



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
SYSTEM

‘Ōnaehana Kulanui o Hawai‘i

September 6, 2024

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senates

FROM: Debora J. Halbert  
Vice President for Academic Strategy

SUBJECT: Consultation on Proposed Changes to RP 5.213 General Education

In Spring 2024, revisions to Regents Policy 5.213 relating to General Education were brought forward for formal consultation with the Faculty Senates. Additionally, a redlined version was presented to the Board of Regents in March 2024 to update the Regents for discussion purposes in the context of an update on General Education redesign efforts. The Spring formal consultation resulted in numerous comments being submitted via the online comment form. These comments were used in the revision of RP 5.213 which is now being circulated for an additional round of formal consultation. Please note that there are two colors for the revised policy – red is the original redlined version and green denotes revisions made as a result of feedback. As always, the black text is the original policy.

**Please consult with your constituents and governing bodies and provide any comments via the [online comment form](#) by November 1, 2024.**

### Justification for Policy Changes

The existing RP has not been revised in many years and thus does not reflect the current status of UH's systemwide General Education curriculum. The proposed changes clarify the intent that UH have a systemwide set of common general education requirements approved by the Board of Regents.

The changes to RP 5.213 include:

- Commitment to a shared general education curriculum.
- Revised descriptions of the skills and topics relevant to the general education curriculum.
- Provision for a limited number of upper division graduation requirements.
- Creation of a systemwide general education governance process to review and recommend changes to policy.

## Key Changes at a Glance

Removed during the revision process were clauses related to:

1. Prerequisites – feedback suggested that this was an area of substantial confusion.
2. Utilizing a transfer equivalency of 80% – while this number is the de facto standard recommended by transfer specialists, it was removed given concerns raised during the feedback process.
3. Specifics related to the governance structure. While a procedure for coming to agreement on changes to the GenEd Curriculum are needed, the specific structure has been removed from the RP.
4. The section on Assessment was removed based upon comments regarding the specificity of its inclusion in an RP.

The following identifies key changes *since the last revision* draft that are being proposed:

- I. Purpose: No changes
- II. Definitions – Adding definitions for the following:
  - A. General Education – this definition has been further clarified based upon feedback.
  - B. Lower Division UH general education curriculum – replaces the definition of Common Shared Requirements and is intended to be clearer.
  - C. Upper Division General Education Requirements (or graduation requirements) replaces the definition of Special Graduation Requirements to help clarify.
- III. Policy:
  - A. UH shall have a common set of lower-division requirements for the general education curriculum.
    1. Common shared requirements shall total no more than 31 credits. While many states are moving towards limited and simplified GenEd curriculum, we invite additional feedback and comments on this number.
    2. Common shared requirements shall fully transfer among all UH campuses.
    3. All campuses will use common course numbering.
    4. Four-year campuses may require special graduation requirements.
  - B. Roles and Responsibilities:

The curriculum is established to provide all UH graduates with core competencies to thrive in the workplace and as contributing citizens in a democratic, caring society.
  - C. Minimum expectations:

Item 1: Added to this version is the statement that existing breadth requirements are the minimum expected while we should strive towards interdisciplinary knowledge.  
Item 4: The policy continues to include language regarding the key institutional values such as sustainability and Native Hawaiian place of learning but does not mandate any specific method of inclusion.

Item 5: Meet professional and regional accreditation standards (WASC SCUC, ACCJC).

D. Governance:

The revised version has general language regarding the need for a governance structure.

Establishment of Special Graduation Requirements for four-year campuses shall ensure significant faculty and student consultation with decision-making authority delegated to the campus Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

- IV. Delegation of Authority: Feedback recommendations suggested language regarding delegation that has been included.

Attached are a clean copy of the revised policy and a track changes version of the policy.

The current policy is located at:

<https://www.hawaii.edu/policy/index.php?action=viewPolicy&policySection=rp&policyChapter=5&policyNumber=213&menuView=closed>

Please send comments or questions via the [online comment form](#) by **November 1, 2024**.  
Thank you.

Attachments

c: Chancellors/Provost  
Council of Chief Academic Officers  
Council of Senior Student Affairs Officers  
UH Student Caucus