

Senate Document SD 25-45
Approved, 4/20/2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeff Nowak, Presiding Officer
FROM: Stephen Buttes, Chair
Educational Policy Committee
DATE: 03/24/2026
SUBJ: Programs Subcommittee Resolution on General Education Program – Foreign Language Classes

WHEREAS, the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) is the parent committee of the Programs Subcommittee; and,

WHEREAS, the Programs Subcommittee reviewed current policies for participation in the General Education program; and,

WHEREAS, the subcommittee has identified a needed change in the policies and proposed a solution, which it submitted to EPC for comment and review; and,

WHEREAS, EPC reviewed the proposed solution and has recommended no additional revisions;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate approve the resolution from the Programs Subcommittee as listed below.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Stephen Buttes, Chair
Educational Policy Committee
FROM: Steven Cody, Chair
Programs Subcommittee
DATE: 01/17/2026
SUBJ: General Education Program – Foreign Language Classes

WHEREAS the Programs Subcommittee “is concerned with the programs for general education and civics literacy as well the military training and continuing education programs” (Bylaws-C, III A 2.3.3);

WHEREAS the General Education program is outlined in SD23-5, which the Faculty Senate approved on January 8, 2024 and amended on March 11, 2024;

WHEREAS Purdue University Fort Wayne (PFW) is subject to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE);

WHEREAS ICHE prohibited the inclusion of Foreign Language courses offered by the Department of International Languages and Culture Studies (ILCS) from inclusion in the Foundational Intellectual Skills categories of the General Education program;

WHEREAS this prohibition occurred while the Faculty Senate was actively considering SD23-5;

WHEREAS foreign language classes subsequently moved from the Foundational Intellectual Skills categories to the Ways of Knowing categories;

WHEREAS SD23-5 states that “Ways of Knowing courses have **no prerequisites** other than Foundational Skills courses to ensure that all general education courses are accessible to students early in their college careers to students from across majors” (emphasis added);

WHEREAS ILCS is not able to remove prerequisites from their beginning and intermediate language courses because prerequisites play a unique role in ensuring student success in foreign language classes—a role that does not impact the accessibility of language courses and that is not duplicated elsewhere in the General Education program;

WHEREAS a working group comprising the chair of ILCS, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, the director of assessment, and the Programs Subcommittee has been unable to find an effective way to work around the Ways of Knowing “no prerequisites” rule for foreign language courses;

WHEREAS foreign language classes cannot be removed from the university's General Education program without creating further problems relative to ICHE's Indiana College Core program;

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate affirms the value of offering a foreign language option for students to fulfill PFW's mission as a comprehensive regional public university;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate amend SD 23-5 in the ways outlined below, where new/additional text is designated in red.

Approved

Kristin Barker
Caleb Britton
Jeff Casazza
Steven J. Cody
Damian Fleming
Kent Johnson
Tara Lewis

Opposed

Abstention

Absent

Non-Voting

The Programs Subcommittee recommends the following amendments to SD 23-5:

Page 3.

Original text:

“Ways of Knowing courses have no prerequisites other than Foundational Skills courses to ensure that all general education courses are accessible to students early in their college careers to students from across majors.”

Amended text:

“Ways of Knowing courses have no prerequisites other than Foundational Skills courses **with the exception of the beginning and intermediate foreign language courses, which may continue to use pre-requisites and their placement process.** This measure will ensure that all general education courses are accessible to students early in their college careers to students from across majors.”

Page 4.

Original text:

“Ways of Knowing courses cannot have any prerequisites other than Foundational Skills courses.”

Amended text:

“Ways of Knowing courses cannot have any prerequisites other than Foundational Skills courses **with the exception of the beginning and intermediate foreign language courses, which may continue to use pre-requisites and their placement process.**”

Page 10.

Original text:

“The application will ask for the intended Way of Knowing category, confirmation that the course has no prerequisites other than currently approved foundational skills courses...”

Amended text”

“The application will ask for the intended Way of Knowing category, confirmation that the course has no prerequisites other than currently approved foundational skills courses **(unless the course in question is a beginning or intermediate foreign language course) ...**”