General Education Digital Badge

Preliminary Technical Assistance

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Staff Support

Division of Florida Colleges

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General Education Digital Badge

House Bill 1507 (2021) requires public postsecondary institutions to **award students a nationally recognized digital badge** upon completion of general education core courses **that demonstrate career readiness**, beginning with students who initially enter a postsecondary institution in the 2022-2023 academic year.

Crosswalk of Career Readiness Skills to General Education Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Talent Development Council Career Readiness Skills (Samples)		Staff Analysis of Common General Education SLOs that Directly Align with Career Readiness Skills (Samples)
Communication Skills	• Communicates verbally • Comprehends written material • Conveys information in writing	• Effective Communication
Applied Academic Skills	• Logic • Math strategies/ procedures • Scientific principles/ procedures	• Critical Thinking • Mathematical Concepts • Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning
Critical Thinking Skills	• Research • Solves problems • Reasons • Plans/organizes	• Critical Thinking • Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning • Information Literacy
Information Use	• Locates • Organizes • Uses	• Information Literacy • Mathematical Concepts • Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning
Technology Use	• Understands and uses technology	• Information Literacy
Personal Qualities	• Adapts and shows flexibility • Learning/Coachability • Attention to Detail	• Social Responsibility

Guiding Principles

The goal of the digital badge is not to change the content of general education core courses. Rather, it is **intended to help the student translate what they learned in general education courses to knowledge, skills and abilities that employers require.**

Principle 1

Academic instruction results in skills that students need to be prepared for their careers.

Principle 2

Faculty drive the process of identifying the competencies that demonstrate career readiness skills.

Principle 3

Students should be able to easily access information about their education and training.

Principle 1

Academic instruction results in skills that students need to be prepared for their careers

- The goal of the digital badge is not to change the content of general education core courses. Rather, it is intended to help students translate what they learned in general education courses to the knowledge, skills, and abilities that employers require.

- In other words, digital badges are a way to **"re-frame" the student learning outcomes** in the context of what students need to succeed in the world of work.

- The intent is to develop a series of digital badges that students may **earn upon general education core course(s) completion.** The digital badges could be earned upon completion of a single course or upon completion of a collection of courses, as determined by faculty committees.

- A grade of "TBD" or better is needed for each course associated with the earning of a digital badge. Based on this information, examples of digital badges include but are not limited to the following.

  - A grade of "TBD" or higher in ENC 1101 results in an "Fundamentals of Written Communication" digital badge.
  - A grade of "TBD" or higher in any course in natural sciences and a grade of "TBD" or higher in any course in mathematics results in a "Quantitative Reasoning" digital badge.

Principle 2

Faculty drive the process of identifying the competencies that demonstrate career readiness skills

- **Faculty** credentialed to teach in the general education core course prefixes are subject matter experts in their respective fields. As such, they should play the **primary role** in translating general education course learning outcomes to career readiness skills.

- This identification of career readiness skills should be **grounded in employer and industry needs**, as articulated through the TDC, NACE, or other resources.

- Faculty will assist in **defining the digital badge selection** and also **identifying the course(s) required to earn the digital badge**.

- If the faculty committee assigned to the digital badge identification determines changes are needed to the statewide course in the Statewide Course Numbering System (SCNS), the process of modifying a statewide course should be followed, incorporating existing processes and committees.

Principle 3

Students should be able to easily access information about their education and training

- **College and university catalogs** should clearly identify the digital badges available to students and the terms under which the digital badge is earned, awarded, and made available to the student even upon degree completion.

- To ensure the statutory goal of having a badge that all Florida public postsecondary institutions recognize is realized, the **Florida Automated System for Transferring Educational Records (FASTER)** will be modified to add fields for all general education digital badges.

- A key goal of the digital badge is for students to have easy access to **sharing the digital badges** earned with prospective and current employers. Until a statewide solution is realized, institutions will determine the most appropriate approach for ensuring this information is available as students seek employment.

