



Florida Department of Education Rule Updates

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
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Agenda

- General Education Core Courses
- Civic Literacy Competency
- Other Rule Updates



General Education Core Course Options

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6A-14.0303, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) – General Education Core Course Options

- On October 20, 2021, the State Board of Education approved revisions to Rule 6A-14.0303, General Education (GE) Core Course Options. This rule amendment is in accordance with Section (s.) 1007.25, Florida Statutes (F.S.), as modified by House Bill 1507, which passed during the 2021 Legislative Session.
- **Purpose/Effect:** This amended rule states that beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter, students entering a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13), F.S., must complete at least one identified core course in each subject area as part of the general education course requirements before a degree is awarded.
- **Institutional Action Required:** Each institution should review the statutory and rule requirements and update their existing policies and procedures to comply with the new provisions. This may include updating institutional catalogs, degree plans and websites, informing admissions advisors and modifying reporting mechanisms.

To whom does the General Education Core Course Options requirement apply?

For students entering in:	General Education Core Course requirement applies to:	In the following programs:
2015-16 through 2021-22	First-time-in-college students (FTIC) entering FCS and SUS institutions	Associate in Arts, Baccalaureate
2022-23 and each academic year thereafter	Students entering FCS and SUS institutions under the 2022-23 catalog year (and beyond).	Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Applied Science, Baccalaureate

Rule Language

6A-14.0303 General Education Core Course Options.

(1) 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 Fall Term, 2015, and thereafter must complete at least one (1) course from each of the general education subject areas listed in this section. Beginning in the 2022-23 academic year and thereafter, students entering associate in arts, associate in science, or associate in applied science, or baccalaureate degree programs must complete at least one (1) course from each of the general education subject areas listed in this section prior to the awarding of their degree.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Will any new courses be added to the GE Core listings in the rule?**

At this time, the Department does not plan to expand the current list of courses identified as meeting the General Education Core requirements. We will continue to evaluate the courses and work with institutions to determine if new General Education Core Courses need to be identified in the future. Should it be determined that amendments to the identified courses are necessary, the Department will work in conjunction with the State University System and follow the process established in s. 1007.25, F.S., and appoint faculty committees to identify additional courses for inclusion.

- **How will this change impact a student's ability to transfer to a baccalaureate program after completing their Associate in Science (AS) degree?**

Baccalaureate program students are currently required to meet this requirement. The addition of this requirement to the AS program is beneficial to the student in that it eliminates the student's need to meet this requirement after they enroll at an SUS institution.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Will the program length associated with state curriculum frameworks be altered in 2022-23 as a result of this statutory change?**

No. The standard program length associated with the state curriculum frameworks will not be altered because the minimum number of general education courses (15) required for each Associate in Applied Science (AAS) or AS degree has not changed. The statutory and associated rule change is limited to the general education component that comprises each AAS and AS program of study offered by an institution. HB 1507 modified s. 1007.25, F.S., to amend requirements for students completing an AAS or AS degree and requires students entering a technical education degree program in the 2022-2023 academic year, and thereafter, to complete at least one identified core course in each subject area as part of the general education course requirements before a degree is awarded.

- **Do institutions have local discretion to exceed the program length in the frameworks?**

Lower division career and technical education programs/curriculum frameworks (career certificate, applied technology diploma, college credit certificate, AAS degree and AS degree) are adopted by the State Board of Education on an annual basis as part of Rule 6A-6.0571, F.A.C. In addition to the adoption of the program learning outcomes (program standards and benchmarks), each program has a standard program length, which may not be exceeded irrespective of the program type.

- **How will this new rule impact financial aid?**

As the standard program length for curriculum frameworks will not be altered, this would not affect financial aid disbursements for such programs.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **The rule amendment says FTIC students entering an FCS institution. What if a student, who is first entering the FCS, is NOT an FTIC student but has completed several general education courses elsewhere?**

Students entering an FCS institution beginning in the 2022-23 will be required to meet the general education core requirement. This includes students who transfer into an FCS institution from outside of the FCS. Students that enter an FCS institution prior to the 2022-23 academic year will not be required to meet the requirement.

- **Will the AS/AAS also have to meet new civic literacy requirement with POS 2041 or AMH 2020 AND assessment?**

Yes, students entering an AAS or AS program beginning under the 2022-23 catalog will be required to meet the civic literacy requirements as provided in 6A-10.02413, F.A.C. The current rule will be updated to include these students in Spring 2022. Institutions should consider requiring either POS X041 or AMH X020 for students to meet the Social Science general education core and civic literacy requirements.



Civic Literacy Competency

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Background

- On October 20, 2021, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved revisions to Rule 6A-10.02413, F.A.C., Civic Literacy Competency.
- This rule amendment is in accordance with s. 1007.25, F.S., which was modified by Senate Bill 1008 (Chapter No. 2021-157, Laws of Florida), that passed during the 2021 legislative session.
- Previously, associate in arts and baccalaureate degree first-time-in-college students could 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.

