

Enlightenment Series



Theme: General education content, policies, and skills: What is it and why does it matter?



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This program has been organized under the auspices of the USF Institute on Black Life, USF Black Employees Steering Committee, the USF Black Faculty and Staff Association, and the Racial Justice Initiative .

General Education Definition



- General education curriculum is the standard knowledge an institution wants all of their students to graduate with, regardless of their major.
- When USF revamped general education to Enhanced General education, we decided to define that standard knowledge by *skills* we thought were important for all students to have in the 21st century.

Recent State Updates

- Instead of institutions defining what standard knowledge should be for their students, the state of Florida is defining what standard knowledge should be for all students graduating from a state public institution.
- This means there has been state legislation and new BOG regulations around what general education course should and should not be; also new requirements for state approval of institutional gen ed courses.

SB 266 & BOG Reg 8.005

SB 266

- Redefines gen ed core (s. 1007.25)
- Defines institutional gen eds and requires state review of institutional gen eds (s. 1007.55)



BOG 8.005

- Redefines state core courses
- Defines required state review process and refers back to 1007.25 and 1007.55

SB 266 and General Education

First change to pass; addresses General Education in two areas

- s. 1007.25 General Education courses; common prerequisites; other degree requirements
 - 3(c): “General education core courses may not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.”
 - 3(d) goes on to define what courses in the five main discipline areas should cover

SB 266 and General Education, cont'd

s. 1007.55 General education course principles, standards, and content

- (1): "...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:
 - (a) Meet the course standards as provided in s. 1007.25..."
- (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..."

