

# Florida's Statewide Course Numbering System (SCNS)

Courses in this catalog are identified by prefixes and numbers that were assigned by Florida's SCNS. This common numbering system is used by all public postsecondary institutions in Florida and by participating private institutions. The major purpose of this system is to facilitate the transfer of courses between participating institutions.

Each participating institution controls the title, credit and content of its own courses and recommends the first digit of the course number to indicate the level at which students normally take the course. Course prefixes and the last three digits of the course numbers are assigned by members of faculty discipline committees appointed for that purpose by the Florida Department of Education in Tallahassee. Individuals nominated to serve on these committees are selected to maintain a representative balance as to type of institution and discipline field or specialization.

The course prefix and each digit in the course number have meaning in the SCNS. The list of course prefixes and numbers, along with their generic titles, is referred to as the "SCNS taxonomy." Descriptions of the content of courses are referred to as "course equivalency profiles."

## General Rule for Course Equivalencies

Equivalent courses at different institutions are identified by the same prefixes and same last three digits of the course number and are guaranteed to be transferable between the participating institutions that offer the course, with a few exceptions. (Exceptions are listed in this section.)

For example, a survey course in social problems is offered by 31 different postsecondary institutions. Each institution uses "SYG\_010" to identify its social problems course. The level code is the first digit and represents the year in which students normally take this course at a specific institution. In the SCNS taxonomy,

"SYG" means "Sociology, General," the century digit "0" represents "Entry-Level General Sociology," the decade digit "1" represents "Survey Course," and the unit digit "0" represents "Social Problems."

In science and other areas, a "C" or "L" after the course number is known as a lab indicator. The "C" represents a combined lecture and laboratory course that meets in the same place at the same time. The "L" represents a laboratory course or the laboratory part of a course, having the same prefix and course number without a lab indicator, which meets at a different time or place.

Transfer of any successfully completed course from one institution to another is guaranteed in cases where the course to be transferred is equivalent to one offered by the receiving institution. For example, SYG 1010 is offered at a community college. The same course is offered at a state university as SYG 2010. A student who has successfully completed SYG 1010 at the community college is guaranteed to receive transfer credit for SYG 2010 at the state university if the student transfers. The student cannot be required to take SYG 2010 again since SYG 1010 is equivalent to SYG 2010. Transfer credit must be awarded for successfully completed equivalent courses and used by the receiving institution to determine satisfaction of requirements by transfer students on the same basis as credit awarded to native students. It is the prerogative of the receiving institution to offer transfer credit for courses successfully completed which have not been designated as equivalent.

## The Course Prefix

The course prefix is a three-letter designator for a major division of an academic discipline, subject matter area, or sub-category of knowledge. The prefix is not intended to identify the department in which a course is offered. Rather, the content of the course determines the assigned prefix used to identify the course.

### EXAMPLE OF COURSE IDENTIFIER

Prefix	Level Code (first digit)	Century Digit (second digit)	Decade Digit (third digit)	Unit Digit (fourth digit)	Lab Code
SYG	1	0	1	0	
Sociology, General	Freshmen level at this institution	Entry-Level General Sociology	Survey Course	Social Problems	No Laboratory component in this course