

Paragraphs (3)(a) and (4)(b) and (c) of Rule 6A-4.003 are amended to read:

6A-4.003 Degrees, Programs, and Credits. Degrees, programs, and credits shall be determined acceptable for educator certification purposes based on the following:

(3) Highest acceptable degree level of training.

(a) The highest degree which has been awarded by an accredited or approved institution as described in Subsections (1) and (2) of this rule, shall be recognized for certification.

The degree level shall be determined by the criteria listed below.

1. Bachelor's degree. An earned bachelor's degree, such as the bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, or bachelor of education degree which normally required four (4) years of higher education; or a foreign degree that required sixteen (16) years of combined pre-university and university education; or a foreign degree that has been evaluated by ~~an~~ a Department approved nationally recognized education credential evaluation agency or an accredited or approved institution as the equivalent to a bachelor's degree from an institution as described in Subsections (1) and (2) of this rule shall be recognized as the bachelor's degree level of training.

2. Master's degree. An earned master's degree or an earned advanced bachelor's degree of a professional nature, such as library science, in combination with an earned four-year

bachelor's degree; or a post-bachelor's foreign degree that required at least five (5) years of higher education; or a foreign post-bachelor's degree that has been evaluated by ~~an~~ a Department approved nationally recognized education credential evaluation agency or an accredited or approved institution as the equivalent to a master's degree from an institution as described in Subsections (1) and (2) of this rule shall be recognized as the master's degree level of training.

3. Specialist in education degree. An earned sixth-year post-master's level degree in education, such as specialist in education degree shall be recognized as the specialist's degree level of training.

4. Doctor's degree. An earned academic or professional doctor's degree, or an earned Bachelor of Laws (LLB) or higher law degree granted by an institution of higher learning in the United States, or a foreign doctor's degree that required at least seven (7) years of higher education, or a foreign doctor's degree that has been evaluated by ~~an~~ Department approved nationally recognized education credential evaluation agency or an accredited or approved institution as the equivalent to a doctor's degree from an institution as described in Subsections (1) and (2) of this rule, shall be recognized as the doctor's degree level of training.

(4) Accreditation and acceptance of teacher education

programs for specific certification purposes.

(b) Inservice components in a Florida District Inservice Plan ~~approved by the Florida Department of Education~~. A core of inservice components prescribed for a specific endorsement and approved by the district school board ~~Department of Education~~ in the master inservice plan shall satisfy the ~~professional preparation and~~ specialization requirements for the designated endorsement. Successful completion of the components in the approved master inservice plan shall be verified by the Florida district superintendent.

(c) Teacher education programs in states other than Florida. A teacher education program at the bachelor's or higher degree level shall fulfill the general and professional preparation requirements and the specialization requirements for an academic class subject or a degreed vocational class subject in accordance with the following provisions:

1. The teacher education program shall have been granted by an accredited or a Department approved institution ~~approved for the initial regular certificate at the time of completion by the state department of education in the state where the institution is located, or by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education;~~ and

2. The major subject of the approved program shall be in a subject in which Florida offers certification; and

3. The instructional level of the major subject of the

approved program shall be comparable to or broader than the instructional level at which Florida offers certification in the subject; and

4. When a master's or higher degree is required for Florida certification in a subject, the program must have been completed at the same or higher degree level.

Specific Authority 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. Law Implemented 1001.02, 1012.54, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. History - Amended 4-20-64, 3-26-66, 4-8-68, 7-7-68, 4-11-70, 1-17-72, Repromulgated 12-5-74, Amended 6-22-76, 11-9-76, 10-12-77, 7-1-79, 1-3-82, 4-30-85, Formerly 6A-4.03, Amended 12-25-86, 9-12-89, 4-15-91, 11-25-97, 10-16-2001,