

**FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDED REGULATION**

DATE: June 22, 2023

REGULATION NUMBER AND TITLE: 8.013, Specialized Admissions

SUMMARY: Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, Specialized Admissions, authorizes the Board to approve specialized admissions status for baccalaureate degree programs and outlines the monitoring process for these programs. Specialized admissions status allows an institution to establish additional admission criteria for entry into undergraduate degree programs, which enables the institutions to limit enrollment in such programs.

In 2021, the Florida Legislature amended section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, establishing the Programs of Strategic Emphasis Waiver. This waiver requires that for every course in a qualifying program in which a student is enrolled and meets the specified requirements, a state university must waive 100 percent of the tuition and fees for an equivalent course in an approved program. The intent of the waiver is to increase enrollment, which is counter to the intent of specialized admissions status.

FULL TEXT OF THE REGULATION IS INCLUDED WITH THIS NOTICE.

AUTHORITY TO PROPOSE REGULATION(S): Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; BOG Regulation Development Procedure dated March 23, 2006.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS' OFFICIAL INITIATING THE PROPOSED REGULATION: Dr. Christy England, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs

COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED REGULATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO THE CONTACT PERSON IDENTIFIED BELOW. The comments must identify the regulation on which you are commenting:

General Counsel, Board of Governors, State University System, 200 W. College Avenue, Suite 216, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, (850) 245-0466 (phone), (850) 245-9685 (fax), or generalcounsel@flbog.edu.

8.013 Specialized Admissions

(1) Specialized admissions status allows the university to establish additional criteria for admission to undergraduate programs. The Board of Governors may approve certain undergraduate degree programs as specialized admissions programs upon request by the university board of trustees if the programs meet one or more of the following criteria.

- (a) The number of students who meet all the requirements for admission to the university and to the program are in excess of available resources such as: space, equipment, or other instructional facilities; clinical facilities; required student-faculty ratios; fiscal or other resource limitations. In the case of such programs, selection for admissions shall be competitive.
 1. Admissions criteria for undergraduate programs approved based on this criterion may vary from academic year to academic year, depending on program capacity. Criteria changes should also be reasonable, taking into consideration prospective program applicants who may need to make adjustments to meet the new criteria.
 2. Undergraduate programs approved by the Board of Governors for specialized admissions due to limited resources will receive this status for a maximum of four years. At the end of four years, the university may reapply for specialized admissions status. If the university does not reapply at the end of four years, the status shall be removed, and the university may no longer utilize additional criteria for admission to the undergraduate program.
- (b) The undergraduate program is of such nature that applicants must demonstrate through an audition or submission of a portfolio that they possess the minimum skills necessary for them to benefit from the undergraduate program.
 1. Undergraduate programs receiving Board of Governors approval for specialized admissions because minimal skills are necessary will receive this status for a maximum of five years. At the end of five years, the university may reapply for specialized admissions status. If the university does not reapply at the end of five years, the status shall be removed, and the university may no longer utilize additional criteria for admission to the undergraduate program.
- (c) If the undergraduate program is accredited by a national, state, regional, or programmatic body that imposes requirements or limitations that necessitates the use of additional admissions criteria, the undergraduate program must also meet the criteria outlined in (1)(a) or (1)(b) to be considered for specialized admissions status.
 1. Undergraduate programs receiving Board of Governors approval for specialized admissions because of regulating body requirements and either (1)(a) or (1)(b) will receive this status for the maximum number of years associated with either (1)(a) or (1)(b). If the university does not reapply, the status shall be removed, and the university may no longer utilize additional criteria for admission to the undergraduate program.

(2) Undergraduate programs may have the following admissions requirements without seeking specialized admissions status.

- (a) Prerequisite courses and minimum grades in prerequisite courses. The establishment of prerequisite courses and grades in prerequisite courses must adhere to requirements established in Regulation 8.010, Common Prerequisites.
- (b) Admission requirements and standards established in Florida Statutes.

(3) Undergraduate degree programs approved by the Board of Governors for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis Waiver are not eligible for specialized admissions.

~~(3)~~(4) A plan and timeline for increasing capacity to meet student demand and/or workforce needs or sufficient rationale as to why capacity cannot be increased must be submitted with the application for the following undergraduate programs.

- (a) Undergraduate programs requesting Board of Governors approval for specialized admissions based only on the criteria in (1)(a).
- (b) Undergraduate programs requesting Board of Governors approval for specialized admissions that are classified as a Program of Strategic Emphasis at the time of application submission or renewal application submission.

~~(4)~~(5) Selection criteria for admission into specialized admissions programs shall be appropriate indicators of academic ability, creativity, or talent to perform required work within the program and of the potential for success. Selection criteria shall not discriminate against students on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, sex, or socioeconomic status. Selection criteria shall not disadvantage Associate in Arts graduates from Florida public postsecondary institutions in favor of students who are currently enrolled at a State University System institution. Qualified Associate in Arts graduates from Florida public postsecondary institutions shall receive priority for admission to such specialized admissions programs over out-of-state and transfer students from private institutions.

- (a) Selection criteria for specialized admissions programs shall be publicized in catalogs and all other sections of the university's public-facing website that provide information about the program, and any non-public websites or applications that provide information about the undergraduate program with sufficient time for prospective students to prepare to meet criteria.
- (b) Each university shall advise students who meet the minimum requirements for admission to the upper division of a state university, but are denied admission to specialized admissions programs, of the availability of similar programs at other State University System institutions and the admission requirements of such programs.

~~(5)~~(6) Monitoring and Reporting Requirements: Each State University System institution is required to regularly review specialized admissions programs and provide a report to the Board of Governors Office by October 1 each year. The annual report must include the following information.

- (a) Minimum admissions standards for each approved undergraduate program.
- (b) Supporting documentation as to why the undergraduate program should

remain specialized admissions for the next academic year based on the criteria under which the undergraduate program was approved.

- (c) Documentation that the criteria are in compliance with (4).
- (d) Other documentation to ensure compliance with the regulation as requested by the Chancellor or their designee.

~~(6)~~(7) The Chancellor will report to the Board of Governors a summary of institutions' specialized admissions reports annually.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; History: New 3-29-07; Amended 6-30-22, XX-XX-XX.