

CALS Curriculum Committee

Submission Checklist

Updated January 2026

NOTE: This checklist must be included with all course and certificate submissions.

The checklist below is intended to facilitate course and certificate submissions to the University of Florida Academic Approval Tracking System (<https://approval.ufl.edu/>). The checklist consists of the most common items that can cause a submission to require changes or be recycled. Contrary to information provided on the UF approval site, the CALS Curriculum Committee requires a syllabus be submitted with each new course or course modification request. Please note that submitters are encouraged to attend the CALS CC meeting at which their item is being reviewed. This allows the submitter to answer any potential questions that may arise that could cause the item to not be approved. Also, be aware that when completing the UCC form the section Description of Request is asking for a brief statement about what you are doing. This is **not** the place for a course description. A statement such as “Proposal of a new undergraduate course” is all that is needed. Please do not submit documents in pdf format. All documents should be submitted in Word to facilitate editing on our end if necessary.

CHECKLIST: PLEASE INITIAL OR MARK N/A FOR EACH STATEMENT TO INDICATE YOUR COMPLIANCE.

SYLLABUS: You are encouraged to use the CALS ACCESSIBLE SYLLABUS TEMPLATE. Accessibility will be required by APRIL 2026.

****Use of Simple Syllabus will be required for Summer 2026 forward. It is slated to be released to faculty in late February 2026.****

___ It is required when making a submission that you consult your department’s representative to the CALS CC. A list of current members can be found on the committee site located at: <https://cals.ufl.edu/faculty-staff/committees/>.

___ Submission of a course modification requires both the current version of the course syllabus and the proposed version.

___ Joint course submissions must include 1) both graduate and undergraduate syllabuses and 2) a separate document outlining the substantial (more than one) differences in assignments between the two courses. These assignments must account for at least a 15% difference in graded material between the two levels. If this is a new course submission both courses must be submitted for approval simultaneously.

___ The course description on the UCC form and in the syllabus must match and should be no longer than 500 characters. FOR AN EXISTING COURSE, THE DESCRIPTION **MUST MATCH THE CATALOG DESCRIPTION**. Follow the [COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDELINES](#) for new courses if not contraindicated by outside certification requirements. Any other information you wish to include needs to be under a different heading such as background or additional course information.

_____ The course learning objectives must be consistent with Bloom's taxonomy. Please see the following link at the CALS Curriculum site. (https://cals.ufl.edu/content/PDF/Faculty_Staff/cals-courseobjectives.pdf). Do not use the words demonstrate or understand when listing learning objectives.

_____ The course schedule should be concise and include the appropriate number of weeks in the semester.

_____ All graduate course submissions must include a reading list if a textbook is not required. The reading list should include at least some current readings (within the last 5 years). All readings do not need to be current.

_____ Outside consultations are required if there is a possibility of the proposed course covering a significant amount of material taught in another department or college on campus. There must be a consult form completed by the chair of the department from who you are seeking the consult. Instructors may provide additional consults. The form can be found at: <https://approval.ufl.edu/policies/external-consultations/>.

_____ Prerequisite courses are required for 3000 and 4000 level courses. This line of the approval form cannot be "none" or left blank. Junior or senior standing is an acceptable option. A phrase such as "a course in basic biology" is not acceptable. (Graduate courses should not have specific courses listed as prerequisites. If needed a statement of skills required prior to taking the course can be provided under other course information.)

_____ Decimal points must be included in the grading scale if grade cut-offs are based on percentages. While this is not a university policy it is a CALS standard practice to avoid any confusion when final grades for the course are determined.

_____ The attendance and make-up policy in a syllabus cannot contradict the university's policy. Do not include any additional wording to this policy. A statement and link regarding this are included in the CALS Syllabus Statements. For the approval process the college suggests a less is more view when it comes to this policy.

_____ The most recent version of the UF Syllabus Statements. Using the accessible syllabus template will ensure you have the most up to date statements. Do not use boilerplate statements from an old syllabus as they are likely to be out of date.

Certificates

If proposing a new undergraduate or graduate level certificate that includes any courses outside of the submitters department a statement regarding any possible impact on those courses needs to be included. An email from the instructor is acceptable. Also, any courses required for the certificate must have permanent prefixes and course numbers. The submission must include intended catalog copy. (Contact Dr. Anne Mathews (anne.mathews@ufl.edu) for further instruction)