

**FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT**

**DATE:** June 25, 2009

**REGULATION NUMBER AND TITLE:** Regulation 6.017 - Criteria for Awarding the Baccalaureate Degree

**SUMMARY:** Revisions to BOG Regulation 6.017 - Criteria for Awarding the Baccalaureate Degree have been necessitated by action of the 2009 Legislature which repealed section 1008.29, Florida Statutes, relating to the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) and eliminated funding for the test. New language in section 1007.25, F.S. now requires that the State Board of Education, in conjunction with the Board of Governors, establish minimum scores on nationally standardized examinations and college courses that can be used to demonstrate the required college level academic skills. Colleges and universities are prohibited from awarding of an associates or baccalaureate degree to students who do not meet established criteria. This draft regulation serves as a starting point for developing new state-level policies that ensure students are achieving college level academic skills by adopting relevant requirements in existing State Board of Education rule, and in various state university policies and regulations.

**FULL TEXT OF THE REGULATION IS INCLUDED WITH THIS NOTICE.**

**AUTHORITY TO AMEND REGULATION(S):** Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; BOG Regulation Development Procedure dated March 23, 2006.

**THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS' OFFICIAL INITIATING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATION:** Richard P. Stevens, Director, Academic and Student Affairs

**COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO THE CONTACT PERSON IDENTIFIED BELOW.** The comments must identify the regulation on which you are commenting:

General Counsel, Board of Governors, State University System, 325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1614, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, (850) 245-0466 (phone), (850) 245-9685 (fax), or [generalcounsel@flbog.edu](mailto:generalcounsel@flbog.edu).

## 6.017 Criteria for Awarding the Baccalaureate Degree

(1) Except as approved by the Board of Governors, all students receiving a baccalaureate degree within the State University System must meet the following graduation requirements:

(a) Completion of thirty-six (36) semester hours of general education courses in the subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences, including:

1. Six (6) semester hours of English coursework and six semester hours of additional coursework in which the student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments. Each institution shall designate the courses that fulfill the writing requirements of this section. Students awarded college credit in English based on their demonstration of writing skills through dual enrollment, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate instruction shall be considered to have satisfied this requirement to the extent of the college credit awarded.

2. Six (6) semester hours of mathematics coursework at the level of college algebra or higher. Applied logic, statistics and other computation-based coursework that may not be offered by a mathematics department may be used to fulfill three (3) of the six (6) hours required by this section. Students awarded college credit based on their demonstration of mathematics skills at the level of college algebra or higher through dual enrollment, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate instruction shall be considered to have satisfied this requirement to the extent of the college credit awarded.

(b) Completion of a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) credit hours through university coursework, acceleration mechanisms, and/or transfer credit.

~~(c) Presentation of passing scores on all four (4) subtests of the College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) or documented waiver of this requirement.~~ Beginning July 1, 2009, demonstrate college-level proficiency in English Language Skills, Reading, and Essay and computation skills previously tested by the College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) four-part subtests. These requirements may be met as follows:

1. Students may meet the computation skills requirement by earning a quantitative score of five hundred (500) or above on the SAT Reasoning Test, recentered SAT I, or its equivalent; a score of twenty-one (21) or above on the Enhanced or original ACT in mathematics; or a 2.5 grade point average in two (2) courses for a minimum of six (6) semesters hours of credit from one of the options below:

a. Option 1: MACX102 College Algebra or any other MAC course

with the last three digits being higher than 102; MGFX106 Liberal Arts Mathematics I, MGFX107 Liberal Arts Mathematics II, MGFX202 Finite Mathematics or any other MGF courses with the last three digits being higher than 202; or STAX014 Statistical Methods or any other statistics-based course.

b. Option 2: MGFX106 Liberal Arts Mathematics I and MGFX107 Liberal Arts Mathematics II; MGFX113 Topics in College Mathematics I; MGFX114 Topics in College Mathematics II; or MGFX118 Mathematics CLAST Review.

c. Option 3: MGFX106 Liberal Arts Mathematics I or MGFX113 Topics in College Mathematics I, and MACX102 College Algebra or MACX105 College Algebra.

2. Students may meet the English Language Skills, Reading, and Essay requirement by earning a 500 on the Verbal section of the recentered SAT-I or the Reading SAT Reasoning Test or its equivalent. Students who have earned a score of 22 or above on the Enhanced ACT program in Reading or a score of 20 or above on the Composite of the original ACT, meet the Reading requirement. Students who have earned a score of twenty-one (21) or above on the ACT in English, or a score of twenty (20) or above on the original ACT, meet the English Language Skills and Essay requirement. Students who have earned a 2.5 grade point average in two (2) courses for a minimum of six (6) semester hours of credit from ENCX101 and ENCX102 or equivalent courses that demonstrate college-level English Language, Reading, and Essay skills requirements.

3. Students who are unable to meet the requirements in subsection(s) 1. and/or 2. may apply for and receive a waiver. The committee reviewing the request shall review the student's academic records and such other information as appropriate. If a waiver is approved, the student's transcript shall include a statement that the student did not meet the requirements of this subsection and that a college academic skills waiver was granted. The student must have achieved a 2.0 grade point average in the coursework within the same subject area(s) for which the waiver is sought.

If the student has completed instructional programs for English as a second language or English as a foreign language with a minimum grade point average of 2.0 in all college credit courses in the skill area for which a waiver is being considered, and has met the requirements

of Board of Governors Resolution adopting 6A-10.030 (Gordon Rule) for that area, then a waiver may be considered.

a. Any student with a documented specific learning disability (SLD) by the student disability office may apply for a waiver through the appropriate dean to a committee appointed by the president or chief academic office for special consideration. The student shall have the right to appeal the findings of the committee directly to the president of the university or his or her designee.

b. Any other student, including those students with other documented disabilities, may apply for a waiver through a process determined by the university. The committee hearing these requests shall be chaired by the Provost or his or her designee and include four president-appointed members including a university test administrator and three faculty members (one from an English Department, one from a Mathematics Department, and the third from a department other than English or Mathematics). Students with disabilities other than SLD should seek appropriate test and classroom accommodations prior to requesting waiver consideration.

If the committee described above recommends by majority vote that a waiver be given for a specified skill area, such recommendation shall be accompanied by documentation that the student has acquired the skills to the level required and statements of explanation or justification to be considered by the president or his or her designee who then may approve or disapprove the recommendation.

4. Students who were exempt from any of the CLAST subtests, have passed any of the CLAST subtests, or had one or more of the CLAST subtests waived prior to July 1, 2009, will be deemed to have met the requirements of this subsection in those designated areas. Students transferring to a university whose transcripts reflect that they have met, or have received a waiver of, any of the requirements in this subsection will be deemed to have satisfied the requirements in those designated areas.

(2) In addition to meeting system-wide graduation requirements, students must meet university and programmatic graduation requirements.

(3) At New College of Florida contracts and independent study projects take the place of credit hours and grades. Working with professors, students design a course of study that parallels their interests and establish contracts each semester that specify academic activities and how student achievement will be evaluated. Students also complete three month-long independent study projects and a senior thesis or senior project. The requirements for earning a Bachelor's degree at New College of Florida are satisfactory completion of the following: seven contracts, three independent study projects, the liberal arts curriculum requirements, a senior thesis or project, and a baccalaureate exam.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const., History -- Formerly 6C-6.17, 8-9-83, 8-11-85, 9-28-86, 10-19-88, 11-27-95, Amended and Renumbered 1-29-09.