Digital Badging Process

Step 1

Identify digital badge to pilot

The first digital badge is "Fundamentals of Written Communication," which is proposed to be earned upon a grade of "TBD" or better in ENCX101 or a course for which ENCX101 is a prerequisite. Staff have created a template for the digital badge from which faculty with work.

Step 2

Form faculty committee

State college and university faculty members were selected to serve on a committee, which convened in February to work on the details of the badge.

Digital Badging Process

Step 3

Faculty committee work

Faculty provided feedback on the subject matter components of the template, which includes four components:

- definition of digital badge competency;
- required course(s) chosen to earn the badge;
- learning outcomes of the digital badge; &
- career readiness competencies aligned with the digital badge.

Staff will revise based on faculty input & employer engagement.

Step 4

Publish digital badges for public postsecondary institutions

Step 5

Evaluate the pilot process & identify additional badges

For illustration only – not actual content

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

WHAT IS EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION?

Effective communication is defined as the ability to convey information to another effectively and efficiently. While this seems simple, the ability to communicate effectively is a critical skill and has the potential to impact almost every aspect of your professional and personal life.

Florida public postsecondary institutions now offer students an Effective Communication digital badge. With this badge, you will be able to not only enhance your personal communication skills but also convey to future employers that you have acquired vital skills needed for professional success.

HOW TO EARN THIS DIGITAL BADGE:

1 Enroll in one of the following college courses:

ENCx101 OR a course in which ENCx101 is a prerequisite

2 Successfully complete the course with a grade of "C" or better

3 Digital badge will automatically be awarded by the public institution where you completed the course and added to your FASTER* transcript

*FASTER is the Florida Automated System for Transferring Educational Records.

WHAT ARE YOU LEARNING BY EARNING THIS BADGE?

By completing the college course(s) associated with this badge, you will demonstrate effective reading, writing, speaking, listening, and nonverbal communication skills for a variety of rhetorical purposes and audiences.

Some of the learning outcomes associated with the college course that results in this badge include:

- Active listening
- Comprehension of written material
- Convey information in writing
- Perform careful observations

Want to learn more? Contact your institution today!

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

WHY IS EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IMPORTANT IN THE WORKPLACE?

- Helps with goal-setting and decision making
- Creates more openness and reduces conflict
- Encourages innovation and creativity into the organization
- Strengthens team building and employee morale
- Increases engagement and team effectiveness
- Fosters creativity and teambuilding

BENEFITS OF DIGITAL BADGES

Colleges and universities are working with employers to develop digital badges that highlight the skills students learn.

Digital badges allow you to showcase your achievements and the skills you've learned through related coursework. With a digital badge, you can…

• Include on your resume, college co-curricular transcript, job applications, social media, and more.

• Learn about competencies employers are looking for in your field.

• Identify open positions linked to the skills and competencies identified in the badges you have earned.

• Separate yourself from other candidates and applicants.

❝ **Communication** is the basis of all relationships. Whether personal or professional, you just can't do without effective **communication.** ❞
- Nexa Learning

The best news—there is no additional cost to receive the badge! The digital badge is earned by completion of general education core courses, which are already built into associate in science, associate in arts and baccalaureate degree programs. Florida's 12 state universities and 28 state colleges will automatically award the badge upon completion of the required coursework. And because the badge will appear on your FASTER transcript, it will be accepted by all institutions if you choose to transfer.

Want to learn more? Contact your institution today!

Eligible Students

- **Students entering in 2022-23**: Pursuant to s. 1007.25(4), F.S., all students initially entering a public postsecondary institution in the 2022-23 academic year (fall 2022), and thereafter, and enroll in general education core courses are eligible for the awarding of a digital badge. This is inclusive of dual enrollment students who complete core courses while in high school in the 2022-23 academic year and thereafter. Minimally, institutions must award badges to students meeting these criteria.

