



# SB266: General Education

February 1, 2024



(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provide instruction on the historical background and philosophical foundation of Western civilization and this nation's historical documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, and the Federalist Papers.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.

- (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.

# Summary of December 7, 2023, Board Discussion

The Board recommended that the College, in its review of its general education courses in preparation for the Board's review and approval at its May 2024 meeting:

1. Reduce the number of institutional general education courses offered, with particular emphasis on the courses that are offered by fewer than 10 FCS/SUS institutions.
2. Ensure that Valencia's institutional general education course offerings reflect the broad, survey nature of general education, avoiding niche or boutique courses, with a focus on preparing students for success in the workforce and in baccalaureate programs.
3. Ensure that Valencia's institutional general education course offerings meet the course standards outlined in 1007.25 F.S. and other requirements outlined in 1007.25 F.S. and 1007.55 F.S.
4. Consider courses that most other FCS/SUS institutions offer in the review and updating of Valencia's institutional general education course offerings.



# 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.   |



# Discussion

