

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
November 18, 2014

SUBJECT: Approval of New Rule 6A-14.0304, Online Courses

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1004.0961, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 1004.0961, Florida Statutes, requires the state Board of Education to adopt rules to enable students to earn academic credit for online courses. The proposed rule establishes the components that must be included in Florida College System institutional policies that enable students to earn appropriate credit for online coursework, including massive open online courses, prior to initial enrollment.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-14.0304, Online Courses

Facilitator: Randy Hanna, Chancellor, the Florida College System

6A-14.0304 Online Courses.

College Credit for Online Courses. Florida College System institutions shall evaluate online coursework, if requested by a student prior to the initial term of enrollment, and award college credit when the following conditions are met: faculty have determined the online course content and learning outcomes to be comparable to a course offered at the institution; online courses meet the quality and accreditation standards intended for a transfer course; and the student's intended program of study is relevant to the online course as determined by subject area faculty. Nothing in this rule should prohibit a Florida College System institution from establishing additional mechanisms for the award of college credit for online courses.

(1) By fall 2015, each Florida College System institution board of trustees shall adopt a policy that enables students to earn appropriate credit for online coursework prior to initial enrollment. The policy shall include:

(a) A description of student responsibilities for initiating a review of prior learning through online courses and documentation requirements for the purposes of determining equivalency of required outcomes within the student's intended program of study.

(b) A description of the review procedures of prior learning through online coursework that is within the same parameters and quality assurance protocols, including faculty credential evaluation, outcome equivalency and student demonstrated mastery of competency, as any other award of credit for prior learning that is not guaranteed to transfer pursuant to s. 1007.24(7), F.S.

(c) A description of credit that may be granted to students for coursework that is recognized by the American Council on Education (ACE).

(d) A description of the student appeals process.

(2) The procedure for the alignment of coursework is to determine whether the online course fulfills a general education or major course or degree program requirement and, if deemed equivalent, apply the credit as such. Otherwise, credit will be granted to the extent elective credits are needed to fulfill program requirements.

(3) Credit awarded for online coursework shall be noted on the student's transcript. A receiving Florida public postsecondary institution may accept in transfer any college credit that was previously evaluated and awarded by a Florida public postsecondary institution, and that is appropriate to the student's program of study.

(4) Each Florida College System institution shall display the policy on its website and within its catalog.

Rulemaking Authority 1004.0961 FS. Law Implemented 1004.0961 FS. History--New