

Rule 6A-10.0240, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Minimum Standards for Out-of-State High School Equivalency Diplomas

**Implementation Questions and Answers
August 19, 2021**

1. What are the current statutory requirements for admissions to associate degree programs?

Per section (s.) 1007.263, Florida Statutes (F.S.), admission to associate degree programs shall require:

- A standard high school diploma;
- A State of Florida high school equivalency diploma, which is earned through the GED® test pursuant to Rule 6A-6.0201, F.A.C.;
- Previously demonstrated competency in college credit postsecondary coursework; or
- In the case of a student who is home educated, a signed affidavit submitted by the student's parent or legal guardian attesting that the student has completed a home education program.

2. Did SB 366 remove any of the current admissions minimum standards?

No. The current admissions minimum standards will still be in place. SB 366 added another option to the list of acceptable minimum standards.

3. When can colleges begin accepting the out-of-state high school equivalency diplomas?

Fall 2021.

4. Are Florida College System institutions responsible for combining test scores to determine if a student meets another state's requirements?

No. The state issuing the high school equivalency diploma is responsible for validating test scores and subtest scores prior to the issuance of the diploma. The FCS institution is only responsible for accepting the equivalency diploma.

5. Does the new rule apply for admission to career certificate programs?

No. Career certificate programs require tests to measure achievement of basic skills as specified in Rule 6A-10.040, F.A.C., Basic Skills Requirements for Postsecondary Career Certificate Education.

6. Does the new rule apply for admission to college credit certificate programs?

Statute and rule are specific to associate degree programs; however, s. 1007.263(3), F.S., specifies that "admission to other programs within the Florida College System institution shall

include education requirements as established by the board of trustees.” Therefore, institutions could choose to accept out-of-state high school equivalency diplomas for admissions purposes.

7. Does the new rule apply to admission to baccalaureate programs?

Statute and rule are specific to associate degree programs; however, s. 1007.263(3), F.S., specifies that “admission to other programs within the Florida College System institution shall include education requirements as established by the board of trustees.” Therefore, institutions could choose to accept out-of-state high school equivalency diplomas for admissions purposes. For baccalaureate programs that are built on the 2+2 model, it is likely that institutions will instead require an earned an associate degree or 60 hours of transferable credits.

8. Do home school graduates from out-of-state have to be issued a state-recognized high school equivalency diploma for admissions?

No. In the case of a student who is home educated, a signed affidavit submitted by the student’s parent or legal guardian attesting that the student has completed a home education program is the minimum standard for associate admissions.

9. Will out-of-state high school equivalency diplomas be assigned a three-digit withdrawal code?

No. The three-digit withdrawal codes are assigned to PK-12 students who are withdrawn from public schools in the state of Florida.

10. Will there be new reporting procedures to capture out-of-state high school equivalency diplomas?

Yes. Within the Student Database, Data Element 1008, High School Graduation Code, will be modified to add a new Table Value (S).

11. When will colleges be required to use the new table value?

It is expected the data element will be implemented beginning in spring 2022 (T3). More information about the change will be made available at the fall 2021 MISATFOR meeting.