



# SB 266 Language Impacting UF General Education

FACULTY SENATE  
JWRU CHAMBER  
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# SB 266:

*Compliance with the general education language*

*Opportunity for furthering excellence in general education*

ENROLLED  
2023 Legislature

CS for CS for CS for SB 266, 1st Engrossed

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1  
2 An act relating to higher education; amending s.  
3 1001.706, F.S.; revising the duties of the Board of  
4 Governors relating to the mission of each state  
5 university; revising requirements for the Board of  
6 Governors' strategic plan relating to the goals and  
7 objectives of the State University System; requiring  
8 the Board of Governors to annually require each state  
9 university to include certain information in its  
10 economic security report; requiring, rather than  
11 authorizing, a Board of Governors regulation to  
12 include a post-tenure review of state university  
13 faculty on a specified basis; amending s. 1001.7065,  
14 F.S.; requiring the Board of Governors Accountability  
15 Plan to annually report certain research expenditures  
16 of a specified amount; revising the number of  
17 standards an institution must meet to receive a  
18 specified designation; creating s. 1001.741, F.S.;  
19 providing that each state university president is  
20 responsible for hiring the provost, the deans, and  
21 full-time faculty; providing that the president has a  
22 duty to assess the performance of the provost and  
23 deans; authorizing the president to delegate hiring  
24 authority to specified individuals and entities;  
25 prohibiting a university from using specified methods  
26 in its admissions or personnel processes; providing  
27 that certain actions regarding personnel may not be  
28 appealed beyond the university president; requiring  
29 each state university board of trustees to have review

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

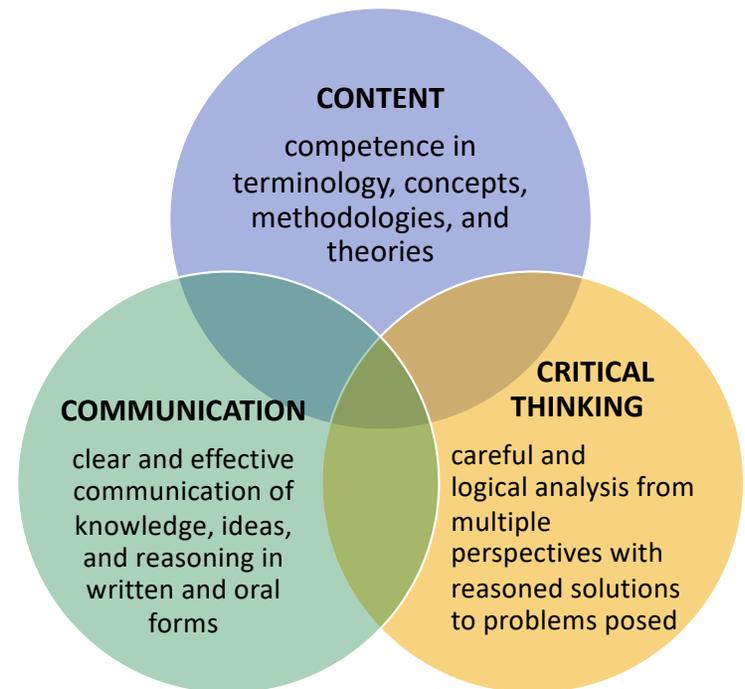
# UF GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Philosophy

*Through General Education courses, students gain fresh perspectives and discover new approaches to intellectual inquiry that promote understanding of both the traditional and the newly discovered. To achieve these outcomes, the General Education curriculum encompasses a breadth of knowledge in humanities; mathematics; biological, physical, and social and behavioral sciences; composition; diversity studies; and international studies.*

*Ultimately, competence in these areas enables students to better understand themselves, their neighbors, other cultures and times, and the principles governing the natural world and the universe; and to participate fully and responsibly as informed citizens in local, national, and global matters.*

## Program Student Learning Outcomes



## GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Subject Area	State Core	Gen Ed Courses	Totals
Biological and Physical Sciences	3	3	6
Composition (Communication)	3	3	6
Humanities	3	3	6
Social & Behavioral Science	3	3	6
Mathematics	3	3	6
Additional Required Gen Ed Coursework (Humanities, Social Science, or Natural Science)		6	6
<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>36</b>

### UF Requirements:

- ★ 3 CH International
- ★ 3 CH Diversity
- ★ 3 CH Quest 1 (Humanities)
- ★ 3 CH Quest 2 (Natural or Social Sciences)
- ★ 24,000 Words Writing

# GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE COUNTS AND DISTRIBUTION IN FALL 2022

## All General Education Courses

- Approximately 1053 total general education courses on the books at UF.
  - 53% Humanities
  - 21% Social Science
  - 18% Biological/Physical Sciences
  - 4% Math
  - 4% Composition
- 35.5% Communication  
(Composition and/or Writing)
- As of March 2023: 267 unique Quest 1 and Quest 2 courses

## General Education State Core Courses

- 49 state core courses offered at UF.

