6C-6.009 Admission of Foreign International Students to State University System (SUS) Institutions.

(1) Within enrollment, space, and fiscal limitations, eligible foreign international students may be accepted for admission at the appropriate level to an institution in the State University System (SUS) university. The board of trustees at each SUS university institution which enrolls foreign students shall develop admission policies for these international students which are consistent with the policies of the Board of Governors. At a minimum, university admission policies shall require that:

(a) International students are obligated to follow the laws and regulations set by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the United States Department of State.

(b) An international applicant is must be academically eligible for admission to the program at the level of entrance requested by the applicant.

(c) An international student must demonstrate the required level of academic preparation as evidenced by official copies of any academic records needed to ascertain the comparability of the level and quality of the student’s previous education and achievement to that required for other students. Universities may choose to use departmental examinations to validate students’ claims when official documents are unavailable or insufficient. Academic documents must be translated into English and evaluated by a reputable credential evaluator.

(d) The applicant's proficiency in English is must be adequate.

(e) International students whose first language is not English must demonstrate English language proficiency. Generally, English proficiency is measured by the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an institutionally approved examination with demonstrated equivalence. The minimum TOEFL score acceptable for admission to an SUS institution is 500 on the TOEFL paper test or 63 on the Internet-based TOEFL test. Institutions and departments may set higher minimum TOEFL or related examination scores for admission.

(f) In order for an appropriate official at the university to issue a Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 or a DS 2019) to an international applicant, the student must provide documentation showing sufficient resources to cover tuition, fees, books, room and board, health insurance, and other living expenses.

(g) The applicant's physical and mental health are good.

(2) Each university shall require a foreign applicant to furnish a complete chronological record of previous educational experience indicating the schools attended, examinations passed, and certificates or diplomas earned. In addition, each foreign applicant shall be required to furnish official copies of any academic records which may be necessary to ascertain the level and quality of the student's previous education. If a student claims completion of various courses but cannot
produce the official documents, departmental examinations may be used to validate the student's claims. In assessing a foreign applicant's eligibility for admission, a university shall determine that the applicant is academically eligible for admission to the program at the level of entrance requested by the applicant, taking into consideration the comparability of the applicant's completed course of study in his own country.

(3) Each university shall require a foreign applicant whose native tongue is not English to furnish satisfactory evidence that the applicant's competency in English is adequate.

(a) In order to assess English proficiency, scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) shall normally be required of all applicants except those from countries where English is the only official language.

(b) Unless other satisfactory evidence indicates that the student will be able to perform at an acceptable level, the university shall require that a foreign applicant achieve a score of 500 or above on TOEFL.

(4) Each university shall require foreign applicants to furnish a detailed statement showing specific sources of financial support and the exact amount expected from each source. No university shall issue a Visa Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20), until an appropriate official at the institution has reviewed the financial statement and determined that the foreign applicant's sources of financial support are adequate to cover his total expenses for the period of time the student is seeking to enroll at the university.

(5) Each university shall require a foreign international applicant, determined to be academically and financially eligible for admission, must submit a health history form including dates proof of immunizations as required by the university.

(26) As of Fall 1992, no foreign international student in F-1, F-2, or J-1 or J-2 non-immigrant status shall be permitted to register, or to continue enrollment, at a university without demonstrating that he or she has adequate medical insurance coverage for illness or accidental injury and—An adequate medical insurance policy will provide that the insurance proceeds are payable in United States currency; not restrict its use to a specific institution, hospital, clinic, infirmary, or other health care agency; and not restrict its use to a particular locale. A university may require the insurer to have a United States claims agent, which includes the following minimum requirements:

(a) Coverage Period: Coverage must include the full year, including annual breaks, regardless of the student's terms of enrollment. The policy must provide continuous coverage for the entire period the insured is enrolled as an eligible student. Payment of benefits must be renewable.

(b) Basic Benefits: Room, board, hospital services, physician fees, surgeon fees, ambulance, outpatient services, and outpatient customary fees must be paid at 80% or more of usual, customary, reasonable charge per accident or illness, after
deductible is met, for in-network, and 70% or more of usual, customary, and reasonable charge for out-of-network providers per accident or illness.

(c) Inpatient Mental Health Care: Must be paid at 80% in-network or 60% out-of-network of the usual and customary fees with a minimum 30-day cap per benefit period.

(d) Outpatient Mental Health Care: Must be paid at 80% in-network or 60% out-of-network of the usual and customary fees for a minimum of 30 (preferably 40) sessions per year.

(e) Maternity Benefits: Must be treated as any other temporary medical condition and paid at no less than 80% of usual and customary fees in-network or 60% out-of-network.

(f) Inpatient/Outpatient Prescription Medication: Must include coverage of $1,000 or more.

(g) Repatriation: $10,000 (coverage to return the student’s remains to his/her native country).

(h) Medical Evacuation: $25,000 (to permit the patient to be transported to his/her home country and to be accompanied by a provider or escort, if directed by the physician in charge).

(i) Exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions: First six months of policy period, at most.

(j) Deductible: Maximum of $50 per occurrence if treatment or services are rendered at the Student Health Center; maximum of $100 per occurrence if treatment or services are rendered at an off-campus ambulatory care or hospital emergency department facility.

(k) Minimum coverage: $200,000 for covered injuries/illnesses per accident or illness, per policy year.

(l) Insurance Carrier must have an “A” rating or above per Part 62.14(c)(1) of Section 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(m) Policy must not unreasonably exclude coverage for perils inherent to the student’s program of study.

(n) Claims must be paid in U.S. dollars payable on a U.S. financial institution.

(o) Policy provisions must be available from the insurer in English.

Specific Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; 240.209(1) FS. Law Implemented 240.209(1), 240.227(8), 240.233 FS. History--Adopted 7-6-72, Amended and Renumbered 12-17-74, Amended 6-21-83, 8-11-85, Formerly 6C-6.09, Amended 12-9-91, Amended