

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

DATE: January 25, 2024

REGULATION NUMBER AND TITLE: 6.013, Military Veterans and Active Duty

SUMMARY: Board of Governors Regulation 6.013, Military Veterans and Active Duty, governs institutions' responsibilities regarding military students.

During the 2023 session, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 274, which was signed by the Governor on May 26, 2023. The new law modified section 1004.096, Florida Statutes, providing expanded opportunities for current and former military combat medics to earn postsecondary credit or clock hours towards accelerated nursing education programs.

Board staff proposes to amend Regulation 6.013, Military Veterans and Active Duty, to align with the revised statute. The amendment recognizes the Articulation Coordinating Committee's Policy Regarding the Evaluation and Awarding of Postsecondary Credit for the Pathway for Military Combat Medics, which the Board approved at its November 9, 2023, meeting.

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: Emily Sikes, Interim 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, 325 W. Gaines St., Suite 1614, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, (850) 245-0466 (phone), (850) 245-9685 (fax), or generalcounsel@flbog.edu.

6.013 Military Veterans and Active Duty

(1) Definitions

- (a) For the purposes of this regulation, “military student(s)” shall mean any eligible student who is or was a member of the United States Armed Forces or the Florida National Guard, or such an individual’s spouse or dependent.
- (b) For the purposes of this regulation, “Military Liaison” means a staff member that is designated by an institution as responsible for the communication between military students and staff members at each institution to facilitate and maintain a working relationship.
- (c) For the purposes of this regulation, “Combat Medic” is defined as an individual who received military training and education to serve as an Army Combat Medic Specialist, a Navy or Fleet Marine Force Hospital Corpsman, an Air Force or Space Force Aerospace Medical Service Technician, or a Coast Guard Health Services Technician.

(2) College Credit for Military Training, Courses, and Occupations.

- (a) Articulation Coordinating Committee Credit for Military Experience Equivalency List and Credit for Military Combat Medic Equivalency Lists.
 - 1. Military experience equivalency shall be conducted in the manner specified in the Articulation Coordinating Committee ~~Policy~~ Policies Regarding the Evaluation and Awarding of Postsecondary Credit for Prior Military Training, Courses, and Occupations and Pathway for Military Combat Medics.
 - 2. Universities shall provide nominations for State University System representation on Statewide Subject Area Discipline Committees in the manner specified by the Chancellor. Four members, plus two alternates, will be selected for each designated discipline committee and serve for two years. Membership preference, where possible, shall be given to faculty members who have experience in determining military experience equivalency for their discipline.
 - 3. The Board of Governors shall consider for approval the annual Articulation Coordinating Committee Credit for Military Experience ~~Equivalency List and Credit for Military Combat Medics Equivalency Lists~~ for use by State University System universities in evaluating military experience for postsecondary credit.
- (b) Each university board of trustees shall adopt a regulation that establishes a policy and process that enables students to earn appropriate academic college credit for college-level training and education acquired in the military.
 - 1. The policy and process established by regulation shall specify the following.
 - a. College credit will be granted to students with military experience in accordance with the standard process and considerations outlined in the Articulation Coordinating Committee ~~Policy~~ Policies Regarding the Evaluation and Awarding of Postsecondary Credit for Prior Military Training, Courses, and Occupations and Pathway for Military Combat

Medics;

- b. Students with military experience noted in the *Articulation Coordinating Committee Credit for Military Experience Equivalency List and Military Combat Medics Equivalency Lists* in effect at the time experience is evaluated for equivalency shall be awarded credit;
 - c. If the course to which the military training or coursework is equivalent fulfills a general education or major course or degree program requirement, the credit should be considered as meeting the requirement(s). Otherwise, appropriate course credit, including free elective course credit, will be granted.
 - d. Transfer credit awarded by a Florida public postsecondary degree-granting institution that is applicable toward the student's major shall be accepted, subject to the receiving institution's limit on the amount and level of transfer credit allowed for a given degree. Credits awarded by all other postsecondary institutions shall be accepted if those credits are consistent with the current *Articulation Coordinating Committee Credit for Military Training Equivalency List and Military Combat Medics Equivalency Lists*.
2. Credit awarded for military education and training shall be noted on the student's transcript and documentation of the credit equivalency evaluation shall be maintained in the student's file.
 3. Each university shall publish a copy of the policy and process on the university registrar's webpage and within its university catalogs.
 4. Credit awarded for military education and training shall not be counted in the excess hours fee per Board of Governors Regulation 7.003.

(3) Priority Course Registration for Veterans

- (a) Each university that offers priority course registration for a segment of the student population shall provide the same priority course registration for each student who is receiving GI Bill educational benefits and for the spouse or dependent children of a veteran to whom the GI Bill education benefits have been transferred.

(4) Student Withdrawal from Courses Due to Military Service

- (a) Withdrawal Due to Military Service. Each university board of trustees shall adopt a regulation to provide that any student enrolled in a college credit course at a state university shall not incur academic or financial penalties by virtue of performing military service on behalf of our country. The regulation shall encourage withdrawal and possible eligible refund without academic penalty except in cases where the student and faculty member agree that completion is imminent and possible. If the course is no longer offered when the student seeks to resume study, an equivalent course may be selected. If the student chooses to withdraw, the student's record shall reflect that the withdrawal is due to active military service.
- (b) The provisions of this subsection and related university regulations shall apply to:

1. Students who are currently on active duty with any unit of the United States Armed Forces who receive orders that require reassignment to a different duty station or absence from class for an extended period of time during the semester in which they are enrolled; and
2. Students who are members of a National Guard, Air National Guard, or other military reserve unit who receive orders calling them to active duty for operational or training purposes during the semester in which they are enrolled, excluding any regularly scheduled weekend and annual training duty; and
3. Students who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces and who are recalled to active duty during the semester in which they are enrolled; and
4. Students who enlist in any branch of the United States Armed Forces and whose induction date falls within the semester in which they are enrolled.

(5) Beginning with the 2023-24 academic year, universities may be designated as Collegiate Purple Star Campuses. To receive this designation, universities must follow the initial process outlined and complete an annual certification form by July 1 each year.

(a) To be eligible for the designation, the university must meet the following criteria:

1. Designate a staff member as a military liaison,
2. Maintain a web page on the institution's website which includes resources for military students and their families,
3. Maintain a student-led transition program that assists military students in transitioning to the institution,
4. Offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students, and
5. Provide priority course registration for military students as defined in 1(a).
6. Provide an example of commitment to military students and families not included in (1) through (5) of this subsection.

(b) To receive an initial designation, universities submit the form and required documentation to the Board of Governors office.

(c) To maintain the designation, universities must report to the Board of Governors office by July 1 each year, certifying compliance with the requirements listed in section (5)(a) of this regulation.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Florida Constitution; Section 39.205, Florida Statutes; Section 1004.071, Florida Statutes; Section 1004.075, Florida Statutes. History: New 11-08-12, Amended 11-3-16, 05-11-21, 11-09-23, XX-XX-XX.