Statewide Course Numbering System

Quick Facts

1. In 1971, the Florida Legislature charged the Department of Education with developing, coordinating, and maintaining a statewide course numbering system to facilitate transfer of credit among the state’s colleges and universities (Florida Statute 1007.24).

2. The Statewide Course Numbering System (SCNS) is part of the Office of Articulation, Department of Education. SCNS staff consists of an administrator, assistant administrator, and professional staff members.

3. Each institution has an official contact person who ensures that submitted courses have been approved by the institutional curriculum committees, and is responsible for communication between the institutions and SCNS.

4. Faculty discipline committees, comprised of faculty from participating institutions, meet periodically to review course placements, taxonomies, and equivalencies.

5. Institutions recommend prefixes and numbers. The faculty discipline committee chair reviews relevant course transmittals and assigns course prefixes and numbers.

6. Each participating institution controls the title, credit, and content of its own courses.

7. The SCNS discipline classification system categorizes courses according to content only, regardless of the administrative units to which courses are assigned at the individual institutions.

8. There are 110 public and selected non-public participating institutions (28 community colleges, 10 state universities, 33 participating nonpublic institutions, and 39 area technical institutions).

Resources

1. SCNS Website: http://scns.fldoe.org (do not need to log on to access menu/reports)

2. SCNS Handbook: http://scns.fldoe.org (click on the scrolling title under Latest News)

3. FGCU 2006-2007 Catalog: Common Course Numbering (p. 194)
**Taxonomy:** Organizational scheme for a subject matter area or a component of a subject matter area. It is organized as follows (going from large to small units):

Example of course identifier:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Level Code</th>
<th>Century Digit</th>
<th>Decade Digit</th>
<th>Unit Digit</th>
<th>Lab Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SYG</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No lab component in this course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sociology, General Freshman Level at this institution Entry-level General Sociology Survey Course Social Prob. No lab component in this course

1. **Discipline** (approximately 170): A specific area of knowledge or skills identified in the Statewide Course Numbering System by one or more prefixes (SNCS Handbook, pp. 34-47).

2. **Prefix:** A three-letter code used for a subject matter area or a component of a subject matter area. A prefix can accommodate up to 1000 courses (SCNS Handbook, pp. 48-61)

3. **Century:** A major content category within a prefix. Up to 10 centuries can be accommodated in a prefix and up to 100 courses can be accommodated in a century.

4. **Decade:** A subcategory for courses within the major category called a century. Up to 10 different decades can be accommodated in a century and up to 10 different courses can be accommodated in a decade.

5. **Course/Unit:** Another term for a specific course as referenced in the SCNS taxonomy. The hierarchy is as follows: discipline, prefix, century, decade and unit.

**Find a Course** [http://scns.fldoe.org](http://scns.fldoe.org)

- **Find an Institution** (search by institution)
- **Find an Institution Course** (search by institution, discipline, prefix, number/range, institution course title, and/or institution course description)
- **Find a Statewide Course** (search by discipline; prefix; number/range; keywords in discipline, prefix, century, or decade title; statewide course title; statewide course description)
Reports [http://scns.fldoe.org]

- Comparability (provides a comparison listing between two or more institutions that have the same institution course)
- Course Inventory (Faculty Committee) (provides a list of committee coordinators, committee members, and SCNS staff associated with a discipline)
- Course Inventory (Prefix and Course Range) (provides a listing of prefixes and course ranges)
- Course Inventory (Prefix Definition) (provides a listing of prefix definitions)
- Courses at Non-regionally Accredited Institutions (provides a listing of all institution courses for non-regionally accredited institution)
- Distribution Matrix (Community Colleges) (provides a listing of all institution courses for institutions classified as community college)
- Distribution Matrix (Nonpublic Institution) (provides a listing of all institution courses for institutions classified as independent profit or nonprofit)
- Distribution Matrix (Universities) (provides a listing of all institution courses for institutions classified as a university)
- Distribution Matrix (Vocational-Technical) (provides a listing of all institution courses for institutions classified as area vo-tech center)
- Institution Course Transactions (institution course transaction notification for range of dates)
- Institution Courses (provides a listing of all institution courses that are current, pending adds, and pending reclassifications)

To access a report place your mouse over the “reports” tab.