Rule Amendment

The rule amendment specifies, beginning in 2021-22, and thereafter:

- Both an assessment and a course are required to meet the civic literacy competency requirements for A.A. and baccalaureate students.
- The Florida Civic Literacy Examination (FCLE) is a new low-cost option that students may use to meet the assessment requirement.
- High school students who take the U.S. Government course and pass the FCLE will have met the postsecondary civic literacy assessment requirement.
- Students must be provided opportunities to engage synchronously in political discussions.
- Credit earned through articulated acceleration mechanisms counts toward the course requirement and the assessment requirement, if the assessment is identified in rule.

Action Required

- Each college should review the statutory and rule requirements and update their existing policies and procedures to comply with the provisions. This may include updating institutional catalogs and websites, informing admissions advisors and modifying reporting mechanisms.
- Please note, the division anticipates entering into rule development in spring 2022 to add the civic literacy requirement as a condition of associate in science/associate in applied science degree completion. It is expected the changes would take effect for the 2022-23 academic year to coincide with general education changes from House Bill 1507.

Frequently Asked Questions

- To whom does the civic literacy requirement apply?**

For students entering in:	The civic literacy requirement applies to:	In the following programs:	These students must:
2018-19 – 2020-21	First-time-in-college students	A.A. Baccalaureate	Pass a course OR pass an assessment
2021-22	Students entering FCS under 2021-22 catalog year*	A.A. Baccalaureate	Pass a course AND pass an assessment
2022-23**	Students entering FCS 2022-23 catalog year	A.S. A.A.S.	Pass a course AND pass an assessment

* There is not a state requirement governing policy on catalog year in effect for returning students. Policies and procedures relating to assigning catalog years are left to institutions to determine.

** The Florida Department of Education (Department) anticipates entering into rule development to add the civic literacy requirement as a condition of A.S./A.A.S. degree completion to coincide with general education changes from House Bill 1507, which will be effective with the 2022-23 catalog year.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Does “initially entering” mean the same thing as first-time-in-college (FTIC)?**

No. The rule that is applicable for 2018-19 to 2020-21 specified the requirement was limited to FTIC students. Since the statute does not specify the civic literacy requirements are limited to that small population, the FTIC language was removed for 2021-22 students and beyond. This ensures students who are entering under 2021-22 catalog years will meet the statutory intent to demonstrate civic literacy competency.

- **How does the amended rule apply to previously dual enrolled, transfer, and out-of-state students?**

The new civic literacy requirement applies to students who are entering into A.A. and baccalaureate programs under the 2021-22 catalog year, regardless of prior postsecondary coursework. This includes formerly dual enrolled, transfer and out-of-state students. Students who have previously achieved a passing score on an approved assessment or passed an approved course will have met the assessment requirement or coursework requirement, respectively, and will not need to re-take assessments or courses.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the relationship between changes to general education core courses and updates to the civic literacy competency requirement as it relates to A.S./A.A.S. students?**

The Department anticipates entering into rule development in spring 2022 to add the civic literacy requirement as a condition of A.S./A.A.S. degree completion. It is expected these changes would apply to A.S./A.A.S. students entering under the 2022-23 catalog year, to coincide with general education changes from House Bill 1507. As institutions are modifying their course sequencing and curricula to align with general education core courses, they are encouraged to consider the civic literacy course requirement, which can be fulfilled through POSX041 American Government or AMHX020 Introductory Survey Since 1877.

- **Does the final exam in AMHX020 or POSX041 count toward meeting the assessment requirement?**

No. Because final exams in courses are not approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE), they do not count toward the assessment requirement. These students would still be required to pass an approved assessment in Rule 6A-10.02413, F.A.C.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **When will the FCLE be available for institutional use and what is the cost?**

The revised FCLE was made available on October 25, 2021 and can be administered through August 5, 2022. The administration window will be expanded even further for 2022-2023.

The FCLE is offered at no cost to institutions. However, institutions are free to determine if there are other costs to recover related to their own implementation.

- **Will there be online test preparation resources?**

Yes. All of the preparation material available for the current form applies to the newer form. Such materials can be accessed at the Postsecondary Civics Literacy page on the FDOE website. The Department will be working internally and with partners in the field to produce and publish additional study materials, including a dedicated FCLE practice test. Study materials will be validated by SMEs external to the Department, will align to the competencies and will be at the same level of rigor and complexity of the items seen by examinees. Examinees or staff members who would like to become familiar with the CAI testing platform can access the Civics EOC Practice Test found here:

<https://flpt.tds.cambiumast.com/student/?a=Student>.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can institutions set up the assessment in their learning management systems?**

No. The FCLE will need to be offered through the institution's testing center or in an otherwise proctored environment via the CAI computer-based testing system.

- **If high school students pass the FCLE, will they have fulfilled both the assessment and the course requirements?**

No. Students who pass the FCLE in high school will still be required to pass an approved course once they enter the FCS.