GENERAL EDUCATION STATE CORE COURSES	
Biological/Physical Sciences	18
Composition	11
Mathematics	9
Humanities	5
Social/Behavioral Sciences	6
<b>Total Gen Ed Core</b>	<b>49</b>

# UF General Education Committee

## Responsibilities and Membership

*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.*

- **Members:**
  - 12 members elected by Faculty Senate
  - 12 members appointed by the Provost's Office
  - 2 student representatives from UF Student Government
  - Committee Liaisons
- **Currently Active Subcommittees:**
  - **Review:** provides review of all requests prior to each meeting and partners with faculty to prepare for meetings
  - **Assessment:** establishes assessment framework for all general education courses, including UF Quest courses and mentors faculty in the assessment process
  - **Audit:** administers audit process for approved courses and partners with faculty to ensure compliance with the expectations for rigor and quality of all general education courses

## Language in SB 266 Possibly Impacting UF General Education Core Courses

LINES 526-610 of SB 266  
Revises of s. 1007.25

- Lines 530-542: (3)** 531 The chair of the State Board of Education and the chair 531 of the Board of Governors, or their designees, shall jointly 532 appoint faculty committees to review and recommend to the 533 Articulation Coordinating Committee for approval by the State 534 Board of Education and the Board of Governors identify statewide 535 general education core course options for inclusion in the 536 statewide course numbering system established under s. 1007.24. 537 Faculty committees shall, by July 1, 2024, and by July 1 every 4 538 years thereafter, review and submit recommendations to the 539 Articulation Coordinating Committee and the commissioner for the 540 removal, alignment, realignment, or addition of general 541 education core courses that satisfy the requirements of this 542 subsection.
- Lines 556-561: (3)(c)** 556 General education core courses may not distort 557 significant historical events or include a curriculum that 558 teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on 559 theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege 560 are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were 561 created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.
- Lines 562-582: (3)(d)** Provides standards for each subject area. Most significant for UF: 564 1. Communication courses must afford students the ability 565 to communicate effectively, including the ability to write 566 clearly and engage in public speaking.
- Lines 593-607: 593 (f)** All public postsecondary educational institutions shall ... 595 ...accept these courses as meeting 596 general education core course requirements upon transfer, 597 regardless of whether the receiving institution offers the 598 identical general education core courses....

## Language in SB 266 Possibly Impacting UF General Education Core Courses: Comments

**LINES 526-610 of SB 266  
Revises of s. 1007.25**

The Florida BOG announced selected members of the faculty discipline committees on August 16, 2023. UF has at least 4 faculty selected as alternates.

The Florida BOG will focus on efforts in 2023-2024 on providing more detailed definitions and guidelines. Our understanding is that this portion of the legislation will not be effective until Fall 2024.

In Fall 2023, we will convene a Communications Subcommittee of the Gen Ed Committee (including external members) to develop SLOs and rubrics for public speaking and inclusion into our 11 Communication state core courses.

Existing regulation requires acceptance of gen ed core course requirements met upon transfer admission. We will send reminders to our colleges and departments in Fall 2023.

**Lines 530-542: (3)** 531 The chair of the State Board of Education and the chair 531 of the Board of Governors, or their designees, shall jointly 532 appoint faculty committees to review and recommend to the 533 Articulation Coordinating Committee for approval by the State 534 Board of Education and the Board of Governors identify statewide 535 general education core course options for inclusion in the 536 statewide course numbering system established under s. 1007.24, 537 Faculty committees shall, by July 1, 2024, and by July 1 every 4 538 years thereafter, review and submit recommendations to the 539 Articulation Coordinating Committee and the commissioner for the 540 removal, alignment, realignment, or addition of general 541 education core courses that satisfy the requirements of this 542 subsection.

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**Lines 562-582: (3)(d)** Provides standards for each subject area. Most significant for UF: 564 1. Communication courses must afford students the ability 565 to communicate effectively, including the ability to write 566 clearly and engage in public speaking. Question as to whether we include selections from the Western canon in Humanities offerings.

**•Lines 593-607: 593 (f)** All public postsecondary educational institutions shall ... 595 ...accept these courses as meeting 596 general education core course requirements upon transfer, 597 regardless of whether the receiving institution offers the 598 identical general education core courses....

