

Frequently Asked Questions for Faculty and Staff Regarding the “Transitional Timeline for FQ Implementation and FS Phase-out: Mānoa Campus”

1. Why is UH Mānoa replacing the Foundations-Symbolic Reasoning (FS) requirement with the Foundations-Quantitative Reasoning (FQ) requirement?

UH Mānoa (UHM) is adopting FQ as an undergraduate requirement to ensure students graduate from UHM with a sufficient level of competence in quantitative reasoning. The Western Association for Schools and Colleges (WASC), the university’s accrediting body, has designated quantitative reasoning as one of the 5 core competencies for undergraduate education. At the request of the UHM Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the General Education Committee and Foundations Board, and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Quantitative Reasoning Working Group (QRWG) was formed at UHM in February 2014 to accomplish the following: 1) define quantitative reasoning; 2) evaluate compatibility of the FS requirement with the QR definition; 3) establish a baseline; and 4) determine current QR learning opportunities.

The QRWG ultimately determined that the FS requirement does not mandate sufficient quantitative skills. Students in non-STEM fields may graduate with little or no training in quantitative reasoning, and this lack of training can negatively impact their upper division studies as well as post-graduate success. As a result of the efforts of the QRWG (see <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/quantitative-reasoning>), the Mānoa Faculty Senate approved a resolution in April 2015 to replace the FS requirement with an FQ requirement, effective Fall 2018. A resolution to establish the FQ Hallmarks was approved by the Mānoa Faculty Senate in January 2016. In accordance with these two decisions, UHM is moving forward with an implementation plan to transition from FS to FQ.

2. What is quantitative reasoning?

In examining best practices, the QRWG, in consultation with WASC and the Mānoa Faculty Senate, established the following as its definition of competency in quantitative reasoning for UHM: “The ability to apply mathematical concepts to the interpretation and analysis of quantifiable information in order to solve a wide range of problems, from those arising in pure and applied research to everyday issues and questions. It includes the ability to do the following: apply math skills; judge reasonableness of results; understand and communicate numerical information via variables and equations, graphs and charts, words/sentences; and recognize the limits of mathematical or statistical methods.”

3. Why can’t FS courses be eliminated in Fall 2018?

Per UH policy, students are held to the general education and program requirements that are in place at the time they enter the UH System, otherwise known as the requirements of their “core year.” In recognition of this, UHM will not eliminate FS courses until Fall 2023 to provide sufficient time for these students to complete their FS requirement.

4. When are FS courses being phased out?

FS courses will continue to be offered through Summer 2023 to ensure there is adequate time for students who entered the UH System prior to Fall 2018 to complete their FS requirements, and to ensure departments have sufficient time to plan and make appropriate programmatic

changes. All faculty, particularly faculty members from departments that currently offer FS courses, are urged to carefully examine where FS courses appear in program sheets and in 4-year degree plans. Please also consider whether the students in your majors currently fulfill their FS requirement through a prerequisite course.

5. Will current students be able to choose between the FS and FQ requirements?

Students who enter the UH System prior to Fall 2018 will have the option of fulfilling FS or FQ as one of their general education requirements. Students entering the UH system in Fall 2018 and beyond are bound to the FQ requirement, and may not choose to satisfy the FS requirement instead. Students should contact their designated School/College academic or faculty advisor for more information.

6. Can students place out of the FQ requirement?

Students may continue to earn [AP](#), [CLEP](#), and [IB](#) credit per current UHM policy.

7. Are the other UH campuses adopting Quantitative Reasoning as a requirement?

All campuses within the UH System are implementing the Quantitative Reasoning requirement effective Fall 2018.

UH Mānoa and UH West O‘ahu will sunset their FS courses in Summer 2023, while the UH community colleges will sunset their FS courses in Summer 2020.

8. Will UH Mānoa offer enough FS and FQ courses to meet the needs of current and incoming students?

Yes. UHM has a timeline guiding the process of implementing the FQ requirement and phasing out FS courses to ensure this change in requirement will not hinder students from graduating in four years, per the Fifteen to Finish initiative.