- **How will FCS institutions know if a student passed the FCLE while enrolled in a public high school?**

Effective October 4, 2021, the Florida Automated System for Transferring Education Records (FASTER) Interdistrict/Secondary Transcript was updated under I/S01 – Demographic Record, Item 39g. A value of 'Y' indicates the student earned a passing score on the FCLE. These students will have met the postsecondary civic literacy assessment requirement.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How will institutions know if transfer students from an FCS or SUS institution met the civic literacy competency requirement at their previous institution?**

FASTER is developing two new indicators to track student progress toward meeting these new requirements. As noted below, field 11b is specific to the 2018-19 through 2020-21 student cohorts. Fields 11e and 11f are being developed to implement the new requirement that a student complete both a course and an assessment. Deployment of the new civic literacy fields is anticipated for early December 2021.

- **How will the new requirements affect state reporting?**

Currently, completion of the civic literacy competency requirement is captured in the Student Database, Data Element 1065. Upon review of data submissions since this data element's inception, the Department noted concerns with data integrity. Further, the modifications to the rule make capturing demonstration of competency a condition of graduation. Given this information, the Department is sunsetting this data element. In T2E for reporting year 2021-22, edits related to Data Element 1065 will change from critical to informational. Data Element 1065 will be removed from state reporting in T1E for reporting year 2022-23. Additional information about the sunset of this data element will be transmitted to reports coordinators.

Resources

- [DFC Memorandum 2021-12: Civic Literacy Competency Rule Approval](#)
- [Civic Literacy FAQs](#)
- [Rule 6A-10.02413, Civic Literacy Competency](#)



Other Rule Updates

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Repeal of 6A-14.058 – Athletics

- **Purpose/Effect:** This rule specifies that FCS institutions are prohibited from offering intercollegiate football.
- **Why Considered for Repeal:** No specific authority for rulemaking.
- **Effect of Repeal:** FCS institutions may continue to offer intercollegiate athletics at the discretion of their District Boards of Trustees under s. 1001.64(8), F.S.
- **Date of SBE Action:** October 20, 2021.

Repeal of 6A-14.0491 – Instructional Personnel – Availability to Students

- **Purpose/Effect:** This rule specifies that each FCS institution is required to establish a policy on the availability of instructional personnel to students.
- **Why Considered for Repeal:** No specific authority for rulemaking.
- **Effect of Repeal:** District Boards of Trustees may establish institutional policies related to instructional personnel availability, pursuant to s. 1001.64(18), F.S.
- **Date of SBE Action:** October 20, 2021.

Repeal of 6A-14.0302 – Military Service

- **Purpose/Effect:** This rule specifies procedures that FCS institutions must follow relating to credit for prior military experience, courses and training. It also references priority course registration for veterans.
- **Why Considered for Repeal:** House Bill 171 (2020) created a requirement for the uniform awarding of credit. SBE will adopt a new rule governing military credit and an equivalency list that all institutions must use. This new rule, which also applies to career centers and state universities, will replace Rule 6A-14.0302, FAC.
- **Effect of Repeal/Replacement:** FCS institutions will be required to amend local policies and procedures to comply with the new rule (anticipated February 2022). The priority course registration is still required pursuant to s. 1004.075, F.S.
- **Date of SBE Action (Anticipated):** February 9, 2022.

Amendment to 6A-14.092, Textbook Affordability

- **Purpose/Effect:** This rule specifies textbook affordability policies and reporting requirements.
- **Why Considered for Amendment:** To update components of the rule based on FDOE Inspector General recommendations.
- **Effect of Amendment:** Removes the 75-day rule language; adds provisions to align with s. 1004.085(5), F.S.; provides reasonable exceptions to meeting the 45-day requirement; clarifies reporting requirements; and makes other technical changes.
- **Date of SBE Action (Anticipated):** Rescheduled from October 20, 2021, to February 9, 2022.
 - The new proposed rule language is very similar to the version [workshopped](#) on August 17, 2021. The only substantive revision is the removal of language that would allow chief academic officers to make exceptions to the 45-day requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Amendment to 6A-10.0315, Common Placement Testing and Instruction

- **Purpose/Effect:** This rule specifies the test scores a student must achieve to demonstrate readiness to perform college-level work.
- **Why Considered for Amendment:** Senate Bill 366 amended multiple Florida Statutes to expand the mechanisms institutions may use to assess readiness for college-level work. SBE is required to adopt rules to develop and implement alternative methods for assessing communication and computation skills.
- **Effect of Amendment:** FCS institutions may use approved alternative methods in lieu of or in addition to common placement test to determine college readiness for dual enrollment, developmental education, admissions and meta-major advising.
- **Date of SBE Action (Anticipated):** February 9, 2022.
 - A rule workshop will be held Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 3:30 p.m. EDT via Gotowebinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1745102392967927052>

Resources

- [Repeal of 6A-14.058 – Athletics](#)
- [Repeal of 6A-14.0491 – Instructional Personnel – Availability to Students](#)
- [Postsecondary Credit for Military Courses & Occupations](#)
- [Rule 6A-14.092, Textbook Affordability](#)
- [Rule 6A-10.0315, Common Placement Testing and Instruction](#)



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Q&A