



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Office of the President

SUBJECT:	Effective Date:	Policy Number:	
Required Elements of the Course Syllabus	5/30/2023	4-403.2	
	Supersedes: 4-403.1	Page 1	Of 6
	Responsible Authority: Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs		

APPLICABILITY/ACCOUNTABILITY

This policy applies to all University of Central Florida instructors of record.

BACKGROUND

An effective syllabus provides an overview of the purpose of a course, outlines course requirements, and defines expectations for student performance. Faculty members are responsible for developing course content and selecting pedagogical approaches for their courses. Leveraging this policy to develop them will provide a consistent approach for presenting essential information that supports learning and ensures that UCF complies with the standards set forth by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and other accrediting bodies.

POLICY STATEMENT

All UCF instructors, regardless of course modality, must post their syllabus to their published Webcourse by the first day of the term. For GEP core courses, syllabi must be posted 45-days before the semester begins in accordance with BOG Regulation 8.003. For courses using a contract in lieu of a syllabus, that contract

must be completed within the first two weeks of the semester. In addition, faculty must submit a copy of the syllabus or the executed contract to their departments no later than the second week of the term in which the course is taught. Departments must retain copies of syllabi for a minimum of five years, until the university can maintain a central syllabus repository. Further, departments are encouraged to hold regular discussions with all instructional personnel about policies relevant to their student populations to promote consistent communication of expectations to students and to support student and faculty success.

Each syllabus must include the following sections (additional details below):

1. Information from the official Schedule of Classes
2. Instructor and GTA contact information
3. Explicit, public description of the course
4. Intended student learning outcomes
5. Course calendar that includes the sequence of course activity
6. Assessment and grading procedures
7. Course materials and resources
8. Required core policy statements

GENERAL POLICY

REQUIRED SYLLABUS CONTENT

1. Information from the official Schedule of Classes

Each syllabus must include information from the official UCF Schedule of Classes to differentiate university course offerings and ensure students attend the classes in which they enrolled. This includes:

- Course number, section, and name
- Semester and year
- Prerequisites, co-requisites, and any other enrollment requirements
- Meeting dates, times, and place(s) and/or description of course modality

2. Instructor and/or GTA contact information; (DO NOT INCLUDE PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION IN SYLLABI)

- Name(s) of instructor(s) and Graduate Teaching Assistant(s) (GTA)

- UCF email addresses and/or Webcourses messaging
- Office, department location, and university phone number, if applicable
- Times and locations for in-person and/or virtual office hours

3. Explicit, public description of the course

- Information published in Undergraduate Catalog or Graduate Catalog
- Overview of the scope and purpose of the course

4. Student learning outcomes

All course syllabi must articulate student learning outcomes that:

- are consistent with the scope and purpose of the course.
- tie as clearly as possible to course assignments and activities.
- reference or link with specific program, department, college, and/or accreditation standards.

5. Sequence of course activity

- Due dates for major assignments and exams/assessments
- Method(s) for submitting assignments
- Date and format of final exam

Note: To promote student success, faculty members are encouraged to post at least one major course grade prior to the course withdrawal deadline.

6. Assessment and grading procedures

- Explanation of the grading scheme, weight of course assignments, projects, exams/quizzes, participation, and other components proportional to the overall grade for the class
- Make-up exam and assignment policies and procedures, including those regarding participation in university activities and religious holidays (See UCF Policy 4.401 and Regulation 5.020.)
- To ensure students have prompt feedback, and knowledge of their progress, faculty members must record all grades in Webcourses, and follow student data classification and security standards as addressed in UCF Policies 4.007 and 4.008 when distributing any grade-related information

7. Course Materials and Resources

- Required and optional texts and other resources
- Specific information about items such as classroom response systems, online tools, and other items that are required or recommended
- Clear explanations of where and how students may access materials and resources provided by the university to all students

8. Core policy statements

Syllabi should include clear policies regarding each of the following topics. Essential policies and faculty resources are available in Webcourses.

- Academic integrity statement including definition(s) of and consequences for academic misconduct, including the potential to be dismissed from the university. See UCF Regulation 5.015 Student Academic Misconduct Review Process and Graduate Studies' Probation/Dismissal Form. Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's [Rules of Conduct](#).
- Statement directing students needing accommodations to work with faculty and with Student Accessibility Services to ensure equal access to educational activities
- Statement regarding emergency procedures and campus safety, encouraging students to be aware of their surroundings and familiar with actions to take in various types of emergencies
- Statement regarding accommodations for active-duty military students

Students who are deployed active-duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

- Title IX

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at <https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu> and <http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – OIE – <http://oie.ucf.edu/> & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- [Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services](#)
- [Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events](#)
- [UCF Compliance and Ethics Office](#) & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- [Ombuds Office](#)

LEARNING CONTRACTS

For special courses, such as independent study, directed research, thesis or dissertation hours, the course instructor may elect to use a learning contract in lieu of a syllabus. If an instructor chooses this option, a written agreement that outlines the conditions, course requirements, and expectations must be created and signed by both the student and the faculty member by the second week of the semester in which the course is taught. A Restricted Registration Form may serve as this type of agreement if it contains the required elements listed below. When completed, that agreement must be submitted to the department or program and should be retained by the department or program for a minimum of five years. Faculty are not required to post these agreements to Webcourses.

A learning contract must include the name of the student, the name and number of the course, the semester offered, course learning outcomes, a list of assignments or activities to be completed during the semester, and the due dates for each assignment. For courses taken for a grade, the contract must clearly articulate what must be accomplished to obtain specific grades. For pass/fail courses, the contract must articulate what must be completed to earn a passing grade. Faculty should rely on the elements of these contracts when determining the final grade for students.

CHANGES IN COURSE ELEMENTS

Faculty members must sometimes make changes to course elements such as schedules or assignment details in response to student needs as well as external events (e.g., severe weather or public health emergencies). Except for extreme circumstances, this policy discourages substantial changes to a class syllabus after distribution. Instructors of record should consult with their department chair, school director, or program coordinator before instituting any significant changes to the core elements of a course syllabus so that the process can be appropriately documented, thereby mitigating the risk of student complaints or grade appeals.


INITIATING AUTHORITY


Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

POLICY APPROVAL
(For use by the Office of the President)

Policy Number: 4-403.2

Initiating Authority:  Date: May 30, 2023

University Policies and Procedures Committee Chair:  Date: 5/24/2023

President or Designee:  Date: 5/30/23

History: 4-403 7/13/2005; 4-403.1 2/16/2018