

**House Study Bill 63 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON HIGHER  
EDUCATION BILL BY CHAIRPERSON  
COLLINS)

**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:

unofficial

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**  
10 **requirements.**

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

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

- 17 a. Six semester credit hours of English composition.
- 18 b. Six semester credit hours of a world language.
- 19 c. Six semester credit hours of mathematics and statistics.
- 20 d. Six semester credit hours of natural sciences.
- 21 e. Six semester credit hours of social sciences.
- 22 f. Six semester credit hours of the humanities.
- 23 g. Three semester credit hours of western heritage.

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

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

1 course shall satisfy this requirement. Coursework for American  
2 heritage shall also satisfy the required semester hours for  
3 either social studies or the humanities, as designated by the  
4 institution.

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

11 3. An institution or a school or other component of an  
12 institution shall not establish any general education requirement  
13 not specifically authorized in this section.

14 4. An institution shall designate up to ten semester-length  
15 introductory or survey courses that will satisfy the requirements  
16 of subsection 1, with the exception of subsection 1, paragraph  
17 "b", for which an institution may designate any number of  
18 introductory courses.

19 5. Except as provided in subsection 1, an institution shall  
20 not designate any course as satisfying more than one of the  
21 general education requirements provided in subsection 1.

22 6. An institution shall provide equivalent credit toward the  
23 requirements of subsection 1 to a student transferring to the  
24 institution for previous coursework completed by the student that  
25 is substantially similar to a requirement of subsection 1.

26 7. If the board or an institution has established a school of  
27 intellectual freedom or a center for civic education, the school  
28 or center shall annually designate the courses that will satisfy  
29 the requirements of subsection 1, paragraphs "g" and "h".

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

31 The board shall adopt a policy to ensure that courses that  
32 satisfy the general education requirements established pursuant  
33 to section 262C.2 do not distort significant historical events  
34 or include any curriculum or other material that teaches identity  
35 politics or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism,

1 oppression, or privilege are inherent in the institutions of the  
2 United States of America or the state of Iowa. The policy shall  
3 not limit the academic freedom of any course instructor to direct  
4 the instruction within the instructor's course or limit the free  
5 discussion of ideas in a classroom setting.

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

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

11 2. The board may waive one or more requirements of section  
12 262.2 for a degree program if the board determines the program is  
13 in a complex field or requires an increased amount of focus on  
14 the courses related to a student's major.

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

16 Any person may notify the attorney general of an institution's  
17 potential violation of this chapter. The attorney general may  
18 bring an action against an institution for a writ of mandamus to  
19 compel the institution to comply with this chapter.

20 Sec. 7. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to students  
21 beginning enrollment at institutions of higher learning governed  
22 by the state board of regents in academic years beginning on or  
23 after July 1, 2027.

24 EXPLANATION

25 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
26 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

27 This bill requires the state board of regents (board)  
28 to develop and adopt a policy establishing general education  
29 requirements for undergraduate students. The bill provides  
30 required content of the policy.

31 The general education requirements shall include required  
32 coursework in English composition, a world language, mathematics  
33 and statistics, natural sciences, social sciences, the  
34 humanities, western heritage, and American heritage. The bill  
35 provides minimum semester hours for each subject and specifies

1 additional requirements for certain subjects. The general  
2 education requirements shall not exceed 40 total semester hours.  
3 The bill prohibits a regents institution or a school or other  
4 component of a regents institution from establishing any general  
5 education requirement not specifically authorized in the bill.  
6 The bill provides additional standards for the general education  
7 requirements , including standards for transfer students.

8 The bill requires the board to adopt a policy to ensure that  
9 courses that satisfy the general education requirements do not  
10 distort significant historical events or include any curriculum  
11 or other material that teaches identity politics or is based on  
12 theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, or privilege  
13 are inherent in the institutions of the United States of America  
14 or the state of Iowa. The policy shall not limit the academic  
15 freedom of any course instructor to direct the instruction within  
16 the instructor's course or limit the free discussion of ideas in  
17 a classroom setting.

18 The bill provides that the general education requirements  
19 shall not apply to a student completing a degree program that  
20 is designated by a regents institution as a degree program of  
21 three years or less in duration. The bill authorizes the board  
22 to waive one or more general education requirements for a degree  
23 program if the board determines the program is in a complex field  
24 or requires an increased amount of focus on the courses related  
25 to a student's major.

26 The bill authorizes any person to notify the attorney  
27 general of a regents institution's potential violation of the  
28 requirements of the bill. The attorney general may bring an  
29 action against an institution for a writ of mandamus to compel  
30 the institution to comply.

31 The bill applies to students beginning enrollment at regents  
32 institutions in academic years beginning on or after July 1,  
33 2027.