



# History of the Need for Baccalaureates Policy Paper

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July, 2005

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Annually Between  
2005-2020*

## The Need for More Baccalaureate Options in Florida

Florida is facing a significant challenge. The state is 46<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states in producing bachelor's degrees. At the same time, the state's economic opportunities are being reoriented from agricultural and service-based services to technology, health care, and other more sophisticated industries and services. Several studies point to the fact that Florida is experiencing a critical statewide need for trained teachers, nurses, and information technology employees, and that this need will only continue to grow throughout the next decade.

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The demand for new teachers, particularly in exceptional education, secondary math and science is by far outpacing the ability of Florida's state and private universities and colleges to keep up with the need. Approximately 20,000 teaching positions will need to be filled annually between 2005 and 2020, with a record projection of 29,000 new teachers needed in 2006-07 to meet the requirements of the constitutional class-size amendment, and a growing student population. Unfortunately, a review of the number of graduates from the State University System's Teacher Education Programs points to a ten-year decline in individuals earning degrees. In 1995-96, our state universities graduated 4,754 Education majors; in 2005-06 that number is projected to be 4,689. The independent colleges and universities in Florida (ICUF) are projected to add another 1,720 teachers to that number for a projected state total of 6,409 new teachers in 2005-06. If every one of these individuals went on to teach in Florida, the unmet need would still hover around 13,000 vacancies. However, past history indicates that only 50-60% of these graduates will become classroom teachers in Florida in the year following their graduation.

In addition to teachers, Florida projects a need for 41,548 nurses by 2011, with over 8,000 annual openings. This is critical in a state with a growing population that includes many retirees. Unlike the state's Colleges of Education, which have capacity for additional students, Florida's nursing education programs do not have sufficient capacity to serve all qualified students seeking admission. A 2005 OPPAGA report noted that at the university level, the bachelor degree nursing programs turned away 1,884 qualified applicants in 2003-04. A Department of Education survey further noted that community colleges turn away approximately 2,900 qualified students every year.

The traditional method of producing baccalaureate degrees has been to depend upon each year's high school graduates to continue in sufficient numbers to the bachelor's level, particularly directly into the nation's college and university systems. Yet increasingly the "traditional" postsecondary education student is one that has been out of high school for several years before entering college to upgrade professional skills and opportunities. Many of these "non-traditional" students are geographically bound due to family and employment responsibilities. This reality, combined with the challenge of strong competition for scarce state resources, suggests Florida must consider additional, cost-effective avenues of access to baccalaureate degree instruction and opportunities.

In recent years, alternatives to traditional baccalaureate instruction have involved creative uses of community colleges. In Florida, community colleges have a rich history of providing traditional and non-traditional students the opportunity to expand their education. Florida has been a national leader in ensuring that efforts expended in obtaining the Associate in Arts degree would transfer into the State University System and apply towards attainment of a bachelor's

degree. Most recently, concurrent-use community college partnerships with state and private universities have accelerated opportunities for baccalaureate instruction on community college campuses.

Community college partnerships with state and private universities provide cost-efficient options to improved baccalaureate degree access, especially to place-bound students. While community college enrollment has increased over the past several years, space still exists at many community colleges for partnerships. Several community colleges have built, or are building, facilities for this purpose. Projected joint-use (facilities) partnerships enrollment capacity is estimated at 7,000 (3,500 FTE) and concurrent-use enrollment capacity is estimated at 117,000 (78,000 FTE) by 2010.

(See Appendix A—Concurrent and Joint Use Partnerships)

## **History of Florida Policy Development Regarding Baccalaureate Degree Authorization for Community Colleges**

In 1998-99, the State Board of Community Colleges, the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission (PEPC) (now CEPRI), and the Senate Education Committee identified access to the baccalaureate as a major issue in Florida, and recognized community colleges as a potential option for addressing this need.

### **• 1999**

- PEPC study concluded that the establishment of a state college system was premature for the time and instead the state should consider other alternatives.
- Community College System Executive Director David Armstrong and State University System Chancellor Adam Herbert established a Concurrent-Use Task Force to identify options and opportunities to increase access to baccalaureate degrees via partnerships.
- Legislature passed legislation in which community colleges could seek approval to grant baccalaureate degrees in areas of high demand as a “last resort” when partnerships could not be established.

### **• 2000**

- New K-20 Governance Education System was adopted by the Legislature.

### **• 2001**

- In addition to traditional approaches to access throughout the state, the geographical access and open-door admissions policy of community colleges have led to statutory authorization allowing community colleges to grant baccalaureate degrees in limited, high-demand situations.
- Community Colleges Granting Baccalaureate degrees. Senate Bill 1162 placed into statute (currently s. 1007.33, F.S.) a process by which community colleges may seek approval by the State Board of Education to grant baccalaureate degrees in limited areas. Three community colleges (Chipola, Edison, and Miami Dade) engaged in the proposal process with the involvement of the Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement (CEPRI). Five million dollars was made available for the community colleges to grant baccalaureate degrees using the process established. This amount was reduced to \$3,937,600 as a result of Special Session C budget cuts.
- St. Petersburg College: Senate Bill 1162 re-established St. Petersburg Junior College as St. Petersburg College, providing authority to grant baccalaureate degrees in nursing, education, and information technology. (Section 1004.73, F.S.) \$1 million was appropriated to St. Petersburg College for this effort.

