

FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT

DATE: November 6, 2015

REGULATION NUMBER AND TITLE: 6.002 Admission of Undergraduate First-Time-in-College, Degree-Seeking Freshmen

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment provides guidance related to minimum standards expected for admission of undergraduate first-time-in-college (FTIC), degree-seeking freshmen. The proposed amendments to the regulation acknowledge the new redesigned SAT (rSAT) that will be administered beginning in March 2016. The amendment provides clarification as to the treatment of scores during the transition time. Additionally, the essay portion of the admission tests are proposed to be dropped beginning spring 2017 as both the rSAT essay and the ACT essay are now optional for students. Knowledge of writing skills are still included in the standard tests.

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: Richard Stevens, Assistant 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 Street, Suite 1614, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, (850) 245-0466 (phone), (850) 245-9685 (fax), or [generalcounsel@flbog.edu](mailto:generalcounsel@flbog.edu).

## 6.002 Admission of Undergraduate First-Time-in-College, Degree-Seeking Freshmen

(1) **FTIC Undergraduate Admission - General.** This regulation outlines minimum eligibility requirements for first-time-in-college (FTIC) students seeking admission to an undergraduate degree program in the State University System (SUS). Individual institutions may choose to establish more stringent admission requirements within the parameters outlined in Board of Governors regulations.

- (a) For the purposes of this regulation, FTIC freshmen are defined as students who have earned a standard high school diploma from a Florida public or regionally accredited high school, or its equivalent, and who have earned fewer than twelve (12) semester hours of transferable college credit since receiving a standard high school diploma or its equivalent.
- (b) Eligibility for admission to the SUS does not guarantee admission to the specific institution or degree program to which admission is sought.
- (c) Each university board of trustees shall develop regulations governing the admission of ~~undergraduate~~ FTIC students that comport with the requirements outlined in Board regulations. Such regulations may allow for exceptions to be made on an individual basis, as outlined in subparagraph 2(b) of this regulation, when a student, in the judgment of an appropriate university committee, can reasonably be expected to perform satisfactory academic work in the institution to which admission is sought.
- (d) In all but the following specified cases, an FTIC student must have earned a standard high school diploma from a Florida public or regionally accredited high school, or its equivalent, to be considered for admission to a state university. Students completing a home education program according to section 1002.41, Florida Statutes, meet this minimum admission requirement; however, each university may require additional documentation to verify eligibility for these students. Students admitted under early admission in accordance with university policy are exempted from this requirement during the time they are still classified as early admission students. Early admission is a form of dual enrollment through which eligible secondary students are admitted to a postsecondary institution on a full-time basis in courses that are creditable toward both the high school diploma and the students' university degree program.
- (e) FTIC students applying for admission must submit SAT Reasoning Test or redesigned SAT (rSAT) scores from the College Board or ACT Plus with Writing scores from ACT, Inc. Universities may reserve the right to require a student to take an updated version of a test. Students applying for Spring 2017 or later are not required to submit an essay score.
- (f) Each university shall require FTIC applicants to submit or authorize transmission of a complete official academic transcript of all secondary work and from each postsecondary institution, as appropriate. Each transcript shall

list all courses for which the student was enrolled each term, the status in each course at the end of the term, all grades and credits awarded, and a statement explaining the grading policy of the institution.

- (g) Each transcript should also specify any college credits the student earned through accelerated mechanisms. University weighting of approved accelerated mechanisms in the recalculation of the student's grade point average for admission purposes must be conducted per Board Regulation 6.006(5) Acceleration Mechanisms.
- (h) Each FTIC student admitted to the SUS is expected to demonstrate competency of foreign language or American Sign Language equivalent to the second high school level or higher (Spanish 2, Haitian Creole 2, etc.). A limited number of students not meeting the high school foreign language requirement may be admitted; however, these students must fulfill the foreign language requirement prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree. These students may meet this foreign language admission requirement by demonstrating competency at the elementary 2 level in one foreign language or American Sign Language at an undergraduate institution; demonstrating equivalent foreign language competence on the basis of scores determined by the *Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) Credit-By-Exam Equivalencies*, as adopted by the BOG and accessible at [www.fldoe.org/articulation/](http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/); or demonstrating equivalent foreign language or American Sign Language competence through other means approved by the university.
- (i) Any FTIC student with a disability shall be eligible for reasonable substitution or modification of any requirement for admission pursuant to BOG Regulation 6.018.

(2) **FTIC Undergraduate Admission.** Students shall be considered as meeting minimum SUS eligibility requirements in one of the following ways:

- (a) Standard Admission: FTIC students applying to the SUS may be considered for admission based on the following criteria:
  1. An FTIC student may be admitted if meeting the following grade point average (GPA) or admissions test scores as indicated in Table One.

**Table One**

<u>Students Admitted Prior to Spring 2017</u>	<u>Students Admitted Spring 2017 and Later</u>
<u>An FTIC student may be admitted if he/she has a high school grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale as calculated by the university, and presents an official SAT Reasoning Test and/or ACT Plus Writing scores. Beginning</u>	<u>An FTIC student may be admitted if he/she has a high school GPA of 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale as calculated by the university and presents an official SAT and/or ACT.</u>
	<b><u>OR</u></b>

