



Florida Department of Education Updates

Florida College System Joint Councils
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Department of Education Updates

- Division of Florida Colleges (DFC or Division)
 - Academic Affairs
 - Student Affairs
 - Workforce and Academic Alignment
 - Research and Analytics
 - Florida Student Success Center
- Office of Articulation
- Division of Career and Adult Education



Division of Florida Colleges



Academic Affairs

Required Annual Academic Calendar

- Rule 6A-10.019, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), requires each Florida College System (FCS) institution to adopt and submit to the Florida Department of Education (Department) an annual academic calendar that meets the common entry period requirements. Specifically, the first day of classes must fall on or within each of the three periods listed below, unless an exception is granted:
 - August 10 and August 31 (Fall)
 - January 2 and January 11 (Spring)
 - May 1 and May 16 (Summer)
- The Division of Florida Colleges (Division) sent out a memo on December 10, 2024, outlining the requirements and submission process.
- Colleges must submit their 2025-26 academic calendar by June 30, 2025.

2025 (2023-24) Baccalaureate Accountability Review Update

- Section (s.) 1007.33, Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires FCS institutions to submit annual accountability reports for approved baccalaureate programs.
- S. 1003.491(5), F.S., and Rule 6A-14.095, F.A.C., require the Commissioner to assess postsecondary program offerings annually to identify if programs are linked to performance indicators.
- In February 2025, the Division will send out a memo with instructions regarding the accountability review and submission process.
- This year's deadline is April 30, 2025. Once the Division receives and reviews all submissions, we will provide feedback in writing on each program (Fall 2025).
- For programs with deficiencies, the Division will outline deficiencies and provide Letters of Findings (Fall 2025).

Civic Literacy Competency Rule Amendment

- Rule 6A-10.02413, F.A.C., makes competency in civic literacy (course and assessment) a college and university graduation requirement for students pursuing an associate or baccalaureate degree.
- In November 2024, the State Board of Education (SBOE) approved revisions to Rule 6A-10.02413, F.A.C., to add an additional option for students to meet the civic literacy competency course requirement.
- The rule amendment adds the following course option for students:
 - AMS 2010 Civil Discourse and the American Political Order
- AMS 2010 will be available to teach starting with the 2025 Spring Term, and students may use the additional option to meet the requirement, thereafter.
- Colleges wishing to offer the new course must first add the course to their institutions' inventory in the Statewide Course Numbering System (SCNS).
- A memorandum and an updated F.A.Q. document were sent out to the field December 2024 to provide technical assistance.

Civic Literacy and FASTER Update

- Pursuant to s. 1007.25, F.S., students enrolled in a Florida public postsecondary institution are required to demonstrate postsecondary civic literacy as a condition of graduation.
- Due to multiple revisions to Rule 6A-10.02413, F.A.C., guidance as it relates to reporting students in the 2018-19 to 2020-21 cohorts has been updated.
 - **Scenario 1:** Students under the 2018-19 to 2020-21 catalog years who passed a course or an assessment and earned a degree during that time.
 - **Scenario 2:** Students under the 2018-19 to 2020-21 catalog years who passed a course or an assessment but did not earn a degree during that time.
- For current students who present transcripts from the 2018-19 to 2020-21 academic years, colleges must confirm that a degree was conferred during those catalog years in order to meet the graduation requirement (scenario 1). If no degree was conferred (scenario 2), students will have to comply with the requirement of the catalog year they are currently under.
- Clarifying language is anticipated to be added to the postsecondary demographic record format in FASTER. More information is forthcoming.

Florida Civic Literacy Exam (FCLE) and Students with Disabilities

Does statute provide any exemptions for the civic literacy competency requirement?

- No. Florida Statutes do not provide for exemptions from the requirement. However, pursuant to:
- [Section 1007.265, F.S.](#), and [Rule 6A-10.041, F.A.C.](#), colleges may substitute a graduation requirement for students with disabilities under certain circumstances.
- The key in this situation is “substitute.” Per statute, students with testing accommodations should be given another way to meet the requirement. Colleges could justify using the student’s course grade in POS X041, AMH X020, AMH X010 (taken fall 2024 or thereafter) or AMS 2010 to substitute for the FCLE being that the courses and the assessment both meet the same statutorily required competencies.
- For students without testing accommodations, there is no substitution option.