## Baccalaureate Degree History of Individual Community Colleges

Section 1007.33, F.S. established site-based baccalaureate degree access. The Legislature recognizes that economic development needs and the educational needs of place-bound, non-traditional students have increased the demand for local access to baccalaureate degree programs. Baccalaureate degree access is delivered at some community colleges through agreements between the community college and four-year postsecondary institutions, both within Florida and outside the state. Secondly, a community college may develop a proposal to offer a baccalaureate degree to meet specific local workforce needs. The proposal must be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval. Upon approval of the State Board, the community college must pursue regional accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), to change its status to a baccalaureate degree-granting institution.

The statute further stipulates that a community college may not terminate its associate in arts or associate in science degree programs, and the mission of community colleges continues to be to provide associate degrees that provide access to a university.

### Community Colleges Currently Offering Baccalaureate Degree Programs:

- ***Chipola College***

In 2002, Chipola Junior College was granted approval by the State Board of Education to offer a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education in mathematics and science. Programs in Nursing and Business Administration were also proposed (to be offered in partnership with Florida State University). The Business Administration degree did not materialize due to lack of sufficient enrollment. The Nursing program began, but the original class had low enrollment and was transferred to Florida State University's Panama City Campus for completion there. FSU eventually sought release from their agreement, and the Department of Education was notified that Chipola College had decided to dissolve the partnership.

Subsequent to the 2002 letter of agreement signed by the Commissioner of Education and the President of the college, Chipola Junior College pursued an accreditation change from SACS Commission on Colleges from Level I to Level II (baccalaureate) status. The State Board provided authority for a name change to Chipola College.

- ***Miami Dade College***

In 2002, Miami Dade Community College was granted approval by the State Board of Education to offer a baccalaureate degree in Exceptional Student Education and Secondary Education in the areas of mathematics and science.

Subsequent to the 2002 letter of agreement, The Commission on Colleges for the Association of Colleges and schools awarded membership at Level II, and the college began offering baccalaureate degrees in Secondary Science Education with concentrations in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, and Physics; Secondary Mathematics Education; and Exceptional Student Education. The 2003 Legislature approved the college's name change to Miami Dade College. In 2003, the college also submitted a letter of intent to offer a BS degree in Nursing, but a proposal has not been submitted.

- ***Okaloosa-Walton College***

In 2003, Okaloosa-Walton Community College was granted approval by the State Board of Education to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Project and Acquisitions Management. In December 2003, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools awarded the college membership at Level II. The college was officially renamed as Okaloosa Walton College. They also entered into a unique agreement with the University of West Florida to offer a BS degree in Nursing, offering a flexible, non-traditional format. The degree is to be conferred at UWF.

- ***St. Petersburg College***

In 2001, Section 1004.73, F.S. initially provided authority for St. Petersburg Community College to offer bachelor's degrees in Nursing, Elementary Education, Exceptional Student Education, Secondary Education, and Bachelor of Applied Science degrees in fields selected by the college's Board of Trustees. St. Petersburg College currently offers Bachelor of Science degrees in Elementary Education, Exceptional Student Education, Nursing, Secondary Science Education (Biology), Secondary Mathematics Education and Bachelor of Applied Science degrees in Dental Hygiene, Public Safety Administration, Technology Education, Technology Management, and Veterinary Technology.

## **Community Colleges That Were Recently Approved To Offer Baccalaureate Degrees:**

- ***Daytona Beach Community College***

In 2004, Daytona Beach Community College submitted a proposal to grant a general Bachelor of Applied Science degree. CEPRI's initial review and report did not support approval of this request, but additional information presented by the President and others at the CEPRI meeting regarding local need, did have a favorable impact. In discussion, CEPRI granted the college thirty additional days to collect information and address issues raised, to be added to the April 2005 proposal. The information was submitted, and the proposal for a BAS degree in Management and Supervision was approved at by the State Board of Education at the April 2005 meeting.

- ***Edison College***

In 2002, the State Board of Education approved funding to support an agreement between Edison Community College and Florida Gulf Coast University to offer a joint Bachelor of Science degree in Public Service Management. The program was operational from 2002 through 2004. Edison College and Florida Gulf Coast University reevaluated the baccalaureate program partnership, and with the support of both institutions, Edison College sought to offer its own degree program, independent of Florida Gulf Coast University. The proposal submitted to CEPRI and the Department of Education in 2004 was for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety Management (replacing the name Public Service Management, partially resulting from heightened need for public safety administrators and managers since 9/11. In its February, 2005 meeting, CEPRI recommended that the State Board of Education grant the authority for Edison College to offer the Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety Management. The proposal was considered and approved by the State Board of Education at the April 2005 meeting.

## **Summary of Current Community College Baccalaureate Degree Offerings**

As of January 2005, Chipola College, Miami Dade College, Okaloosa-Walton College, and St. Petersburg College offer a total of 19 baccalaureate degrees, whereby the degree is conferred by the community college. Thirteen of the programs offered are in education areas of elementary education, exceptional student education, secondary mathematics, secondary sciences, and technology. One program is a BS degree in nursing, and there are five Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degrees offered in a variety of disciplines.

(See Appendix B – Community College Baccalaureate Programs 2004-2005) also available on the web at:

[http://www.fldoe.org/cc/students/cc\\_bacc.pdf](http://www.fldoe.org/cc/students/cc_bacc.pdf)

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