

We, the undersigned chairs of Departments of Sociology, or departments where sociology programs are housed, within Florida's public universities, write to strongly object to the removal of SYG 2000 Principles of Sociology course from the state's list of general education core course options. This course, often listed under the titles of Introduction to Sociology or Introductory Sociology, is a fundamental and

gravitated to introductory sociology courses because they understand that they will gain a broad perspective on the social forces that influence their lives and life chances. This is the intrinsic benefit that introductory sociology brings to the core of general education, and it is also what makes it an important component of the civic literacy that we have defined as a goal of higher education.

The knowledge and skill sets that come from the study of sociology (for example, critical thinking, communication, data analysis and information literacy) are important resources for students confronting an ever-changing job market. The value of these skills has been recognized by such tech giants as Apple and Microsoft, as well as employers in health services, marketing research, and many other fields. The exam that determines entry to medical school (MCAT) contains sociology questions because the medical profession recognizes that this knowledge is fundamental to good health care. Coursework in sociology is recommended as preparation for passing this important exam and its removal from the list of general education options could delay progression to graduation. Students preparing for the LSAT exam have a similar motivation to take a sociology course.

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