8.009 Definition and Process for Establishing Education Sites

(1) The following definitions and processes for establishment shall apply to education locations of public universities within the state:

(a) Main campus is defined as the focal point of university educational and administrative activities, authorized by Section 240.2011, F.S. Lower-division courses are offered only on the main campus of each university unless the university receives specific Board of Governors approval to offer lower-division courses at a branch campus, center or site. Approval will be based on a consideration of the following: the universities mission; an assessment of student demand; availability of necessary facilities, equipment and faculty; discussion with the educational institutions impacted by the proposed course offerings; and the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission’s review of those course offerings. The Board of Governors approval is subject to review and action by a member of the State Board of Education, then the Board of Governors determination shall automatically become effective 30 days from the date of the Board of Governors decision to approve.

(b) Branch campus is defined as an instructional and administrative unit of a university that offers students upper-division and graduate programs as well as a wide range of support services. Distance learning techniques may be used to complement on-site instruction at all types of campuses. Branch campuses may be of various types to meet the particular needs of a region:

1. Type I Branch Campus is defined as a major university operation which provides a broad range of instruction, numerous full and partial degree programs, research, and a full complement of student services in university administered facilities, which are mostly university owned or shared with a public community college. For efficiency of operation and provision of an adequate range of programs these campuses should obtain a funded enrollment level of 2,000 FTE.

2. Type II Branch Campus is a large university operation, providing a range of instructional programs, many of which lead to a degree at the branch campus, some research, and full support services in university controlled facilities. Funded enrollment is between 1,000 and 2,000 FTE.

3. Type III Branch Campus provides instruction in high demand disciplines, as well as necessary support services. Instructional and administrative functions are provided in facilities which may or may not be controlled by the university. Distance learning techniques may be used to provide a significant portion of the instructional program. Funded enrollment is between 300 and 1,000 FTE.
(c) Establishment of a new branch campus requires approval by the Board of Governors. In its request for authority to establish a new branch campus, a university shall submit a report regarding the long-term requirements for programs and facilities relating to its mission statement and course offerings, including a three-year PECO project priority list and a plan for long-term facilities needs. In addition, the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission must recommend establishment of the campus to the State Board of Education under the provisions of Subsection 240.147(7), F.S., and the Legislature must appropriate funds for its establishment.

(d) Center is defined as an instructional unit of a university or universities that offers a limited range of instructional programs or courses. Funded enrollment at a center will be fewer than 300 FTE.

(e) Special purpose center is defined as a unit of a university that provides certain special, clearly defined programs or services, such as research, cooperative extension, or public service apart from the main campus, branch campus, or center.

(f) Establishment of new centers and special purpose centers which entail the expenditure of state funds for facilities requires an assessment of long-term needs for facilities and approval by the Board of the three-year PECO project priority list. In submitting its request for authority to establish a Center, a university shall submit a report regarding the long-term requirements for programs and facilities relating to the mission statement and course offerings.

(g) Instructional site is defined as an instructional unit of a university that offers a very limited range of instructional programs or courses, generally of short duration, in facilities not owned by the institution. Universities shall retain the ability to establish instructional sites to meet demonstrated needs without the necessity for approval of the Board.

(h) Special purpose sites is defined as a unit of a state university that provides services of an education nature that are other than instruction, research or administration. Universities shall retain the ability to establish special purpose sites to meet demonstrated needs without the necessity of the approval of the Board.

(2) All new campuses, centers, and special purpose centers approved by the Board shall be submitted, along with the required review by the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission, to the State Board of Education for approval.

(3) The Board will review these definitions and processes periodically to determine whether changes are necessary.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; History — New 4-9-87, 6-8-92, 2-15-94, 12-2-99