The General Education Office (GEO) conducted a preliminary analysis of enrollment data and has requested additional pertinent information from STAR in order to determine how many seats must be available per semester to accommodate student need.

9. If I don't currently teach an FS course, may I develop an FQ course?

Yes. All departments are encouraged to develop FQ courses that serve the varying needs of UHM students. The QRWG website contains resources on quantitative reasoning (<http://blog.hawaii.edu/quantitativereasoning/resources/>), and the GEO has been organizing professional development workshops to assist faculty in their development efforts. Department chairs are also encouraged to communicate their plans with each other so that departments can determine whether it is in their best interest to design a new FQ course.

Please note: The FS-FQ designation is an option only for currently-approved FS courses.

10. I currently teach quantitative reasoning skills in my course. What should I know before I apply for an FQ designation?

In order to obtain an FQ designation, the department must submit a proposal to the GEO, as is practice for any department seeking a Foundations designation. The Foundations Board and General Education Committee (GEC) will review the proposal to ensure it meets the

requirements of the General Education program, particularly in adhering to the FQ Hallmarks. Other notable requirements for Foundations courses:

- The course must be introductory-level (100- or 200-level).
- The course must carry 3 credits.
- The course cannot simultaneously carry a Diversification or Focus (E, HAP, O, WI) designation.
- A UHM-1 or UHM-2 form will need to be completed.
- An assessment plan must be included in the proposal that outlines how the department will demonstrate the course has met each FQ Hallmark and learning objective.
- The proposal must be signed by the department chair.
- All Foundations designations are “course-based.” If the proposal is approved to carry the FQ designation, all instructors who teach the course will be required to teach the course with fidelity to the FQ Hallmarks.
- The department must identify a “course coordinator” who will ensure that the Hallmarks will be consistently upheld amongst all sections offered by the department.

If you believe your course meets the FQ Hallmarks, consult with your department regarding whether the course should be proposed for an FQ designation. All departments are encouraged to consider whether they are able to offer FQ courses. The FQ Hallmarks are available here: <http://blog.hawaii.edu/quantitativereasoning/definition-hallmarks/>

11. Where can I find information on other departments’ plans regarding FQ course offerings?

The list of FQ and FS-FQ courses that will be offered at UH Mānoa in Fall 2018 can be found [here](http://manoa.hawaii.edu/quantitativereasoning/implementation/) on the QRWG website: (<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/quantitativereasoning/implementation/>).

12. Where can I get more information regarding the proposal process?

Please contact the GEO at gened@hawaii.edu or 956-6660. Departments are encouraged to contact the GEO and work with the Foundations Board prior to submitting course proposals to help promote a smooth review process.

13. When will FQ course proposal forms be available?

The proposal form for AY18-19 will be posted on the UHM General Education website during Summer 2018. Please contact the General Education Office at gened@hawaii.edu for more information.

14. May I still submit a proposal for a new FS course?

No. As of October 1, 2016, new FS course proposals will no longer be accepted.

15. Will I be able to teach an FQ course earlier than Fall 2018?

No. Students will not be held to an FQ requirement until Fall 2018. As outlined in the transition timeline, the Foundations Board began reviewing new FQ course proposals in Spring 2017. For course proposals reviewed and approved by the Foundations Board prior to Fall 2018, the FQ designation will not appear in the Catalog, STAR, MyUH, or Class Availability until Fall 2018 registration begins. To avoid confusion, departments are prohibited from advertising any courses with an FQ designation until Fall 2018 registration, and students will not earn FQ credit if they take these courses prior to Fall 2018.

16. Will there be updates to this FAQ sheet?

Yes, this FAQ sheet will be updated as more information becomes available. All updates will be posted to the QRWG website (<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/quantitativereasoning/implementation/>).

In addition, you may contact the General Education Office at gened@hawaii.edu at any time.