- **Students who complete required course(s) regardless of entry year:** Additionally, institutions may choose to grant the digital badge to any student who completes the required courses with a grade "TBD" or better, regardless of entry year, so long as the course-level learning outcomes reflect the competencies for which the badge trains.

- **Students with credit-by-exam:** Pursuant to s. 1007.27, F.S., Florida public postsecondary institutions must award credit earned through acceleration mechanisms, including credit by examination (e.g., AP, IB, AICE, and CLEP). Students entering with credit-by-exam should not be negatively impacted if their acceleration credit allowed them to bypass a general education requirement. Therefore, institutions may award digital badges to students who receive transcripted credit for the general education core course(s) required to complete the digital badge.

Institutional Obligations

- **Advertising in Catalog:** In accordance with s. 1007.25(4), F.S., students must be able to distinguish in the public postsecondary institution's catalog which general education core courses are linked to earning a digital badge. This requirement is in effect starting fall 2022 for the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter.

- **Granting Digital Badges:** Statute specifies the postsecondary institutions are responsible for "granting" students the digital badge(s). Until a statewide solution is realized, institutions will determine the most appropriate approach for ensuring this information is available as students seek employment.

- **FASTER Transcripts:** The FASTER Postsecondary Course Demographic Record Format (P01) will be modified to reflect student attainment of digital badges. As faculty committees identify digital badges, the table values will be expanded accordingly. Institutions will record digital badges earned via FASTER. Note: It is at each institution's discretion to determine placement on local academic transcripts. Until a statewide solution is developed, institutions are encouraged to post a student's digital badges:
  - On a co-curricular transcript;
  - Through a digital badging platform;
  - Through career center platforms; or
  - Any other means by which a student can easily access the badge(s).

Institutional Obligations (Continued)

- **Reporting**

Data Element 2123

General Education Digital Badge

Characteristics

Length:	1
Data Type:	Alphanumeric
Physical Description:	X (1)
Record Type(s):	5
Last Modified:	2/9/2022

Data Element is used in the Following Reports:

❑

Description:

Indicates the student has been issued a digital badge under section 1007.25, F.S. associated with completion of general education core courses that demonstrate career readiness. Florida College System institutions and state universities became required to issue and accept the digital badge for students initially entering in 2022-2023 and thereafter.

TABLE VALUES

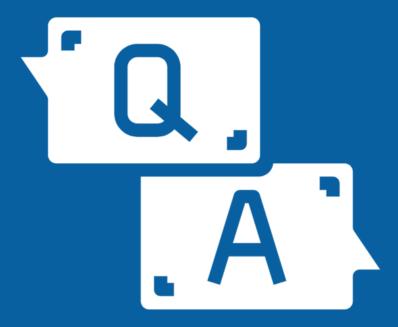|	
A	Student was issued a Fundamentals in Written Communication digital badge
Z	Not Applicable

NOTES:

1. *General education core courses are identified in State Board of Education Rule 6A-14.0303, F.A.C.*
2. *General education core courses became a requirement for associate in arts and baccalaureate first-time-in-college students entering a Florida College System institution in the Fall Term 2015, and thereafter.*
3. *General education core courses became a requirement for associate in science/associate in applied science students entering their program in 2022-23 and thereafter.*
4. *Edits 2123_1, 2123_2, 2123_3, 2123_4, and 2123_5 will become critical starting with the 2023-24 Summer (1E) submission.*

Next Steps

✓ We anticipate finalizing the communications badge in the next few weeks

✓ Once the badge is finalized, final technical assistance will be released related to implementation

✓ Institutions should begin to consider:

  ✓ Making badge information available in catalogs

  ✓ The process of granting digital badges

  ✓ Modifications to systems for updates to FASTER and state reporting

✓ We encourage institutions to reach out with questions; this will assist us with technical assistance and building out FAQs

Questions & Answers

Staff Support

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