

## Current UF Quest Model Description

February 2018

**Rationale:** To offer a shared academic experience for FTIC students that is aligned with UF's mission, instills essential skills for post-graduation success, and supports retention efforts.

UF Quest is an envisioned General Education program that will be required of all approximately 6500 first-time-in-college students beginning in the Fall 2020. While the University of Florida has worked towards the model for UF Quest for the past 10 years through various initiatives addressing the undergraduate education experience, faculty, staff, and students have focused efforts in the past 2 years in shaping the framework for this program. In its broadest sense, the UF Quest Program will provide a sequential, shared academic experience that will meaningfully engage students in courses addressing essential and pressing questions in the Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences, followed by their engagement in the world through experiential learning. Throughout their engagement in UF Quest, students will reflect on their experiences within and outside the program as they knit together their personal and professional goals towards becoming a responsible citizen of the world.

### Broad Objectives of UF Quest:

- Increased cohort bonding and sense of belonging to a scholarly community among UF FTIC students
- Enhanced awareness among UF FTIC students of the value of General Education through the overarching theme of *Answering Essential and Pressing Questions of the Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences*
- Transition of UF FTIC students to the rigor of university coursework
- Opportunity for UF FTIC students to contribute their skills to the surrounding world through experiential learning
- Exposure of UF FTIC students to critical analysis, complex thinking, self-reflection, communication, decision-making, and other foundational content of general education
- Reinforcement of content knowledge and cognitive skills through a sequential framework
- Increased retention and graduation rates through inclusion of high-impact practices (smaller class sizes, faculty-student engagement, experiential learning, etc.)

### Envisioned Framework (See visual on page 2):

- **UF Quest 1: Engagement in the Essential Questions from the Humanities**
  - Students choose one three-credit hour Humanities course (required)
  - All courses will focus on one of five themes: *The Examined Life, Identities, Justice and Power, Nature and Culture, War and Peace*
  - The total number of courses in UF Quest 1 is not yet determined and will be a focus in development activities beginning in Spring 2018.
- **UF Quest 2: Engagement in the Pressing Questions in the Natural and Social Sciences**
  - Students choose one three-credit hour Social Sciences or Natural Sciences course (required)
  - All courses will focus on “wicked” problems that can be solved only through interdisciplinary collaboration. Current courses that serve as a model are “Climate Change” and “People and Data”.
  - The total number of courses in UF Quest 2 is not yet determined and will be a focus in in developmental activities beginning in Spring 2018.
- **UF Quest 3: Engagement in the World**
  - Students will pursue experiential learning in the form of internships or co-ops, study abroad, community service, research, public service, or design competitions

(required). They will enroll in an experience for 0 credit hours or will opt for 1-3 credit hours (offered in existing academic program requirements that are accompanied by credit-bearing courses).

- This component will not be required until the seventh year of UF Quest in order to allow colleges and programs time to build towards the vision of having available experiences for every FTIC student.
- ***UF Quest 4: Synthesis of UF Quest Experiences within Discipline (optional)***
  - Programs may offer this optional experience through a senior capstone course, which is required already in many UF programs. By connecting the capstone experience to UF Quest, academic programs will provide a final connection within the students' disciplines.
- All four experiences will engage the students in use of electronic portfolios to enable self-reflection on their college experience and expanded transcript capabilities. The electronic portfolio will also provide UF a platform for effective assessment of the program.
  - Optional "Horizons" Academic Experiences will include activities that transition UF FTIC students to the next step in and beyond their college academic experience. These experiences will assist them in transitioning to UF, finding their major, connecting to employers, applying to graduate and professional schools, and landing employment.

#### **Spring 2018 Development of UF Quest**

- The UF Quest Curriculum Committee will be convened for the first time in Spring 2018. This group will develop and submit a Request for Proposals for courses in UF Quest 1 and 2. The first courses will be developed for a trial beginning in Spring 2019.
- The platform for UF Quest 3 will be built through collaborations between various UF Division of Student Affairs units and UF Academic Affairs already catalyzed in the past two years of UF Quest development.
- The UF University Curriculum Committee and General Education Committee will conduct the program approval and course approvals beginning in the Fall 2018 semester.
- UF Faculty Senate has been kept abreast of development of UF Quest. A request for UF Faculty Senate support will be made once courses have been selected.

#### **Partnerships:**

- The UF Center for the Humanities in the Public Sphere successfully garnered funding from the Mellon Foundation to support development of multidisciplinary, grand-challenge Humanities courses that will be included in UF Quest 1. The Center is currently engaging faculty in preparation for submitting proposals to be considered for UF Quest courses.

#### **Timeline for UF Quest:**

- Trial courses offered in Spring 2019
- Launch begins in Fall 2020 (UF Quest 3 and E-Portfolio requirements will be phased in over the first 6 years of the program.)

**Current UF Quest Model:**

UF QUEST 1	UF QUEST 2	UF QUEST 3	UF QUEST 4
<i>H, 3 CREDIT HOURS</i>	<i>B/P OR S, 3 CREDIT HOURS</i>	<i>E, 0-3 CREDIT HOURS</i>	<i>OPTIONAL</i>
<b>Engagement with Essential Questions from the Humanities</b> <i>(Choose one course.)</i>	<b>Engagement with Pressing Questions in the Natural and Social Sciences</b> <i>(Choose one course.)</i>	<b>Engagement in the World</b> <i>(Choose one experience.)</i>	<b>Synthesis of UF Quest Experiences within Discipline</b>
<b>THE EXAMINED LIFE</b>	<b>BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES</b>	<b>INTERNSHIP OR CO-OP</b>  <b>STUDY ABROAD</b>  <b>COMMUNITY SERVICE</b>  <b>RESEARCH</b>  <b>PUBLIC SERVICE</b>  <b>DESIGN AND COMPETITION</b>	<b>SENIOR CAPSTONE COURSE</b>
<b>IDENTITIES</b>	CLIMATE CHANGE    TBA    TBA		
<b>JUSTICE AND POWER</b>	TBA    TBA    TBA		
<b>NATURE AND CULTURE</b>	...    ...    ...		
<b>WAR AND PEACE</b>	<b>SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES</b>		
<b>UF QUEST 1 WILDCARD</b>	PEOPLE AND DATA    TBA    TBA		
▼	TBA    TBA    TBA		
▼	...    ...    ...	▼	▼
<b>OPTIONAL HORIZONS ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES</b>			
<i>FIRST-YEAR FLORIDA, WARRINGTON WELCOME, etc. (Optional, 1CH and Not-for-credit)</i>	<i>HORIZONS COURSE 2 and Other Options (Optional, 1CH and Not-for-credit)</i>	<i>HORIZONS COURSE 3 and Other Options (Optional, 1CH and Not-for-credit)</i>	<i>FINAL-YEAR FLORIDA and Other Options (Optional, 1CH and Not-for-credit)</i>
<b>E-PORTFOLIO</b>			