



Andy Tuck, *Chair*
Marva Johnson, *Vice Chair*
Members
Ben Gibson
Tom Grady
Michael Olenick
Ryan Petty
Joe York

DFC Memo: 2020-08

Contact: Caleb Hawkes

Email: Caleb.Hawkes@fldoe.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida College System Presidents

FROM: Kathy Hebda

DATE: June 30, 2020

SUBJECT: HB 171 – Postsecondary Education for Certain Military Personnel

House Bill (HB) 171 amends section (s.) 1004.096, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to require the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) to create a process for the uniform awarding of postsecondary credit or career education clock hours to certain service members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

The legislation creates a timeline of required actions:

- By July 15, 2020: The ACC shall convene a workgroup to develop the process determining postsecondary course equivalencies and minimum postsecondary credit or career clock hours awarded for military courses taken and occupations held.
- By December 1, 2020: The workgroup shall provide recommendations to the Board of Governors (BOG) and State Board of Education (SBOE) for approval regarding the process of determining equivalencies.
- Following board approval of the process: The ACC will facilitate the review of military courses and occupations.
- Within one year after board approval of the process: A prioritized list of postsecondary course equivalencies and the minimum postsecondary creditor clock hours is to be approved by the ACC and adopted by the BOG and SBOE at the next publicly-noticed meeting of each board.
- Once equivalencies are adopted: Florida College System institutions and state universities must award credit/clock hours in accordance with equivalencies adopted by the ACC and respective boards, if the credit or clock hours are applicable toward the student's degree or certificate.

As institutions will be required to award credit or clock hours (if applicable) to the student's degree or certificate, institutions should expect follow-up guidance after equivalencies are developed and adopted. The Department's Office of Articulation, which administratively supports the ACC, will be providing additional implementation procedures in the future regarding this portion of the legislation.

KATHRYN S. HEBDA
FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR

HB171 - Postsecondary Education for Certain Military Personnel

Page Two

June 30, 2020

HB 171 also amends s. 1009.26, F.S., requiring Florida's postsecondary institutions to waive the transcript fee of active duty members or honorably discharged veterans, including his/her spouse and dependents. The SBOE will adopt rules to administer this provision. Institutions must begin waiving the transcript fee for this population as of the date the bill is signed into law.

Institutions should also document the number and value of fee waivers granted for annual reporting purposes.

KH/chh

Attachment

cc: Rod Duckworth, Director, Office of Articulation
FCS Council of Instructional Affairs
FCS Council of Business Affairs
FCS Reports Coordinators