## Language in SB 266 Possibly Impacting ALL General Education Courses: Expected Rigor, Content, and Outcomes

LINES 611-673 in SB 266  
Creates 1007.55

- 615 (1) The Legislature finds it necessary to ensure that every 616 undergraduate student of a Florida public postsecondary 617 educational institution graduates as an informed citizen through 618 participation in rigorous general education courses that promote 619 and preserve the constitutional republic through traditional, 620 historically accurate, and high-quality coursework. General 621 education courses should provide broad foundational knowledge to 622 help students develop intellectual skills and habits that enable 623 them to become more effective and lifelong learners. Courses 624 with a curriculum based on unproven, speculative, or exploratory 625 content are best suited as elective or specific program 626 prerequisite credit, not general education credit.
- General 627 education courses must: 628 (a) Meet the course standards as provided in s. 1007.25; 629 and 630 (b) Whenever applicable, provide instruction on the 631 historical background and philosophical foundation of Western 632 civilization and this nation's historical documents, such as the 633 Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the 634 Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, and the Federalist 635 Papers.

## Language in SB 266 Possibly Impacting ALL General Education Courses: Reporting and Approval Requirements

LINES 611-673 in SB 266  
Creates 1007.55

- 636 (2) Public postsecondary educational institution boards of 637 trustees and presidents are responsible for annually reviewing 638 and approving, at a public meeting, general education course 639 requirements, as authorized and approved in accordance with ss. 640 1007.24 and 1007.25 and this section, at their respective 641 institutions. The following must be included for each listed 642 general education course: (a) The general education distribution area; 644 (b) The number of state universities that offer the course 645 and the number of Florida College System institutions that offer 646 the course; and 647 (c) The course level. 648 (3) Public postsecondary educational institutions must 649 report courses meeting institutional general education subject 650 requirements to the department by their statewide course number.
- 651 (4) In performing its duties under ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25, 652 by December 1, 2024, and each December 1 thereafter, the 653 Articulation Coordinating Committee shall submit to the State 654 Board of Education and the Board of Governors courses that have 655 been approved by public postsecondary educational institutions 656 as meeting general education requirements. The listing of 657 general education courses must include the information in 658 paragraphs (2)(a), (b), and (c). The State Board of Education 659 and the Board of Governors must approve or reject the list of 660 general education courses for each Florida College System 661 institution and state university, respectively.

## Language in SB 266 Possibly Impacting ALL General Education Courses: Penalty of Noncompliance and Accepting Transfer Credit

LINES 611-673 in SB 266  
Creates 1007.55

- 662 (5) Public postsecondary educational institutions that fail 663 to comply with the requirements of this section are not eligible 664 to receive performance-based funding pursuant to s. 1001.66 or 665 s. 1001.92.
- 666 (6) A public postsecondary educational institution may not 667 require a student to take an additional course to meet a subject 668 area distribution requirement that was completed by the student 669 with a course that has since been removed as a general education 670 course.

## Proposed Response: Furthering Excellence in UF General Education

- **Develop and add Public Speaking student learning outcomes** into all general education state core Communication courses through the GEC.
- **Remind departments and colleges** about the requirement to accept general education credit.
- **Continue the** efforts of the Audit Subcommittee **of the GEC** by developing an online “self-audit” checklist and process [full or pilot\*] for faculty, departments, and colleges to ensure that the expected standards for rigor, quality, and learning outcomes are maintained for all general education courses.
- Present the UF general education course requirements and list of approved courses to the **UF Board of Trustees**, if required.
- Submit approved courses with additional required information to the **Florida State Course Numbering System**.

*\*If reporting is not required until next academic year, launch a pilot-scale process this academic year.*

# PROPOSED STEPS AND TIMELINE TOWARD COMPLIANCE

\*Subject to change

## Step 1: Fall 2023

- Education of faculty (Sept-Nov)\*
- Creation and approval of SLOs for public speaking and faculty resources in Communication core courses (Sept-Dec)
- Development of self-audit platform (Sept-Nov)
- Reinforcement of transfer credit requirements (Sept)



## Step 2: Spring 2024

- GEC approval and incorporation of public speaking content in Communication courses (Jan-May)
- Launch and administration of the self-audit/GEC audit processes (Dec-May)\*



## Step 3: June-Sept. 2024

- Compilation of self-audit results (June-Aug)
- Preparation of list of courses for BOT (Aug)\*
- Review and approval of courses by BOT (TBA)\*
- Submission of UF courses to ACC (Deadline TBA)\*



# Opportunities for Faculty Engagement in the Undergraduate Curriculum

- Avail yourself to **the Senate nomination process** to be considered as a member of the University Curriculum Committee (UCC), Professional Curriculum Committee (PCC), or General Education Committee (GEC).
- Serve as a **subject area liaison, departmental or college General Education Mentor and Specialist, on liaison on a GEC subcommittee,** etc.
- Assist in developing **the audit process.**
- **Assist students** in meaningful selection of their general education courses, starting with their UF Quest journey.
- Audit your general education course to ensure **sustained standards.** Make this a regular habit.
- Model the more rigorous standards of UF Quest courses in all your courses.
- **Communicate your teaching innovations. Let us know! Publish and present** your best practices in teaching. Get the word out nationally about the excellence of the UF undergraduate educational experience.



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