

Bachelor of Applied Science Degree Task Force

State Board of Education Meeting
Orlando, Florida
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Dr. Judith Bilsky
Vice Chancellor, DCCWE

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Vice Chancellor, FBOG

BAS Task Force

Purpose

Initiative 3.2 of the Florida Community College System Strategic Plan is:

- To establish a task force during 2005-06 to define common curricular parameters for the BAS degree with a focus on quality, consistency, and articulation

BAS Task Force Strategic Integration

BAS Task Force activities are integrated with SBOE goals and imperatives:

- Strategic Goal Number Two
 - Seamless articulation and maximum access
- Strategic Imperative Number Eight
 - Coordinate efforts to improve higher student learning

BAS Task Force Composition

- Co-chairs from FDOE and FBOG
 - Vice Chancellors Judith Bilsky and R.E. LeMon
- 20 Members (community college and SUS)
- 10 Additional, Interested Participants
- 2 Staff from Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Education

BAS Task Force Chronology

- Summer 2005—Planning
- November 9, 2005—Conference Call
- January 19, 2006—Meeting at DBCC
- May 3, 2006—Meeting at USF
- Summer 2006—Dissemination of Findings

BAS Task Force Process

- Research of existing models, statutes, rules, and policy
- Comparison of existing BAS degrees in Florida
- Identification of key characteristics and curricular parameters
- Development of definition and structures

BAS Task Force Outcomes

- Unanimous consensus on BAS definition:

The Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) is the designated degree for flexible baccalaureate programs that are designed to accommodate the unique demands for entry and advancement within specific workforce sectors. BAS programs provide degree completion opportunities for students from a variety of educational backgrounds, but primarily those with A.S. degrees or the equivalent. BAS degree programs conform to all articulation conventions (including common course prerequisites, common course numbering, and faculty credentialing in accordance with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). BAS degree programs typically include capstone experiences that provide opportunities for students to demonstrate the application of acquired knowledge, skills, and competencies.

BAS Task Force Outcomes

- ***All BAS degrees require completion of Florida's standard baccalaureate degree requirements (36 hours of General Education, College Level Academic Skills Testing, and demonstration of foreign language competence)***

- Unanimous consensus on (4) degree structure descriptions:
 - 1. Inverted Baccalaureate***
An upper-division focus on general education, electives, and an appropriate area of concentration

 - 2. General Management***
An upper-division focus on general business and management courses

BAS Task Force Outcomes

- *All BAS degrees require completion of Florida's standard baccalaureate degree requirements (36 hours of General Education, College Level Academic Skills Testing, and demonstration of foreign language competence)*

- Unanimous consensus on (4) degree structure descriptions:

3. Advanced Discipline and Management

An upper-division focus on advanced content in the discipline of the A.S. degree (or equivalent) and management courses

4. Discipline Saturation

An upper-division focus on advanced content in the discipline of the A.S. degree (or equivalent)

BAS Task Force Results

- Florida's public institutions of higher education (community colleges and SUS institutions) will now have:
 - Clear understanding of the purpose and scope of BAS degrees
 - Descriptive structures to use in developing new BAS degrees
 - Encouragement and rationale to include the applied "Capstone Experience"

BAS Task Force

The Bottom Line

- BAS degrees meet all statutory and SACS requirements for the baccalaureate
- BAS degrees comply with all statutory articulation requirements
- BAS degrees are workforce driven and typically linked to specific, existing A.S. degrees
- BAS degrees expand access to the baccalaureate and contribute to Florida's local and state economies