulation 6.006, Acceleration Mechanisms.
- (c) Institutions may grant a substitution or modification to the courses listed above for eligible students with disabilities, subject to Board of Governors Regulation 6.018, Substitution or Modification of Requirements for Program Admission, Undergraduate Transfer, and for Graduation by Students with Disabilities.
- (d) Each institution must accept a student's courses taken at a public postsecondary educational institution as meeting general education core course

requirements upon transfer, regardless of whether the receiving institution offers identical general education core courses.

(e) An institution receiving a student in transfer may not require the student to complete an additional course to meet a subject area requirement in subsection (1) that was completed by the student at a Florida College System institution or State University System institution with a course that has since been removed by the receiving institution as a general education core course.

(3) Institutional implementation and reporting of general education core courses. Institutions shall report to the Statewide Course Numbering System all courses used to fulfill subject area core course options. Any course recommended by the institution to be added to the ~~the~~ its list of general education core course options from section (1) must follow the statewide course description provided in the Statewide Course Numbering System and shall be reported to the Office of K-20 Articulation at Articulation@fldoe.org at <https://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/>. Each institutions may apply its own ~~their~~ course titles to the general education core course options.

~~(4) Institutions must recognize credit earned through an acceleration mechanism in section 1007.27, Florida Statutes, and Board of Governors Regulation 6.006, Acceleration Mechanisms, as meeting the related general education core course requirement.~~

~~(5) Institutions may grant a substitution or modification to the courses listed above for eligible disabled students, subject to Board of Governors Regulation 6.018, Substitution or Modification of Requirements for Program Admission, Undergraduate Transfer, and for Graduation by Students with Disabilities.~~

(4) Institutional general education course offerings and reporting. The remaining courses and credits, in addition to the core course options, to fulfill the total 36-credit hour general education requirement for associate in arts and baccalaureate degrees are provided by each State University System institution and approved by the Board of Governors. An institution may not require a student to take an additional course to meet a subject area requirement that was completed by the student with a course that has since been removed as a general education course.

(a) Each State University System institution's board of trustees and president must annually review and approve, at a public meeting, the courses offered by the institution that meet general education course requirements in accordance with sections 1007.24, 1007.25 and 1007.55, Florida Statutes.

(b) Each institution must submit its approved list of general education courses to the Articulation Coordinating Committee no later than September 1 of each year by the course prefix and number in the Statewide Course Numbering System, including the institution's course title, the general education distribution area, the course level, and the number of public postsecondary institutions that offer the course. The list must be in a format prescribed by the Department of Education, Office of K-20 Articulation.

(c) The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall annually submit each institution's completed list of general education courses to the Board of Governors, along with the

statewide data elements required in section 1007.55, Florida Statutes, no later than December 1 of each year.

(d) Beginning December 2024, and each year after, using the criteria for general education course standards, principles, and content listed in section 1007.55, Florida Statute, the Board of Governors will approve or reject each institution's list of general education course offerings.

1. If the Board of Governors rejects an institution's list of courses, the reason(s) for the rejection will be provided in writing to the institution, including any specific courses that were found to be not in compliance with the statute.

2. An institution whose list is rejected may resubmit its list to the Board of Governors for reconsideration at the next scheduled meeting. Until the new list is approved, the institution must continue to offer courses from the prior approved list.

3. If an institution does not have a list of general education courses approved by the Board of Governors prior to the Board of Governors awarding performance based funding for the next fiscal year, the Board of Governors may withhold performance funding until a list of general education courses meets the requirements and is approved by the Board of Governors.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const., Sections 1007.23, 1007.24, 1007.25, 1007.55, Florida Statutes; New 6-19-2014, Amended: 3-29-23, XX-XX-XX