

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 public colleges and community colleges, 12 state universities, 34 affiliated nonpublic postsecondary institutions, and 53 area career and technical education centers).

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 Academic Catalog: <https://www2.fgcu.edu/Catalog/prereqs.asp>

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:

Prefix	Level Code (1st digit)	Century Digit (2nd digit)	Decade Digit (3rd digit)	Unit Digit (4th digit)	Lab Code
SYG	1	0	1	0	
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.
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.
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>

- **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)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Statewide Course Numbering System. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, FIND A COURSE, REPORTS, DOWNLOAD, RELATED LINKS, ARTICULATION, and HELP. The Florida Department of Education logo is on the left. The main heading is "Statewide Course Numbering System" with a sub-link for "Administrator" for assistance. A welcome message states the system was created in the 1960s and provides a database of post-secondary courses. Below this, there are two columns: "Latest News" with a link to "Courses At Non-Regionally Accredited Institutions_Aug 2018" and "Institution Contacts & Discipline Coordinators" with a login form. The login form includes fields for Username and Password, a Log In button, and a Forgot Password / First-Time Login button. At the bottom, there is a Florida SCNS logo, social media icons, and copyright information: "All rights reserved FLDOE © 2018".