



## **SLS 1103 and SLS 0001 Requirement Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.)**

### **What is the policy?**

*Students who test into two or more college prep areas will be required to take the four-hour (60 clock hours) SLS course (SLS 0001 – Foundations of College Success) or the three-hour (45 clock hours) college credit SLS course (SLS 1103 – Strategies for Success in College, Career and Life). Students will take the SLS course in the first or second term of enrollment at the college or after satisfying the reading requirement.*

Please note that only SLS 1103 and SLS 0001 can satisfy the requirement. Other FCCJ Student Life Skills courses cannot be used to satisfy the requirement.

### **What's the reason for the policy?**

There is ample research that proves the academic benefits of student success courses (like SLS 1103 and SLS 0001) for students who need college prep classes. Data at FCCJ also indicate that students who take these courses stay in college longer and succeed in completing their degrees more often.

### **Who is required to take the SLS 1103 or SLS 0001?**

Only students who are placed into two or more of the three college prep areas (reading, English, math) are required to take the course.

AND

The SLS requirement applies to those students who enter Florida Community College under the 2005 catalog or after, and are seeking an A.A., A.S. and/or A.A.S. degree.

### **Can a student take one of these courses even if he or she is not required to?**

Yes! We would recommend it. The SLS 1103 or 0001 course is an excellent opportunity to learn skills that will serve students in college and life. Students should be sure to check with their academic advisor to ensure that the course will fit within the needs of their program. SLS 0001 is numbered like a college prep course and will not count towards any degree but will count towards full time attendance. SLS 1103 counts towards the AA degree as an elective.

### **When did the requirement go into effect?**

The SLS Requirement policy went into effect starting in the fall 2005 term. Degree-seeking students who test into two areas of college prep and begin taking classes under the 2005-2006 catalog year (or more recently) are required to take one of the SLS courses (SLS 1103 or SLS 0001).

### **What does SLS stand for?**

SLS stands for Student Life Skills.

### **How is the SLS four-credit course (SLS 0001) different from the SLS 1103 course?**

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This course is specifically designed to help college prep students. The college credit course (SLS 1103) is 45 contact hours in length. The SLS four-credit course (SLS 0001) is 60 contact hours in length and offers more time and focus on the academic and personal skills needed for success in college. Students are not encouraged to take both of these SLS courses but rather just one.

### **Who should take the four-credit SLS course (SLS 0001)?**

There are three scenarios where a student may want to take the four-credit SLS course (*SLS 0001 – Foundations of College Success*):

*If your program doesn't allow for it:*

Students in certain college degree programs are limited in the number of college credits earned within their program of study. The four-credit version of the course allows students to take the course without adding unnecessary credit hours. Students should consult their program advisors for specific information.

*A student needs 12 credit hours to be full-time:*

If a student tested into two areas of college prep and wants to be full-time (12 hours), then he or she will most likely be taking 8 credit hours during his or her first term. By taking the SLS 0001 version of this course, the student would have a full 12 hour schedule without having to take an additional course.

*Scholarships:*

Some students on scholarship are limited in the type of courses they may take. Many of these scholarships won't allow students to take courses outside their field of study but will pay for college prep classes. See below for more information.

### **Won't this requirement delay a student's college completion?**

It might, but think of a college student's academic career as a train trip. If you were leaving today for a 10,000 mile journey, you would carefully pack all the items you need for the trip before you left.

As students begin their college career, FCCJ wants to ensure that they have the best academic voyage possible and that they're ready to fully engage, appreciate and benefit from the experience. The SLS 1103 and 0001 courses have been created to do just that. From our view, it's much better to be delayed than derailed.

### **Can a student be exempted from the SLS requirement?**

No. The college knows that this course will be beneficial to our students' academic success in college and wants provide every available tool to help our students succeed.

### **Are there any pre-requisites for the SLS courses (SLS 1103 and SLS 0001)?**

Yes. Both of the SLS courses (SLS 1103 and SLS 0001) have a co-requisite of placement into REA 0008 or higher. This means that if a student has been placed into REA 0006, then he or she must complete REA 0006 before the student may take SLS 1103 or SLS 0001.

### **Are there any scholarships that will help pay for the course SLS 1103 and SLS 0001?**

Yes, there is an SLS Scholarship. There is a scholarship available that pays for the tuition and books for the SLS 1103 and SLS 0001 courses for students who qualify.

SLS Scholarship eligibility requirements:

1. At a minimum, students must be either a GED graduate, FCCJ Adult High School Graduate, or tested into two or more college prep courses. Students must be enrolled in at least one prep course while taking SLS.

2. The student must be a freshman with fewer than 31 credits.
3. Students must file a FAFSA (Federal Application for Financial Student Aid), although they don't have to qualify for federal aid, in order to be eligible for the SLS Scholarship.
4. Unlike federal grants and loans, SLS Scholarship applicants must have a savings or checking account at a bank and direct deposit with FCCJ so that the scholarship can be disbursed to the student. Every semester students are awarded the scholarship, but don't receive the disbursement of funds because they have not set up direct deposit through one of FCCJ's Business offices. The scholarship is given in the form of reimbursement after students have paid for their SLS course. The direct deposit form can be found on the Finance Forms website:  
<http://www.fccj.edu/prospective/financialaid/forms/eftenrollform.pdf>

If the student checks the first box in the Student Authorization section of the direct deposit authorization (electronic funds transfer enrollment form) that indicates that the student is applying for the CampusEdge Bank of America account. Bank of America requires a signature card which can be found at Bank of America or at any FCCJ Business Office. Attach the signature card form to the electronic funds transfer enrollment form.

For more information about this scholarship, contact Rosemary James at 632-5021. Funding will be available on a limited basis.

#### **Do other SLS courses satisfy the requirement?**

The following courses do not satisfy the SLS Requirement for students who have placed into two or more college preparatory areas:

- SLS 1201 Personal Development
- SLS 1301 Career Planning and the World of Work
- SLS 1371 Portfolio Development for Prior Learning
- SLS 1401 Computerized Career Exploration
- SLS 1931 Selected Topics in Student Life Skills
- SLS 1932 Selected Topics in Student Life Skills
- SLS 1933 Selected Topics in Student Life Skills

#### Special Note to Encoders and Faculty for Courses that do NOT meet the SLS Requirement

Please include the following note when encoding or creating a syllabus for any one of the following courses: SLS 1201, 1301, 1371, 1401, 1931, 1932, or 1933. "This course does not satisfy the SLS Requirement for students who have placed into two or more college preparatory areas. For more information about the SLS Requirement, please check the FCCJ Catalog for the effective term of your program of study or contact an Advising and Counseling office."

#### Special Note to Encoders and Faculty for Courses that Meet the SLS Requirement

This course serves to meet the SLS Requirement for students who place into two or more college prep areas. Students need to enroll and successfully complete one SLS Requirement course (SLS 0001 or SLS 1103).

*For more information, please contact Lynne Crosby, [lcrosby@fccj.edu](mailto:lcrosby@fccj.edu), 632-5066.*