

## **General Education Committee Annual Report 2021-2022**

The General Education Committee is a university committee, governed by Senate Bylaw 20(A)(2)(b)4 which results in the following operational rules.

**Appointment:** The President or the President's designee shall appoint 12 voting members from the majority of baccalaureate degree-granting colleges within the University. The Senate shall elect 12 voting members from the faculty at large. Student Government shall select two non-voting members.

**Chair:** The non-voting chair shall be appointed by the President or the President's designee. A co-chair who shall have the right to vote shall be elected by and from the Committee's Senate representatives.

**Responsibilities:** This committee establishes a philosophy of what constitutes the general education component for baccalaureate degrees offered by the University. It reviews, in accordance with established criteria, all courses proposed to fulfill General Education and University Writing and Math requirements. It makes recommendations to the Curriculum Committee regarding the continued effectiveness of the general education program.

**Term:** 3 years

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month in the Fall and Spring semesters. Supplemental meetings as needed.

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## A. Oversight Actions

1. Monitored and maintained the relevant curriculum inventory which consists of:

### General Education

Biological Sciences	(77 courses)
Composition	(33 courses)
Diversity	(53 courses)
Humanities	(351 courses)
International	(278 courses)
Mathematics	(36 courses)
Physical Sciences	(91 courses)
Social Sciences	(167 courses)

2. Considered and approved fifty (50) requests for General Education requests. The types of approved courses were; one (1) was for the removal of General Education designations, seven (7) were General Education/Non-Quest, fourteen (14) were Temporary Quest 1, fourteen (14) were Temporary Quest 2, thirteen (13) were Permanent Quest 1, and one (1) was Permanent Quest 2.

## B. Initiatives

### 1. Statewide General Education Core

In order to meet the requirements of S.B 7044 which modified s.1004.085, F.S. a database of currently offered courses and sections was created for General Education State Core courses. All State Core courses are now searchable by course subject (General Education designation), course number, course title, and the name of the instructor of the course for Summer B and Fall semesters in 2022. Each course and syllabi was made available for search and download 45 days prior to the start of the Fall semester. The website for this information may be found here: <https://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/state-gen-ed-core/gen-ed-core-syllabus-archive-summer-b-2022/#d.en.987895>.

### 2. Recertification of Courses

The committee did not select any courses for recertification this year. However, the Audit subcommittee began development of a plan for the selection and audit of courses in the next academic year (2022-2023).

### 3. UF Quest

The committee continued review and approval of courses for the UF Quest program in the temporary pilots of courses and in the first approvals of permanent Quest courses. Forty-two (42) Temporary and Permanent Quest courses were approved during the academic year. Quest courses University students are now required to complete both a Quest 1 and a Quest 2 course in order to meet graduation requirements. Quest courses were reviewed by the committee as a whole but beginning in fall 2022 will begin to be reviewed solely by the Review subcommittee. The first Quest permanent courses were approved this academic year by the GEC and the UCC and assigned permanent course numbers. Efforts will continue to increase the number of Quest courses in the next academic year while reviewing currently piloted courses.

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### **4. Subcommittees**

#### **a. Diversity**

The Diversity subcommittee continued to function as a subcommittee of the General Education Committee and as participants in the University wide Diversity Task Force. The subcommittee chair Eleni Bozia presented a draft of the final report to the General Education Committee. This report provided a detailed look at the efforts of the Diversity Task Force as a whole, the purpose being to build a General Education environment where diversity would be learned, lived, and experienced instead of fulfilling a credit requirement. The report contained seven primary recommendations for Diversity and General Education at the University of Florida. The final proposal will be shared during the 2022-2023 academic year. The General Education committee asked that the final work be disseminated through various University groups prior to the full handover from the Task Force to the General Education Diversity Subcommittee

#### **b. Writing**

The Writing subcommittee reviewed the current Writing General Education at the University of Florida and peer institutions within the state. A proposal for modifications to the manner in which writing requirements are met for graduation was developed and approved by the General Education Committee. This proposal was provided to the administration of the University for consideration. The subcommittee will pause continuing work until feedback has been provided or a determination has been made on the future of writing requirements at UF.

#### **c. Assessment**

The Assessment subcommittee developed and presented “UF Guidelines for Fairness and Equity in Assessment” to the committee at large. The committee was asked for feedback and surveyed for additional input for the report. The new guidelines are available on the General Education FORA page.

The SLO assessment efforts are continuing and expanding to include additional departments throughout the University. Data collection and direct work with faculty continued in a variety of units on campus. The subcommittee also began discussion on the inclusion of Work Force Competencies in accords with upcoming state requirements.

#### **d. Review**

The subcommittee continued in its primary purpose of conducting preliminary reviews of General Education requests and presenting recommendations for the committee at large to vote on. This was the first year that the subcommittee began to see courses utilizing a new approval form and a streamlined list of required items to be contained in a General Education course syllabus.

#### **e. Audit**

A preliminary plan for the review of existing General Education courses at the University of Florida began to take shape this academic year. A first draft of proposals for both the review of existing courses and the communication of General Education Program expectations throughout the University were discussed and will be further developed in Fall 2022. The subcommittee hopes to present a final proposal in the following academic year and begin the audit of existing courses shortly thereafter.