

HB 7135 – Provisions Related to General Education Implementation

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the timeline for implementation of the general education provisions of House Bill 7135?
 - Beginning in the Fall of 2014-15 and thereafter, Associate in Arts degree and baccalaureate degree seeking students who initially enter a state university or Florida College System institution, will be required to complete 30 semester hours of general education coursework.
 - As part of the 30 semester hour general education requirement, every student must complete at least one identified core course in each of the following subject areas: communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.
 - The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors must adopt the identified core course options in rule/regulation and allow ample time for institutions to publish the course options in their 2014-15 catalogs (need significant lead time, approx. 1 year).
2. If student is placed into a course that is considered to be a “higher-level” than those identified as the 5 core courses in a particular subject area, can the student substitute the higher-level course to meet the core general education requirement?
 - Yes. If a core course is a prerequisite for the “higher-level” course.
3. Do the 5 core general education courses have to be completed during the first year of an associate degree or the first two years of the baccalaureate degree?
 - No. The core general education courses must be completed prior to graduating with an AA or baccalaureate degree. There are no time constraints.
4. Does the core general education requirement apply to students completing an Associate in Science (AS) degree?
 - No. Completion of the core general component applies only to AA and baccalaureate degree graduates. However, AS students are advised to be cognizant of core requirements because any AS degree recipient that articulates into a baccalaureate degree program at a public institution will be required to complete the core requirements as part of the baccalaureate degree.
5. Can each institution independently choose the 5 courses to be included in each subject area?
 - No. It is the intent of the law that the 5 chosen courses for each general education subject area be consistent across public institutions and sectors. The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors are expected to adopt parallel rules to reflect this consistency of requirements across sectors.

6. For majors that have a very prescriptive list of courses that are required for graduation, can an exception be made for meeting the core general education requirement?
- No. Since every major requires courses in the 5 general education subject areas (per s. 1007.25, F.S.), consideration should be given by faculty committees when choosing the core course options so that the specific requirements of those prescriptive majors can be accommodated.

DRAFT