8.014 ~~Bachelors' Degree~~ Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirement for Undergraduate Degrees

(1) Degree Programs Requiring More Than 120 Credit Hours

(a) The Board of Governors may approve a university board of trustees' request for a bachelor's degree program to exceed 120 credit hours ~~to degree~~. The program must meet all requirements and provisions of Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Academic Degree Program Coordination and Approval. Programs may be approved for one or more of the following reasons.

1. Additional courses are required to meet specialized accreditation standards for program content, and such accreditation is expected or required for program graduates to become employed in the profession for which they are being prepared.

2. Additional courses are required to meet state or federal-mandated criteria for professional licensing.

3. The degree program offers ~~a~~ unique ~~and innovative~~ program requirements ~~learning experience~~, such as honors programs, individualized study, and ~~other~~ non-traditional ~~educational approaches~~ learning experiences.

~~(b)Approval to exceed 120 credit hours to degree applies to the degree program and its majors as defined in Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings. In the request for approval, the university must identify all majors within the degree program and the number of credit hours required for each major. The highest number of credit hours will be recorded in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory and used for state-level accountability calculations. Universities shall not implement majors within a degree program that exceed the recorded maximum number of credit hours for the degree program without following the processes described herein, as appropriate.~~

~~(3)~~ (b) Each university ~~board of trustees has the authority to approve~~ must inform its board of trustees of a reduction in the number of credit hours for degree programs approved by the Board of Governors to exceed 120 credit hours ~~to degree~~. ~~The university board of trustees approved reduction in credit hours will be the new total hours to degree.~~ Upon a decrease in credit hours to no fewer than 120 credit hours, the university ~~will~~ shall submit a notification of the change in required credit hours to the Board of Governors' office before the start of the effective term.~~to the Board of Governors' office a notification of reduced credit hours and include the university board of trustees approved credit hours to degree before the start of the effective term.~~

(2) Degree Programs Requiring Fewer Than 120 Credit Hours

(a) The Board of Governors may approve a university board of trustees' request for an undergraduate degree program to require fewer than 120 credit hours. The program must meet all requirements and provisions of Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Academic Degree Program Coordination and Approval. In addition, such programs must meet the following minimum criteria.

1. The program curriculum and student learning outcomes must maintain the rigor of the upper-division coursework that would be required of students in a traditional baccalaureate degree.

2. The general education requirements in accordance with sections 1007.24, 1007.25, and 1007.55, Florida Statutes, and Board of Governors' Regulation 8.005 and the requirement for students to demonstrate competency in civic literacy as outlined in Florida Statutes and Board of Governors' Regulation 8.006 must be met. This includes the 36 credit hour requirement of general education as specified in section 1007.25 and the required assessment and course to demonstrate competency in civic literacy.

3. Universities must facilitate seamless articulation consistent with Florida Statutes and Board of Governors' Regulation 8.007, Articulation.

4. Program curriculum must meet the statewide and institution-specific graduation requirements as outlined in Florida Statutes and Board of Governors' Regulation 6.017 Criteria for Awarding the Baccalaureate Degree.

5. Universities must use the program designation as determined by the Board of Governors or designee to distinguish such degree programs from traditional baccalaureate degrees.

6. The university must, at the time of acceptance into the designated program, provide students with information regarding the degree type and possible implications for future graduate or professional education opportunities. Additionally, this information must be made available on the university's public-facing website and in the official university catalog.

7. Universities shall allow students admitted to a reduced credit hour program to be admitted to the same traditional baccalaureate program pursuant to university policy. The student must be able to carry the credit earned in the reduced credit hour program into the traditional program.

(b) Each university must report outcomes of these programs annually in a format prescribed by the Chancellor.

(3) Approval for an exception to 120 credit hours requirement applies to the degree program and its majors as defined in Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Academic Degree Program Coordination and Approval. In the request for approval, the university must identify all majors within the degree program and the number of credit hours required for each major.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes; History: New 3-29-07; Amended 11-09-23; XX-XX-XX.