

General Education Policy on Academic Standards of Excellence

To master the content, communication ~~strategies~~, and critical thinking defined by the UF student learning outcomes, students need rigorous courses designed to meet the high standards associated with a university education.

Therefore, courses in the General Education curriculum must be designed to meet the following standards of excellence:

- **Standard 1: Course Materials.** Course materials (readings, videos, notes, etc.) are appropriate to the subject area in level and quantity.
- **Standard 2: Student Engagement.** Course policies, activities, and projects encourage student engagement with challenging materials and ideas.
- **Standard 3: Assessment.** Tests, essays, and other assessment tools are rigorous and reliable measures of the extent to which student learning outcomes are mastered.

General Education courses also follow UF policy regarding instructor contact time and homework. The policy requires one 50-minute contact period (or the equivalent in an electronic or asynchronous format) per credit hour in a 14-week semester. In addition to in-class work, the policy assumes that “each 50-minute contact period requires a minimum additional two hours of student work outside of the class involving reading, exercises, etc.” (Source: http://www.aa.ufl.edu/Data/Sites/18/media/policies/credit_hour_definition.pdf)

These standards are applicable to all of the General Education subject areas, though the manner in which a course meets the standards will depend on the academic traditions and methods of the particular field of study.