



# SB266: General Education

December 7, 2023



## Senate Bill 266 (2023)

An act relating to higher education; ...creating s. 1007.55, F.S.; providing legislative findings; providing requirements for general education courses; **requiring public postsecondary educational institution boards of trustees and presidents to annually review and approve general education requirements;** requiring public postsecondary educational institutions to report certain courses to the department; requiring the Articulation Coordinating Committee to submit general education courses to the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors for action; providing a penalty for failing to meet such review and approval requirements; ...

## 1007.25 F.S.

(3)(a) General education core course options shall consist of a maximum of five courses within each of the subject areas of **communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences**. The core courses may be revised, or the five-course maximum within each subject area may be exceeded, if approved by the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors, as recommended by the subject area faculty committee and approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as necessary for a subject area.

(3)(f) **All public postsecondary educational institutions shall offer at least one general education core course in each of the identified subject areas** and accept courses as meeting general education core course requirements upon transfer, regardless of whether the receiving institution offers the identical general education core courses. **The remaining general education course requirements shall be identified by each institution as approved in accordance with this section and listed in the statewide course numbering system.**

(1) The Legislature finds it necessary to ensure that every undergraduate student of a Florida public postsecondary educational institution graduates as an informed citizen through participation in rigorous general education courses that promote and preserve the constitutional republic through traditional, historically accurate, and high-quality coursework. **General education courses should provide broad foundational knowledge to help students develop intellectual skills and habits that enable them to become more effective and lifelong learners.** Courses with a curriculum based on unproven, speculative, or exploratory content are best suited as elective or specific program prerequisite credit, not general education credit. General education courses must:

## 1007.55 F.S. (continued)

- (a) Meet the course standards as provided in s. 1007.25; and
- (b) Whenever applicable, provide instruction on the historical background and philosophical foundation of Western civilization and this nation's historical documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, and the Federalist Papers.

(2) **Public postsecondary educational institution boards of trustees and presidents are responsible for annually reviewing and approving, at a public meeting, general education course requirements**, as authorized and approved in accordance with ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25 and this section, at their respective institutions.

## 1007.55 F.S. (continued)

The following must be included for each listed general education course:

- (a) The general education distribution area;
  - (b) **The number of state universities that offer the course and the number of Florida College System institutions that offer the course;**  
and
  - (c) The course level.
- (5) Public postsecondary educational institutions that fail to comply with the requirements of this section are not eligible to receive performance-based funding pursuant to s. 1001.66 or s. 1001.92.
- (7) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall adopt rules and regulations, respectively, to implement this section.

(1) Purpose. It is necessary that every undergraduate student of a Florida public postsecondary educational institution graduates as an informed citizen through participation in rigorous general education courses. **General education courses should provide broad foundational knowledge to help students develop intellectual skills and habits that enable them to become more effective and lifelong learners and contain high-level academic and critical thinking skills.** This rule implements the requirements for general education courses as required by section 1007.25, F.S., and the principles, standards and content for general education required under section 1007.55, F.S.

## Draft 6A-14.0303 (Continued)

(5) Institutional general education course offerings implementation and reporting. The remaining courses and credits, in addition to the core course options, to fulfill the total 36-hour general education requirement for associate in arts and baccalaureate degree **are provided by each at the discretion of the Florida College System institution and approved by the State Board of Education in accordance with this rule.** 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.



## Draft 6A-14.0303 (Continued)

- (a) Each Florida College System institution 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 ss. 1007.24, 1007.25 and 1007.55, F.S.
- (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 in a format prescribed by the Department.

## Draft 6A-14.0303 (Continued)

- (c) The Articulation Coordinating Committee shall annually submit each institution's completed list of general education courses to the State Board of Education, along with the statewide data elements required in s. 1007.55, F.S., no later than December 1 of each year.
- (d) Using the criteria for general education course standards, principles and content listed in s. 1007.55, F.S., the State Board of Education will approve or reject each institution's list of general education course offerings and notify the institution in writing within 90 days of receiving the list from the Office of K-20 Articulation.

## Draft 6A-14.0303 (Continued)

1. If the State Board of Education 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 must resubmit its list to the State Board of Education for reconsideration within 60 days. Until the new list is approved, the institution must continue to offer courses from the prior approved list.
3. If an institution whose list is rejected does not submit a revised list within 60 days or if the resubmitted list is rejected by the State Board of Education, the Commissioner will withhold performance funding payments for that institution until it submits a course list that meets requirements and is approved by the State Board of Education.

