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MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida College System Presidents

FROM: Kathy Hebda 

DATE: May 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-10.02413, Florida Administrative Code,
Civic Literacy Competency

DFC Memo: 2020-04

Contact: Kathy Hebda

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On May 13, 2020, the State Board of Education approved revisions to Rule 6A-10.02413, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), *Civic Literacy Competency*. When the amended rule becomes effective, Florida College System (FCS) institutions will have an additional option that students may use to demonstrate civic literacy competency. A copy of the rule is attached for your reference.

Currently, students may demonstrate competency in civic literacy through the successful completion of a course (POSX041 American Government or AMHX020 Introductory Survey Since 1877) or by achieving a passing score on an assessment, including:

- AP Government and Politics: United States;
- AP United States History; or
- CLEP: American Government.

At the time of the 2018 rule adoption, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Naturalization Test was considered, but not included because it did not meet all the competency requirements outlined in statute. After the rule's adoption, the Florida Department of Education's (FDOE) Office of Assessment partnered with the Lou Frey Institute at the University of Central Florida and the State University System to develop a 100-item test based on the naturalization test with additional questions that address the statutorily-identified competencies.

The rule amendment adds an additional assessment that FCS students may use to demonstrate postsecondary civic literacy:

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Test – Civics (U.S. History and Government) with supplemental questions (also known as the Florida Civic Literacy Test).

KATHRYN S. HEBDA
FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR

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The FDOE Office of Assessment maintains the Florida Civic Literacy Test. There is no fee for institutions to begin using the test on a local level. Institutional testing administrators may contact Katie Grissom, Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, at Katie.Grissom@fldoe.org to request a copy of the test questions and answer key. The test questions and answer key should be treated as secure material and should be shared only with those who are responsible for administering the assessment.

The test questions and answer key are being provided for planning purposes only; institutions may not begin offering the assessment until the rule becomes effective. The Division of Florida Colleges will notify institutional representatives once the rule goes into effect. After that point in time, institutions may begin administering the assessment.

Institutions administering the test should establish local policies for test administration. Each college is encouraged to review and update college catalogs, websites and other material regarding the additional mechanism students can use to fulfill this graduation requirement. A technical assistance webinar will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 2:00 PM EDT. You may register for the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6971275761621065488>.

Please contact Dr. Carrie Henderson, Executive Vice Chancellor, at Carrie.Henderson@fldoe.org for questions regarding the rule. Please contact Katie Grissom, Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, at Katie.Grissom@fldoe.org for questions regarding accessing the Florida Civic Literacy Test.

KH/chh

Attachment

cc: Dr. Carrie Henderson, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges
Dr. Mike Sfiropoulos, Director for Academic Affairs, DFC
Dr. Shanna Autry, Director for Student Affairs, DFC
Katie Grissom, Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, DFC
Rod Duckworth, Executive Director, Office of Articulation
Vince Verges, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Division of Accountability, Research,
and Measurement (ARM)
Phil Canto, Bureau Chief, Postsecondary Assessment, ARM
Council of Instructional Affairs
Council of Student Affairs
Registrars
Testing Administrators
Reports Coordinators

6A-10.02413 Civic Literacy Competency.

Prior to the award of an associate in arts or baccalaureate degree, first-time-in-college students entering a Florida College System institution in the 2018-19 school year, and thereafter must demonstrate competency in civic literacy through one of the following options prior to graduation:

(1) No change.

(2) Achieving the standard score on one of the following assessments:

Assessment	Standard Score
AP Government and Politics: United States	3
AP United States History	4
CLEP: American Government	50
<u>Beginning June 2020</u>	
<u>U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>Test – Civics (U.S. history and government) with supplemental questions</u>	

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02(1), 1007.25(4) FS. Law Implemented 1007.25 FS. History–New 6-19-18.