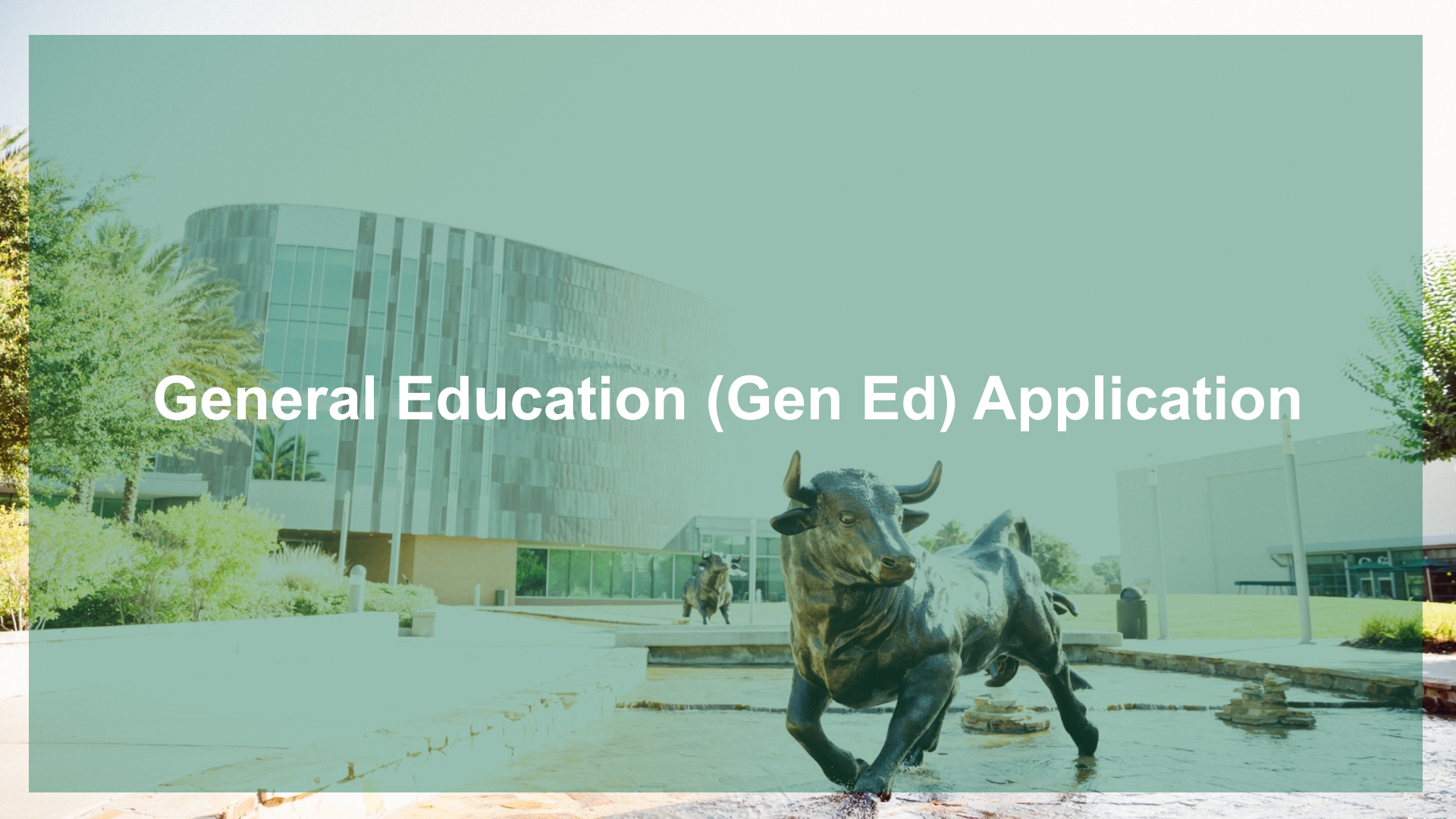
BOG 8.005 and General Education

Amended to account for SB266 changes:

- Section (1) updates the list of approved state core gen eds
- Section (4) defines the process by which the required gen ed approvals (s. 1007.55) will occur
 - (a) “Each State University System institution’s 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 sections 1007.24*, 1007.25 and 1007.55, Florida Statutes.”
 - (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....”

** s. 1007.24 did not have any changes; it covers how the statewide course numbering system works and transferability of courses*

General Education (Gen Ed) Application



Gen Ed Application: BLUF

- Courses that satisfy **the administrative and substantive** goals of Gen Ed may remain in Gen Ed and will satisfy the 36 hour Gen Ed requirement. (s. 1007.25 (9))
- Courses that do **not** satisfy the goals can still be delivered; however, not for Gen Ed credit. Those courses will count toward the standard 120 hours required for a baccalaureate degree (i.e., 84 hours needed beyond Gen Ed). (s. 1007.25 10))
- No student's progress toward degree may be impacted by changes to Gen Ed course offerings. (s. 1007.25(3)(g)).

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. (s. 1007.55 (1))

Gen Ed Application (cont.):

Administrative Goals: Consistency, Clarity, and Options for Students

*The Department of Education, in conjunction with the **Board of Governors**, shall develop, coordinate, and maintain a **statewide course numbering system** for postsecondary and dual enrollment education in school districts, public postsecondary educational institutions, and participating nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions that will **improve program planning, increase communication** among all delivery systems, and **facilitate student acceleration and the transfer** of students.... (s. 1007.24 (1))*

***Upper division courses require prior work:**

Any course designated as an upper-division-level course must be characterized by a need for advanced academic preparation and skills that a student would be unlikely to achieve without significant prior coursework. (s. 1007.24(2)(a)).

Gen Ed Application (cont.):

Substantive Goals: Baseline Competencies and Skills

*... 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. s. 1007.55 (1) (emphasis supplied)*

- **Curriculum Requirements:** General education core courses **may not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05 (currently enjoined), or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.** (s. 1007.25(3)(c)) (emphasis supplied).
- **Consistent Standards for Gen Ed:** the standards as provided in s. 1007.25. (s. 1007.55(1)(a))
- **Civic Literacy and Skills for Gen Ed:** **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. s. 1007.55(1)(b)) (emphasis supplied)

Application (cont.): Western Civilization/Canon

Western Cannon in Gen. Ed: (1) historical background and philosophical foundation of Western civilization “whenever applicable” (s. 1007.55); and (2) competency standard for Humanities courses to include selections from the Western canon:

*Humanities courses must afford students the ability to think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy, and **must include** selections from the **Western canon**. (s. 1007.25(d)2) (emphasis supplied).*

Conclusion: it appears that humanities courses must include selections from the Western canon, while other Gen Ed courses should include selections whenever applicable. Outside of humanities, the ‘whenever applicable standard’ appears to apply.

Gen Ed Application (cont.): Compliance

Noncompliance with Gen Ed Application: PBF at Risk

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.

USF Guidelines:

- Reviewed courses for alignment with statutory and regulatory requirements.
- Consulted with BOG and available faculty on alignment
- If there was alignment, then no change was made.
- If there was misalignment, then faculty were contacted and asked to either revise course (title, description, learning objective) or to remove the course from Gen Ed effective Fall 2025. Courses removed from Gen Ed can be taught as normal.
- If no response, the default was to remove the course from Gen Ed effective Fall 2025.
- No revisions were made to any course without faculty approval.

Thank you for your participation! Please click on the survey link or scan the QR code to fill out the short survey.

Survey Link:

https://usf.z1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5AMVT4155pvsw98



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