# Proposed Timeline for Implementation

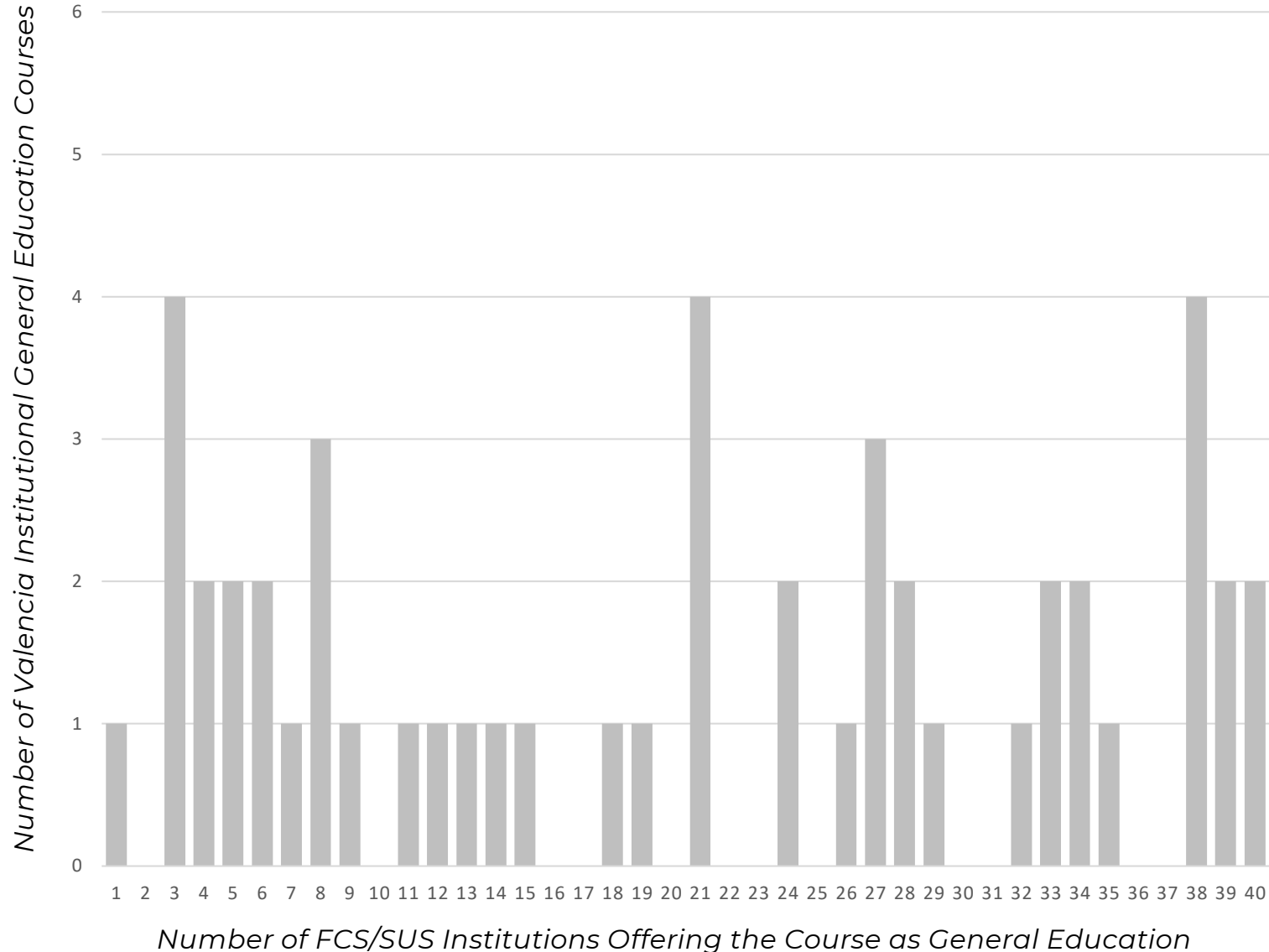
<b>December 2023</b>	Initial discussions held with Board of Trustees, provosts, deans, and faculty.
<b>January 2024</b>	Invitation extended to faculty to serve on General Education ad hoc work team of the College Curriculum Committee.
<b>February - March 2024</b>	Ad hoc faculty work team develops recommendations for the courses to include in Institutional General Education options for Curriculum Committee's consideration.
<b>April 2024</b>	Curriculum Committee considers recommendations from faculty work team; presents a recommendation about courses to include in Institutional General Education options to President for consideration.
<b>May 2024</b>	President considers recommendation from Curriculum Committee; <b>presents a recommendation to Board of Trustees for institutional approval at May District Board of Trustees meeting.</b>
<b>By September 1, 2024</b>	College submits Board-approved list of Institutional General Education courses to statewide Articulation Coordinating Committee.
<b>By December 1, 2024</b>	Statewide Articulation Coordinating Committee forwards institutional recommendation to State Board of Education.
<b>By March 1, 2025</b>	State Board of Education considers institutional recommendation and notifies institution of approval or rejection.

# Considerations

- Institutional general education courses **should provide broad foundational knowledge** (F.S. 1007.55)
- For institutional general education courses, Valencia will be required to report to the State Board of Education, as part of the review and approval process, **the number of state universities that the course and the number of Florida College System institutions that offer the course** (F.S. 1007.55)
- Institutional general education courses that are not offered by other colleges and universities may create barriers for students wishing to transfer prior to completing a degree
- Having too many choices for Institutional General Education may lead to student indecision

# Current Institutional General Education Options at Valencia

**Valencia's Institutional General Education Courses with Number of FCS/SUS Institutions with Course Included in General Education**



- Valencia currently has 50 institutional general education course options
  - Communications: 4
  - Humanities: 15
  - Mathematics: 4
  - Science: 18
  - Social Science: 9
- Nearly one-third of Valencia's current institutional general education course options are offered by fewer than 10 FCS/SUS institutions



# Discussion

