

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Innovation and Online Committee
January 22, 2015

SUBJECT: Competency-Based Education

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The report presented in the previous agenda item, *The Costs of Online Learning: Complete Florida Degree Initiative*, mentions “competency-based programs.” Dr. Pam Northrup will further explain the concept in this presentation.

The U.S. Department of Education has a topic page (<http://www.ed.gov/oii-news/competency-based-learning-or-personalized-learning>) that explains the term as follows:

Transitioning away from seat time, in favor of a structure that creates flexibility, allows students to progress as they demonstrate mastery of academic content, regardless of time, place, or pace of learning.

Some competency-based models use the traditional course-and-term structure to award credit, and others use direct assessment models that allow students to progress toward degrees by demonstrating mastery over the competencies that define that degree. Accreditation standards, federal financial aid policies, and the reconfiguring of programs into competency-based modules are challenges that must be addressed by institutions wishing to implement direct assessment models.

Supporting Documentation Included: None

Facilitators/Presenters: Dr. Pam Northrup