

Articulation Coordinating Committee Policy Regarding the Evaluation and Awarding of Credit for Prior Military Training

Background

House Bill 171 (2020) was signed by Governor DeSantis on June 23, 2020. This bill amends section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, and requires the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, to create a process for the uniform award of postsecondary credit or career education clock hours to certain service members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

The workgroup tasked with this effort is composed of the following 13 members:

- The **chair of the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC)**, or his or her designee, who shall serve as chair.
- **Four members representing academic affairs administrators and faculty from state universities**, appointed by the chair of the Board of Governors.
- **Four members representing academic affairs administrators and faculty from Florida College System institutions**, appointed by the chair of the State Board of Education.
- **Two members representing faculty from career centers**, appointed by the State Board of Education.
- **Two members representing veterans**, appointed by the executive director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The intent of the legislation is to provide for the uniform evaluation and award of credit at all public Florida postsecondary institutions.

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Section 1.0: Introduction

The policy regarding credit for military training in Florida is composed of several layers, including state statute, rule and regulation of the two higher education governing boards in Florida, and statewide guidelines developed by college, university, career center administrators and veteran representatives as members of the Articulation Coordinating Committee subcommittee for Military Credit in conjunction with, the Florida Department of Education, and the State University System of Florida Board of Governors (Board of Governors). *For purposes of this manual and according to section (s.) 1004.096, Florida Statutes (F.S.), "Institution of higher education (IHE)" refers to any charter technical career center as defined in s. 1002.34, career center operated by a school district as defined in s. 1001.44, Florida College System institution as defined in s. 1000.21(3), or state university as defined in s. 1000.21(6).*

1.1 Military Credit Statute

Insert s. 1004.096, as appropriate once published

1.2 Articulation Coordinating Committee Policy

Develop overall policy statement regarding the award of credit for military training.

1.3 Rules and Regulations

Section 1009.26, Florida Statutes—Fee Waivers

State Board Rule 6A-14.0302, F.A.C.—Credit for Military Service

Board of Governors Regulation 6.013—Military Veterans and Active Duty

Board of Governors Regulation 6.006(2)—Acceleration Mechanisms

1.4 Guidelines

The guidelines included in this manual are intended to assist postsecondary institutions in the evaluation of military training for the award of either career clock hour or college credit in the absence of specific statewide credit awards as provided in *the Credit for Military Training Equivalency List* published by the Office of Articulation and approved by the State Board of Education and Board of Governors.

Section 2.0: Basic Provisions

2.1 Eligible Military Service Training

Training for military service members is highly structured. Formal training begins with initial entry into the armed forces (basic training) and continues to more advanced training opportunities specific to the job functions the member performs. While some training opportunities may be available to members of different military branches, trainings are primarily conducted by the branch in which the member serves. Types of training eligible for college credit include:

Basic or initial training

Basic training is completed by all members of the military branches, regardless of the member's rank or job. This training is designed to establish basic military skills and includes topics such as land navigation, marksmanship, military discipline, physical fitness and wellness.

Occupational

Referred to as Advanced Individual Training (AIT), this training provides service members with the technical skills relevant to their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). The skills learned during this training are pertinent to specific jobs. Members of the various branches may hold similar job titles, however the occupational training they receive will be related to the functions of the position as it is relevant to a particular branch.

- Army: Advanced Individual Training School
- Navy: Navy "A" School
- Marine: Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) School
- Air Force: Air Force Technical Training
- Coast Guard: Coast Guard "A" School

Leadership Training and Professional Development

Military branches require training that builds leadership skills as members progress through their military careers. The skills developed during these trainings assist members in the military occupations and may be utilized in civilian careers as well. Members receive instruction in topics including leadership, critical thinking and problem solving skills, professionalism, and managerial practices.

2.2 Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Credit awarded for military experience and training as defined in s. 1004.096, F.S. should not be included in a student's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) calculation for financial aid purposes.

2.3 Excess Credit Hours

In accordance with s. 1009.286(4), Florida Statutes, credits awarded for military experience and training as defined in s. 1004.096, F.S. and identified by this committee will not be calculated as hours required for required to complete a baccalaureate degree for the purposes of excess credit hours.

Section 3.0: PROCEDURES FOR CREDIT EVALUATIONS

3.1 Definitions

American Council on Education (ACE): A membership organization intended to assist the higher education community in shaping effective public policy. ACE currently works under a contract from the Department of Defense (DOD) for the reviewing of military training courses and occupations to provide guidance for the awarding of college credit.

Basic Training: Training that establishes a baseline of military skills. Topics include, but are limited to: land navigation, marksmanship, physical fitness, understanding military discipline. Also referred to as initial entry training. This training is completed by all new military members.

Career Education Clock Hour: A clock hour is the unit assigned to course or course equivalent learning that is part of an organized and specified program leading to an Applied Technology Diploma (ATD) or a Career and Technical Certificate. It applies to postsecondary adult career courses as defined in section 1004.02(25), F.S. One (1) clock hour is based on the learning expected from the equivalent of thirty (30) hours of instruction.

College Credit Hour: Credit leading to an associate in arts degree, an associate in applied science degree, an associate in science degree or a baccalaureate degree authorized pursuant to s. 1007.33, F.S.

Joint Special Operations University (JSOU): Institution of higher education established in 2000 by USSOCOM commander, Army General Peter Schoomaker. Provides leadership education at operational and strategic levels. Instruction includes formal: mobile education team (MET), distance learning (DL), and professional military education (PME). JSOU is open to members of all of the armed forces branches. JSOU does participate in the Statewide Course Numbering System (SCNS) on a limited basis.

Leadership Training (Professional Development): Trainings that build leadership skills as a member progresses through their military career. Topics include, but are not limited to: collaboration, people-managerial practices, professionalism, strategic thinking. These trainings are required throughout a member's period of service.

Military Connected Person: Any person who is affiliated with any of the branches of the armed services by their own service, or the service member member's dependent(s).

Military Occupation Specialty (MOS): Job performed by a service member during their period of duty.

Occupational: Training in which a service member acquires technical skills relevant to their military occupation specialty.

Service Member: Any person who is currently serving in the armed services (Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, or Navy) and anyone currently serving as active duty in the National Guard, or Reserve component.

Student Veteran: Any person currently attending a postsecondary institution that has military experience- either currently serving or discharged.

Veteran: A service member that has separated from the military branch after a period of service.

3.2 Course Hours to College Credit Calculations

3.3 Evaluation Procedures

3.4 Core vs. Elective Credit

Whenever possible institutions should prioritize the awarding credit first to meeting the general education requirements for a postsecondary degree or certificate. Next credit that is applicable towards the requirements of a student's chosen major or area of study. Lastly credit that may be used for the fulfillment of elective credit only.

Section 4.0: ARTICULATION OF CREDIT

4.1 Credit Classification for Transcripts Purposes

4.2 Use of Credit

4.3 Transfer of Credit

College credit or career education clock hours awarded in accordance with the minimum postsecondary credit and clock requirements, as provided in this policy, are guaranteed to transfer to other state universities, Florida College Institutions, and career centers. Credit and clock hours awarded by an institution for military training and occupations will be accepted by the receiving institution, even if the institution does not offer the course number as identified in the Statewide Course Numbering System. The application of the credit awarded to general education, prerequisite, and degree programs may vary at the receiving institution.