

FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT

DATE: June 27, 2016

REGULATION NUMBER AND TITLE: 8.014 Bachelors' Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirements.

SUMMARY: Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, require that baccalaureate degrees not exceed 120 credit hours in length unless approved to do so by the Board of Governors. Regulation 8.014 establishes the criteria and process for approval of baccalaureate degree programs to exceed the statutory limit. The proposed amendments to this regulation will:

1. Clarify that exception applies to the degree program and all of its majors as defined by Regulation 8.011;
2. Establish a process for identifying approved exceptions in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory;
3. Provide flexibility for universities to make incremental adjustments when necessary to a credit hour length previously approved; and
4. Authorize the Chancellor to establish an administrative process to review university requests for incremental adjustments.

FULL TEXT OF THE REGULATION IS INCLUDED WITH THIS NOTICE.

AUTHORITY TO PROPOSE 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 REGULATION: Richard Stevens, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs.

COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED REGULATION 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.

8.014 Bachelors' Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirement

(1) ~~In accordance with the requirements of Section 1007.25, F.S.,~~ The Board of Governors may approve a request by a university board of trustees for a bachelor's degree program to exceed 120 credit hours to degree. Programs may be approved for the following reasons:

- (a) Additional courses are required to meet specialized accreditation standards for program content and such accreditation is expected or required for program graduates to become employed in the profession for which they are being prepared (e.g. Engineering, Architecture); or
- (b) Additional courses are required to meet state or federal mandated criteria for professional licensing (e.g., Teacher Education); or
- (c) The degree program offers a unique and innovative learning experience, such as honors programs, individualized study, and other non- traditional approaches to education.

(2) Approval to exceed 120 credit hours to degree applies to the degree program and each of its majors as defined in Board of Governors Regulation 8.011 New Academic Program Authorization. In the request for approval, the university must identify all majors within the degree program and the number of credit hours required for each major. The highest number of credit hours will be recorded in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory and used for state-level accountability calculations. Universities shall not implement majors within a degree program that exceed the recorded maximum number of credit hours for the degree program without following the processes described herein, as appropriate.

(3) The Board recognizes that degree program curricula are dynamic and often require revision to meet new accreditation standards, state or federal mandates, or the incorporation of emerging knowledge within the discipline. For this reason each university is authorized to make incremental adjustments when necessary to the credit hour length of bachelor's programs previously approved to exceed 120 credit hours without seeking additional board approval. To ensure state-level data accuracy, each university shall report any such changes in the credit hour length to the Board of Governors Office prior to implementation of the change.

(4) The Chancellor is authorized to establish an administrative process to review university requests for incremental adjustments to the recorded maximum number of credit hours for bachelor's degree programs previously approved to exceed 120 credit hours to degree.

- (a) The process shall set thresholds for incremental adjustments that do not require Board of Governors approval, and adjustments that do require Board of Governors approval. Any adjustment that will extend the number of semesters required to complete a degree program must be approved by the Board of Governors in advance of implementation.
- (b) Degree programs that revert to 120 credit hours to degree at any time must follow

the appropriate process herein to exceed 120 credit hours.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const., ~~1007.25, F.S.~~; History: New 3-29-07; Amended _____