

**General Education Steering Committee Meeting
Valencia College
May 16, 2013**

The meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m.

Senate Bill 1720 Revisions

The Steering Committee discussed general education provisions in Senate Bill 1720. The legislation includes a restoration of the general education program to 36 credit hours; elimination of the requirement that institutions offer all general education core course options; provision allowing the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors to approve additional core courses beyond the five per subject area limit; and the extension of the implementation date to 2015-2016.

Review Subject Area Survey Results

Before the discussion of the subject area faculty committee surveys regarding competencies and core course recommendations, it was determined that the Steering Committee members would make decisions by voting, majority win, with seven members voting. The co-chairs did not vote. The Steering Committee discussed the results of the subject area surveys with the committee co-chair providing a summary of the subject area faculty committee discussions and survey results.

Communication

The final competencies and core course recommendations were accepted with six votes for, and one opposed. There was concern expressed about the possibility of the Advanced Placement (AP) test score of 3 associated with AP course being too low, enabling students to receive college credit. It was suggested that this issue will need to be reviewed in the future.

Mathematics

The final competencies and core course recommendations were unanimously accepted with the assumption that the “prerequisite and related/advanced coursework” statement would be included.

Natural Science

The final competencies and core course recommendations were unanimously accepted with approval of an additional core course option, AST X002 “Astronomy.” The Committee also approved the courses with the assumption that the “prerequisite and related/advanced coursework” statement would be included.

Humanities

The final competencies and core course recommendations were accepted with the following revisions: (1) a unanimous vote to change the literature core course to LIT X000 “Introduction to Literature;” (2) a unanimous vote to include a theatre course in the core course options; and (3) a vote of six for and one abstention to include THEX000, “Theatre Appreciation” as the core course.

Social Science

The Steering Committee affirmed survey results and voted unanimously to retain the placement of the recommended history course in the Social Science general education subject area. The final

competencies and core course recommendations were partially accepted with the exception of World History and Comparative Government. The committee voted 5-2 to replace World History, and 7-0 to replace it with American History. Finally, the committee voted unanimously to include AMHX020 "American History since 1877" as a core course. Comparative Government was unanimously replaced by American Government, POSX041. The committee voted unanimously to include a 6th course in the recommendations, and unanimously voted for ECOX013 "Macroeconomics," as the additional core course option.

Final Competency and Core Course Recommendations

Communications

Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively.

Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze communication critically.

ENC X101 English Composition I

Humanities

Through demonstrating interpretive ability and cultural literacy, the student will confirm the ability to think critically.

The student will acquire competence in reflecting critically upon the human condition.

ARH X000 Art Appreciation

PHI X010 Introduction to Philosophy

MUL X010 Music Literature/Music Appreciation

LIT X000 Introduction to Literature

HUM X020 Introduction to Humanities

THE X000 Theatre Appreciation

Mathematics

Students will determine appropriate mathematical and computational models and methods in problem solving, and demonstrate an understanding of mathematical concepts.

Students will apply appropriate mathematical and computational models and methods in problem solving.

MGF X106 Liberal Arts Mathematics I

MGF X107 Liberal Arts Mathematics II

MAC X105 College Algebra

STA X023 Statistical Methods

Natural Science

Students will demonstrate the ability to critically examine and evaluate scientific observation, hypothesis, or model construction, and the use of scientific method to explain the natural world.

Students will successfully recognize and comprehend fundamental concepts, principles, and processes about the natural world.

BSC X005 General Biology
CHM X020 Chemistry for Liberal Studies
PHY X020 Fundamentals of Physics
ESC X000 Introduction to Earth Science
EVR X001 Introduction to Environmental Science
AST X002 Astronomy

Social Science

Students will demonstrate the ability to examine behavioral, social, and cultural issues from a variety of points of view.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavioral, social, and cultural issues, past and present, local and global.

PSY X012 Introduction to Psychology
SYG X000 Principles of Sociology
ANT X000 Introduction to Anthropology
POS X041 American Government
AMH X020 Introductory Survey Since 1877
ECO X013 Principles of Macroeconomics

Discussion of Outstanding Implementation Issues

Advanced and prerequisite courses

The Steering Committee discussed the issue of prerequisite and advanced courses. The mathematics and natural science faculty committees confirmed the following policy.

If a student completes a course in a subject area for which one of the general education core course options in the same subject area is a prerequisite, that student should be considered to have completed the portion of the core in that subject area. In some instances there may be courses similar in content in the general education program that are at a more advanced level, but do not include a core course as a prerequisite, in these instances the more advanced, similar course will be considered to have completed the portion of the core in that subject area.

The Steering Committee discussed whether the policy should be applicable to the communications, social science and humanities subject areas as well. After the discussion, the Steering Committee voted unanimously to apply the policy only to mathematics and natural science.

The Steering Committee then discussed whether the prerequisite and advanced courses should be determined by the institution or determined through a faculty committee process that would include the Articulation Coordinating Committee, ultimately going to the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors for approval.

To determine the process for additional core courses, the Steering Committee decided to conduct an institution survey in conjunction with releasing the final competency and core course recommendations. The survey would solicit from institutions a listing of courses each would recommend as an additional course to satisfy the core in the Mathematics and Science disciplines. Suggested courses are not guaranteed to automatically qualify as advanced courses and institutions will be directed to avoid any specialized coursework, in accord with SACS core requirement 2.7.3., which includes that general education courses “do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession...” The results of this survey will be used to help determine a recommendation for institution discretion or state-level oversight of additional core courses. The survey will have a deadline of August 1.

Laboratory courses

The Steering Committee had previously had discussion about how laboratory courses or credits would apply to general education core requirements. Because the general education core is not defined as 15 credits, whether or not laboratory credits are included is an institution decision. It was agreed that the same process institutions are using now for laboratory courses, primarily in the area of natural science, would continue to apply.

Timeline and Next Steps

The Steering Committee made the following changes to the timeline:

May 20	Provide final SC core recommendations to institutions and request identification of related/advanced courses
August 1	Institutions submit related/advanced courses
August 15	Steering Committee Meeting
August 16	Provide final SC recommendation of related/advanced courses for review by SUS/FCS
August-October	Review by institution curriculum or general education committees
November 1	Institution submits final faculty and administrative approval of core and related/advanced courses
November 7	Steering Committee Meeting
November 8	Chancellors review
November 15	Initial State Board rule development/public comment period begins
January 2014	Board of Governors regulation noticing
March 2014	State Board/Board of Governors rule/regulation on agenda

Future Roles and Processes

The Steering Committee discussed how future additions and changes would be approved. Suggestions included using the existing common prerequisite discipline committees and creating a general education standing committee of the Articulation Coordinating Committee. No decisions were made, rather the Steering Committee decided to wait for the results of the institutional survey of prerequisite and advanced courses before discussing again.

The meeting concluded at 2:35 p.m.