



NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

Memo

To: Board of Trustees
From: Dr. Devin Stephenson, President
Date: May 21, 2024
Re: General Education Review

This past January, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved revisions to Rule 6A-14.0303, Florida Administrative Code (FAC). The rule established new standards and learning outcomes for general education courses, identified a new list of general education core courses, and described new requirements for approving and reporting institutional general education course offerings.

These revisions were the result of the modification of section (s.) 1007.55, Florida Statutes (F.S.) during the 2023 legislative session. The section now requires public postsecondary boards of trustees and presidents to annually review and approve the general education requirements offered at their local institution.

Prior to the January 2024 action, Senate Bill (SB) 266 (2023) had initiated the evaluation of the available general education core courses, focusing on new content, standards, and principles. Faculty committees were appointed by the SBE and the Board of Governors (BOG) to conduct a review and recommend modifications to the general education core course list, which was then submitted to the state Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC). The ACC subsequently endorsed these recommendations in October of 2023 and then forwarded them to the SBE and BOG for further deliberation and action.

Separately, faculty committees undertook the task of crafting course descriptions for the general education core courses and assessing high school advanced courses pertaining to these core subjects in compliance with the new legal mandates.

This work led to the above-mentioned January 2024 approved revisions to [SBOE Rule 6A-14.0303, F.A.C.](#), and [BOG Regulation 8.005](#). The new rule and regulation places an emphasis on education for democratic citizenship, exposure to the Western Canon or “Great Books” among other classical, historical texts.

For consideration, please see attached presentation on Northwest Florida State College’s (NWFSC) activity and subsequent timeline. In short, we have started the required review of our course offerings, ensuring that all college courses meet the requirements set forth in s. [1007.25](#) and s. [1007.55](#), F.S., and the updates to Rule 6A-14.0303, F.A.C.

This informational item introduces the Board to the general education review process. At an upcoming meeting prior to September 1, the College will submit an action item to the Board to approve the review and certify that NWFSC’s general education courses meet the new standards and criteria. NWFSC staff will then transmit the list of approved courses with a description of the changes, along with a certification form signed by the President and Board Chair to the ACC by September 1st of this year.