

House File 401 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 401
BY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER
EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 63)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 18, 2025)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for general education requirements for
2 undergraduate students at regents institutions and including
3 applicability provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the "Core Curriculum Act".

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 262C.1 Definitions.

4 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
5 requires:

6 1. "*Board*" means the state board of regents.

7 2. "*Institution*" means an institution of higher learning
8 governed by the board.

9 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 262C.2 General education requirements.

10 The board shall develop and adopt a policy establishing
11 general education requirements for undergraduate students. The
12 policy must include all of the following:

13 1. Each institution shall establish all of the following
14 general education requirements that must be completed for a
15 student to receive an undergraduate degree:

16 a. Six semester credit hours of English.

17 b. Three semester credit hours of mathematics and
18 statistics.

19 c. Four semester credit hours of natural sciences.

20 d. Six semester credit hours of social sciences.

21 e. Six semester credit hours of the humanities.

22 f. Three semester credit hours of western heritage.

23 Coursework satisfying this requirement shall consist of
24 introductory survey courses concerning western heritage such as
25 western civilization, British literature, or Greek philosophy.
26 Coursework for western heritage shall also satisfy the required
27 semester hours for English, social studies, or the humanities,
28 as designated by the institution.

29 g. Three semester credit hours of American heritage.

30 Coursework satisfying this requirement shall consist of
31 introductory survey courses concerning American heritage, such
32 as American history, Iowa history, American government, or
33 American literature. If the institution offers or requires a
34 course on American history and civil government, semester hours
35 for that course shall satisfy this requirement. Coursework

1 for American heritage shall also satisfy the required semester
2 hours for social studies or the humanities, as designated by
3 the institution.

4 2. An institution shall not establish more than
5 thirty-seven semester credit hours of general education
6 requirements. An institution may increase the number of
7 semester hours for any of the requirements of subsection 1,
8 provided that the total number of required semester hours of
9 general education shall not exceed thirty-seven.

10 3. Except as provided in subsection 1, an institution shall
11 not designate any course as satisfying more than one of the
12 general education requirements provided in subsection 1.

13 4. An institution shall provide equivalent credit toward
14 the requirements of subsection 1 to a student transferring
15 to the institution for previous coursework completed by the
16 student that is substantially similar to a requirement of
17 subsection 1.

18 5. If the board or an institution has established a center
19 for intellectual freedom or a center for civic education, the
20 center shall annually review and approve the courses that will
21 satisfy the requirements of subsection 1, paragraphs "f" and
22 "g".

23 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **262C.3 Standards for course content.**

24 The board shall adopt a policy to ensure that courses that
25 satisfy the general education requirements established pursuant
26 to section 262C.2 do not distort significant historical events
27 or include any curriculum or other material that teaches
28 identity politics or is based on theories that systemic
29 racism, sexism, oppression, or privilege are inherent in the
30 institutions of the United States of America or the state of
31 Iowa. The policy shall not limit the academic freedom of
32 any course instructor to direct the instruction within the
33 instructor's course or limit the free discussion of ideas in a
34 classroom setting.

35 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **262C.4 Exceptions — waiver.**

1 1. The general education requirements established pursuant
2 to section 262C.2 shall not apply to a student completing a
3 degree program that is designated by an institution as a degree
4 program of three years or less in duration.

5 2. The board may waive one or more requirements of section
6 262.2 for a degree program if the board determines the program
7 is in a complex field or requires an increased amount of focus
8 on the courses related to a student's major.

9 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **262C.5 Enforcement.**

10 Any person may notify the attorney general of an
11 institution's potential violation of this chapter. The
12 attorney general may bring an action against an institution for
13 a writ of mandamus to compel the institution to comply with
14 this chapter.

15 Sec. 7. **APPLICABILITY.** This Act applies to students
16 beginning enrollment at institutions of higher learning
17 governed by the state board of regents in academic years
18 beginning on or after July 1, 2027.