Florida Civic Literacy Exam (FCLE) Repository

- The Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement (ARM) is currently leading the development of a repository for the FCLE.
- The FCLE repository will be modeled after the current PERT repository.
- Data fields are currently being identified and development is underway with the goal of providing verification of important FCLE testing data.
- The target date for rollout is late spring 2025. More details are forthcoming.

Alternative Methods Update

- Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C., expands mechanisms FCS institutions may use to assess readiness for college-level work.
- The rule includes the following categories of alternative methods and associated minimum standards:
 - Tests and assessments;
 - Performance in high school coursework (courses taught at Florida public high schools and accelerated high school courses);
 - Credit-by-examination; and
 - Local placement methods (Form No. ALTPLACE-01) (Not for Dual Enrollment).
- In conjunction with the Office of Articulation, the Division has identified accelerated high school courses that demonstrate college readiness.
- The list of courses is available on the Department's [Demonstration of College Readiness](#) webpage for colleges to download so that local systems can be automated.

General Education Reform Process for Institutional General Education Courses

- All institution course lists were submitted by the September 1 deadline.
- Reviews were conducted by FCS and BOG staff.
- The ACC received confirmation from the Office of Articulation that the lists were received.
- The ACC transmitted the lists to the SBOE and the BOG by December 1.
- The SBOE and BOG approved the FCS and SUS lists respectively in their January meetings.



Student Affairs

Purple Heart Tuition/Fee Waiver Update

- Pursuant to Section 1009.26(8), F.S., the Purple Heart waiver provides tuition and fee waivers for Florida military veterans who have received a Purple Heart or combat decoration that is “superior in precedence.”
- The Department (FDOE) has recently revised its guidance regarding medals “superior in precedence.” Previous guidance stated that for Bronze Star and Legion of Merit medals to be superior in precedence to the Purple Heart medal, they had to have the “V” designation or device.
- Pursuant to the [Department of Defense \(DoD\) Manual 1348.33, Volume 3, “Manual of Military Decorations and Awards”](#) the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit medals do not require a “V” designation or device to be considered superior in precedence to a Purple Heart medal.
- The FDOE’s [Purple Heart Waivers FAQ](#) has been revised accordingly.

Collegiate Purple Star Campus Update

- The Florida Collegiate Purple Star Campus Program was established by the Florida legislature in 2023 and further defined in Rule 6A-1.09991, F.A.C.
- The purpose of the Collegiate Purple Star Campus is to recognize colleges that demonstrate a commitment to supporting military families as set forth in s. 1004.071, F.S. To meet the requirements, colleges must, at a minimum:
 - Designate a staff member as a military liaison;
 - Maintain a web page on the institutions website that includes resources for military students and their families;
 - Offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students; and
 - Provide priority course registration for military students.
- Since its inception, 10 FCS institutions have been designated as a [Collegiate Purple Star Campus](#).
- To qualify for the Collegiate Purple Star Campus designation, the college president (or a designee) must complete the [Collegiate Purple Star Campus Application](#) documenting that all required criteria have been met.



New Team Members

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Workforce & Academic Alignment

Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund

- SB 2524 (2022) created the LINE Fund to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and health care partners to address the nursing shortage in Florida.
- Round 1: 32 applications were received, 31 were approved. Total amount expected to be awarded: **\$11,550,664.00**
 - The Prioritized Funding List (PFL) has been approved by senior leadership and is currently in the Office of Grants Management (OGM) undergoing budget reviews for these applications.
 - Once OGM completes their reviews, we should be able to send out the official Award Notification packets. An email was sent out on January 21, 2025, notifying each agency that was on the PFL.

Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund

- Round 2: 14 NOI's were submitted. 1 CIE, 5 ICUF and 8 FCS institutions submitted NOIs. The total amount requested for this round: \$3,021,000.00 (*Note: this number could go up or down once the applications have been received).
- Applications for Round 2 are due by no later than 11:59 p.m. on Monday, February 17, 2025.
- If all agencies that submitted NOI's apply and are approved to receive funding, the total amount of LINE Fund awards would be: **\$14,762,398.00.***

LINE: Prioritized Funding List - 2022-2023

Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Total Funding Amount: \$19,000,000	
FCS Schools (16)	Amount Awarded
Seminole State College	\$750,000
Daytona State College	\$1,900,000
Polk State College	\$60,000
Valencia College	\$689,198
Santa Fe College	\$410,000
The College of the Florida Keys	\$890,000
Hillsborough Community College	\$235,000
St. Petersburg College	\$80,000
Broward College	\$120,000
Northwest Florida State College	\$75,000
South Florida State College	\$200,000
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	\$545,000
Indian River State College	\$150,000
Tallahassee Community College	\$145,000
Miami Dade College	\$1,540,480
College of Central Florida	\$6,718,852
	\$14,508,530
\$4,491,470.00 awarded to CIE, ICUF, Districts	

LINE: Prioritized Funding List - 2023-2024

Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Total Funding Amount: \$19,000,000	
FCS Schools (16)	Amount Awarded
Seminole State College	\$1,000,000.00
Polk State College	\$80,000.00
Santa Fe College	\$172,600.00
State College of Florida - Manatee, Sarasota	\$480,000.00
South Florida State College	\$200,000.00
Miami Dade College	\$862,500.00
College of Central Florida	\$5,000,000.00
Valencia College	\$732,773.00
Broward College	\$120,000.00
Daytona State College	\$500,000.00
Lake Sumter State College	\$400,000.00
Florida Southwestern State College	\$50,000.00
The College of the Florida Keys	\$30,000.00
Indian River State College	\$100,000.00
Hillsborough Community College	\$114,945.00
Tallahassee Community College	\$111,917.88
	\$9,954,735.88
\$3,831,453.00 awarded to CIE, ICUF, Districts	



Research and Analytics

Upcoming Research & Analytics Reporting and Events

Research & Analytics Calendar of Events	Date
Concurrent and Joint-use Submissions due to DFC	Jan 15
Economic Security Report sent to Colleges	Jan 13
2025 College Factbook published by DFC	Jan 31
Program Completers Employment and Wage Data sent to Colleges	Jan 31
Early College/Formerly Collegiate High School Templates due to DFC	Feb 15
Annual Accountability Reports sent to Colleges	March
Intellectual Freedom and Viewpoint Diversity Survey begins	March



Florida Student Success Center

Florida Pathways Institute

The FPI: Career Pathways cohort will launch soon with a kick-off call and several regional roundtables. Applications will be made available [online](#) and emailed out to the joint councils.

Participating institutions will:

- Convene regionally with partners to discuss program alignment, maximizing credits that articulate towards a credential and minimizing differences in credits articulated for similar programs among institutions.
- Share and learn about best practices for aligning career pathways with workforce needs.
- Work collaboratively to continue to strengthen career and transfer pathways to improve completion and job placement rates.



Office of Articulation

Gold Standard and Update to Rule 6A-10.0401

- Gold Standard Career Pathways Articulation Agreements are created in accordance with ss. 1007.23 and 1008.44, F.S., and provide for the articulation of postsecondary credit toward related AS and AAS degrees for earned industry certifications.
- For the 2024-25 academic year, recommendations for industry certification to associate degree alignments were provided by the Division of Career and Adult Education team and were then sent to FCS workforce administrators for review and approval. Recommendations for the award of credit were also provided by FCS institutions during the review process.
- Updates to the Gold Standard Agreements were approved by the SBOE on January 15, 2025.

Gold Standard and Update to Rule 6A-10.0401

- The proposed additions to Rule 6A-10.0401, F.A.C., will:
 - Increase the time that students have to enroll in the AS/AAS degree program from 3 years to 5 years in order to be guaranteed credit.
 - Codify and provide clarity to policies and procedures related to the development and maintenance of the Gold Standard Career Pathways Articulation Agreements.
 - Incorporate the annual updated list of Gold Standard Career Pathways Articulation Agreements and associated industry certifications.



