

Rule 6A-14.0303, General Education Core Course Options

Implementation Questions and Answers

November 22, 2021

Impacted Students

1. To whom does the general education core course options requirement apply?

For Students Entering In:	General Education Core Course Requirement Applies To:	In the Following Programs:
2015-16 through 2021-22	First-Time-in-College (FTIC) Students entering FCS and SUS institutions.	A.A. Baccalaureate
2022-23 and each academic year thereafter	Students entering FCS and SUS institutions under the 2022-23 catalog year (and beyond).	A.A.S. A.S. A.A. Baccalaureate

2. Does “initially entering mean the same thing as first-time-in-college (FTIC)?

- No. The rule that is applicable for the 2015-16 through 2021-22 specified the requirement was limited to FTIC students entering A.A. and baccalaureate degrees. As the statute does not specify the general education core course requirement is limited to that small population, the FTIC language was removed for 2022-23 students and beyond. This ensures students who are entering under the 2022-23 catalog year and beyond will meet the statutory intent to meet the general education core course requirement.

3. Are there state requirements governing policies on catalog year and readmits?

- No. Policies and procedures relating to assigning catalog years are left to institutions to determine.

4. Can you clarify how the amended rule applies to students who were previously dual enrolled?

- Effective with the 2022-23 academic year, the general education core course requirement applies to students who are entering into an A.A.S., A.S. A.A. and baccalaureate programs under the 2022-23 catalog year and beyond, regardless of prior postsecondary coursework. This includes formerly dual enrolled students. Current dual enrolled students taking approved general education core courses will count toward meeting the postsecondary requirement once they matriculate.

5. Can you clarify how the amended rule applies to transfer students as well as out-of-state students?

- Effective with the 2022-23 academic year, the general education core course requirement applies to students who are entering into an A.A.S., A.S. A.A. and baccalaureate programs under the 2022-23 catalog year and beyond, regardless of prior postsecondary coursework. This includes transfer students, students entering with prior postsecondary coursework and students from out-of-state.

General Education Core Course Requirements

6. Please clarify, under 6A-14.0303, A.A.S. and A.S. degree seeking students must complete at least one course from each of the GE subject areas?

- Yes. Effective with the 2022-23 academic year, students must complete at least one course, as identified in the rule, for each of the General Education Core subject areas. Institutions not currently requiring students to complete one course in each of the five subject areas will be required to update their general education core requirements.

7. Do institutions have the authority to make substitutions for the core courses identified in rule 6A-14.0303?

- The rule does provide authority for local institutions to grant a substitution or modification to the courses listed in the rule for eligible disabled students, subject to Rule 6A-10.041, F.A.C. In addition the rule provides the following:

Any student who successfully completes a course with an ENC prefix for which ENC X101 is an immediate prerequisite shall be considered to have completed the communication core.

Any student who successfully completes a mathematics course for which one (1) of the general education core course options in mathematics is an immediate prerequisite shall be considered to have completed the mathematics core.

Any student who successfully completes a natural science course for which one (1) of the general education core course options in natural science is an immediate prerequisite shall be considered to have completed the natural science core.

8. Will any courses be added to the General Education Core Course Options identified in the rule?

- For purposes of planning for the 2022-23 implementation, institutions should refer to the current list of courses identified as meeting the General Education Core requirements. We will continue to evaluate the courses and work with institutions to determine if new General Education Core Courses need to be identified in the future. Should it be determined that amendments to the identified courses are necessary, the department will work in conjunction with the State

University System and follow the process established in Section (s.) 1007.25, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and appoint faculty committees to identify additional courses for inclusion.

9. How will this change impact a student's ability to transfer to a baccalaureate program after completing their Associate in Science (A.S.) degree?

- Baccalaureate program students are currently required to meet this requirement. The addition of this requirement to the A.S. program is beneficial to the student in that it eliminates the student's need to meet this requirement after they enroll at an State University System institution or in an upper division program at an FCS institution.

10. As per subsection (1)(f), course titles can differ but course numbers must be as per subsections (1)a-e. Is that correct?

- Correct. Institutions may offer courses using different course titles, but only the course numbers identified are considered General Education Core.

11. For students completing a Natural Science Core course that is not lab-based, will the student still need to complete a Natural Science lab class that may or may not be a core course?

- General Education Core Course options do not include a lab requirement at this time.

12. Can you clarify how articulated acceleration mechanisms relate to the GE Core?

- Students may receive credit for General Education Core Courses through various acceleration mechanisms including credit-by-examination equivalencies. Institutions must recognize credit earned through an acceleration mechanism in Section 1007.27, F.S., as meeting the related general education core course requirement. Institutions may refer to the Articulation Coordinating Committee's Credit-by-Examination Equivalencies list to determine which acceleration options meet General Education Core Course requirements.

Frameworks and Standards:

13. Will the program length associated with state curriculum frameworks for A.A.S. and A.S. degree programs be altered in 2022-23 as a result of this statutory change?

- No. The standard program length associated with the state curriculum frameworks will not be altered because the minimum number of general education courses (15) required for each A.A.S. or A.S. degree has not changed. The statutory and associated rule change is limited to the general education component that comprises each AAS and AS program of study offered by an institution. HB 1507 modified s. 1007.25, F.S., to amend requirements for students completing an A.A.S. or A.S. degree and requires students entering a technical education degree program in the 2022-2023 academic year, and thereafter, to complete at least one

identified core course in each subject area as part of the general education course requirements before a degree is awarded.

14. Do institutions have local discretion to exceed the program length in the frameworks?

- Lower division career and technical education programs/curriculum frameworks (career certificate, applied technology diploma, college credit certificate, A.A.S. degree and A.S. degree) are adopted by the State Board of Education on an annual basis as part of rule 6A-6.6.0571, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). In addition to the adoption of the program learning outcomes (program standards and benchmarks), each program has an adopted standard program length, which may not be exceeded irrespective of the program type.

15. How will this new rule impact financial aid?

- As the standard program length for curriculum frameworks will not be altered, this would not affect financial aid disbursements for such programs.

16. Can the standard program length of frameworks be reviewed during the program review cycle to allow for an increase in hours in order to accommodate this statutory change?

- Please note that the minimum number of general education courses (15) required for each A.A.S. or A.S. degree has not changed. As institutions are not being asked to increase the total number of general education courses offerings beyond the minimum, this statutory change does not necessitate a deviation in the standard program length identified in the frameworks.

Civic Literacy

17. What is the relationship between changes to general education core courses and updates to the civic literacy competency requirement as it relates to A.A.S. and A.S. degree seeking students?

- The Department anticipates entering into rule development for rule 6A-10.02413 F.A.C. Civic Literacy Competency in spring 2022 to add the civic literacy requirement as a condition of A.S./A.A.S. degree completion to coincide with general education changes from HB 1507, which will be effective for students entering under the 2022-23 catalog year and beyond.

As institutions are modifying their course sequencing and curricula to align with general education core courses, they are encouraged to consider the civic literacy course requirement, which can be fulfilled through POSX041 American Government or AMHX020 Introductory Survey Since 1877. This would fulfill the general education core course requirement for social sciences and the course requirement for civic literacy.

Gordon Rule 6A-10.030

18. Does this affect or is it affected by anything in Rule 6A-10.030, F.A.C.?

- Rule 6A-10.030, F.A.C. applies to students seeking an A.A. degree only