New Team Members

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Division of Career and Adult Education

New Programs Adopted by the State Board of Education

- The below programs were adopted during the November 20, 2024, Florida State Board of Education meeting:
- New college credit certificate: Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Maintenance
 - This 24-college credit certificate program is part of the Automotive Service Management Technology AAS degree program (0615080300). The content includes but is not limited to basic theory and diagnostic principles for automotive hybrid and electric vehicle battery management, servicing drive systems for hybrid and electric vehicles and servicing power control systems for electric vehicles.
 - Framework: <https://www.fldoe.org/file/20706/0615080303-2425.rtf>

CTE Program Updates

- [FDOE's CTE Program Resources page](#) contains:
 - New Program Request forms for all program types
 - Updates to our program inventory: [Curriculum Frameworks Change Document - CTE 2024-25](#)
 - An updated [Curriculum Frameworks Review Schedule \(Programs of Work\)](#)

New Program Requests for 2025-26

- The Division of Career and Adult Education (DCAE) received 16 new program requests by the November 1 deadline, seven of which are postsecondary.
- DCAE's next submission deadline is June 1, 2025, for spring 2026 implementation.

Credentials Review Committee update

- The Credentials Review Committee (CRC) met on December 4, 2024, and February 6, 2025. Meeting materials for these events are available here:
 - [December 4](#)
 - [February 6](#)

Master Credentials List

- At the February meeting of the Credentials Review Committee, the 2025-26 Master Credentials List was adopted. This list is based upon updated wage levels and wage criteria, as specified in updates to the Framework of Quality.
- The Department will be communicating with agencies in creating a plan of action for addressing any credentials that do not currently meet the demand and/or wage thresholds.

Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE)

- The Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program is created in s.1004.933, F.S. The GATE program aims to re-engage students who have withdrawn from high school by providing a pathway to earn valuable career education credentials while also completing a standard high school diploma or its equivalent.
- GATE Program information page: [Graduation Alternative To Traditional Education \(GATE\) Program \(fldoe.org\)](https://fldoe.org/graduation-alternative-to-traditional-education-gate-program)
- Send all GATE related questions to GATEprogram@fldoe.org.

Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE)

- GATE Startup Grant
 - Tallahassee State College received \$397,998 to serve Gadsden and Wakulla counties
- GATE Program Applications Received (for the Scholarship) from FCS institutions
 - Tallahassee State College (approved)
 - Miami Dade College (pending as of 1-15-25)

CTE Program Quality Audit Rule

- [Rule 6A-10.0342](#), F.A.C., Career and Technical Education Program Quality Audit Rule.
- This rule, also known as the CTE Audit Rule, sets forth the procedures, thresholds and timelines for reviewing secondary and postsecondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in accordance with s. 1003.491(5), F.S.
- The rule also describes the CTE Program Quality Targets that programs are expected to meet and the required actions for programs that do not meet those targets.

CTE Program Quality Audit Rule: Schedule for Phase Out

[Rule 6A-10.0342](#), F.A.C., Career and Technical Education Program Quality Audit Rule.

(7) Schedule for Notification of Phase Out of Programs.

(a) Beginning with the CTE Audit in calendar year 2026, using data from Reporting Years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, all programs shall be reviewed to assess whether the program meets targets for metrics found in subsection (4). All programs that fail to meet the targets for a metric will be notified for the phase out process as outlined in subsections (5) and (6), unless they provide sufficient evidence demonstrating why they should not be phased out that year.

(b) **Beginning in calendar year 2026**, the CTE Audit will be carried out annually, as prescribed in subsection (4). Annually, all programs that fail to meet the targets for a metric will be notified for the phase out process outlined in subsections (5) and (6).

2024 CTE Audit Report

2024 CTE Audit Report

- CTE program data for years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- Should be used to identify at-risk programs.

2025 CTE Audit Report

- CTE program data for years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- Should be used to identify at-risk programs.

2026 CTE Audit Report

- CTE program data for years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- Official data used to identify programs for "phase out."

CTE Program Quality Audit Rule Targets - Postsecondary

Postsecondary CTE Metric Targets		
Metric	Primary Target	Alternate Target
Retention Rate or Success Rate	At least 50% on either rate in most recent reporting year (RY).	At least 50% on either rate in most recent three-RY average.
Completers Continuing Education or Employed Rate	At least 70% in most recent RY.	At least 70% in most recent three-RY average.
In-Demand Occupation	Program meets demand criteria and/or local demand criteria as defined in the most recent master credential list (MCL).	Evidence of labor market alignment on comprehensive local needs assessment (CLNA).



Q&A



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