<p><u>fall 2014, the student must include the Plus Writing section of the ACT if utilizing the ACT to meet this standard,</u> <b><u>OR</u></b></p>	
<p><u>An FTIC student may be admitted if he/she has a high school GPA of 2.5 - 2.99 on a 4.00 scale as calculated by the university. Course work from which a student has withdrawn with passing grades will not be included in the calculation. In addition to achieving the minimum GPA, a student must achieve the minimum scores for each section of the SAT (or its corresponding score on the redesigned SAT, based on official concordance tables which will be available from the College Board after the administration of the first redesigned SAT) or ACT Plus Writing section as outlined below:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>• SAT - Critical Reading <math>\geq</math> 460 or ACT - Reading <math>\geq</math> 19,</u></li> <li><u>• SAT - Mathematics <math>\geq</math> 460 or ACT - Mathematics <math>\geq</math> 19, and</u></li> <li><u>• SAT - Writing <math>\geq</math> 440 or ACT - Combined English/Writing <math>\geq</math> 18.</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>An FTIC student may be admitted if he/she has a high school GPA of 2.5 - 2.99 on a 4.00 scale as calculated by the university. Course work from which a student has withdrawn with passing grades will not be included in the calculation. In addition to achieving the minimum GPA, a student must achieve the minimum scores for each section of the SAT (or its corresponding score on the redesigned SAT, based on an official Evidenced-Based Reading/Writing Section and Math Section concordance from the College Board after the administration of the first redesigned SAT) or ACT section as outlined below:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>• SAT - Critical Reading or concorded score from rSAT Evidence-Based Reading &amp; Writing score <math>\geq</math> 460 Or ACT Reading <math>\geq</math> 19</u></li> <li><u>• SAT - Mathematics <math>\geq</math> 460 or ACT - Mathematics <math>\geq</math> 19</u></li> </ul>

~~1. An FTIC student may be admitted if he/she has a high school grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale as calculated by the university, and presents official SAT Reasoning Test and/or ACT Plus Writing scores. Beginning fall 2014, the student must include the Plus Writing section of the ACT if utilizing the ACT to meet this standard,~~

**~~OR~~**

~~An FTIC student may be admitted if he/she has a high school GPA of 2.5 - 2.99 on a 4.00 scale as calculated by the university. Course work from which a student has withdrawn with passing grades will not be included in the~~

calculation. In addition to achieving the minimum GPA, a student must achieve the minimum scores for each SAT Reasoning Test or ACT Plus Writing section as outlined below:

- ~~SAT Critical Reading  $\geq$  460 or ACT Reading  $\geq$  19,~~
- ~~SAT Mathematics  $\geq$  460 or ACT Mathematics  $\geq$  19, and~~
- ~~SAT Writing  $\geq$  440 or ACT Combined English/Writing  $\geq$  18.~~

2. An FTIC applicant must have completed the secondary academic unit requirements as indicated in Table ~~One~~ Two.

**Table One-Two**

<b>Students Entering High School Prior to July 1, 2007</b>	<b>Students Entering High School July 1, 2007 or Later</b>
<b>4 credits - English/Language Arts</b> (three of which must have included substantial writing requirements).	<b>4 credits - English/Language Arts</b> (three of which must have included substantial writing requirements).
<b>3 credits - Mathematics</b> (at or above the Algebra I level).	<b>4 credits - Mathematics</b> (at or above the Algebra I level).
<b>3 credits - Natural Science</b> (two of which must have included substantial laboratory requirements).	<b>3 credits - Natural Science</b> (two of which must have included substantial laboratory requirements).
<b>3 credits - Social Science</b> (to include anthropology, history, civics, political science, economics, sociology, psychology, and/or geography).	<b>3 credits - Social Science</b> (to include anthropology, history, civics, political science, economics, sociology, psychology, and/or geography).
<b>2 credits - Foreign Language</b> See subsection 1(h).	<b>2 credits - Foreign Language</b> See subsection 1(h).

<p><b>3 credits – Additional academic electives</b> (in any combination of courses listed in the Department of Education Course Code Directory, accessible at <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/">www.fldoe.org/articulation/</a>, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Up to three credits in Level II courses in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science, Foreign Language, or Fine Arts; Level III courses in any discipline; or Dual Enrollment courses for which both high school and postsecondary credits are granted; <b>OR</b></li> <li>2. At least one credit from 1. above and up to two credits in courses grade nine or above in ROTC/Military Training, or at least one credit from 1. above and up to two credits of equivalent courses in any discipline as determined by the Articulation Coordinating Committee, <del>and listed in the Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook, accessible at <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/">www.fldoe.org/articulation/</a>).</del></li> </ol>	<p><b>2 credits – Additional academic credits</b> (in any combination of courses listed in the Department of Education Course Code Directory, accessible at <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/">www.fldoe.org/articulation/</a>, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two credits from among Level II courses listed in the Department of Education Course Code Directory in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science, Foreign Language, Fine Arts; Level III courses listed in the Directory in any academic or career and technical education credited discipline; or Dual Enrollment courses for which both high school and postsecondary academic credits are granted; <b>OR</b></li> <li>2. One credit from 1. above and one credit from grade nine or above in ROTC/Military Training, or an equivalent course in any discipline as determined by the Articulation Coordinating Committee, <del>and listed in the Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook, accessible at <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/">www.fldoe.org/articulation/</a>).</del></li> </ol>
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3. Home Education or Other Non-Traditional High School Program participants: A student applying for admission who has participated in a non-traditional high school program must present credentials determined to be equivalent to those described in this regulation by the individual SUS institution to which the student is applying. A student whose high school educational program is not measured in Carnegie Units must present a combined test score of at least 1010 on the SAT I, a combined test score of at least 1010 on the SAT Reasoning Test (or concordant redesigned SAT section) ~~Critical Reading and Mathematics portions~~, a minimum composite score of 21 on the ACT Plus Writing (or ACT for students entering Spring 2017), or an overall combined test score of 1450 on the SAT Reasoning Test (all three portions).

Applicants presenting a GED must present official GED results, official transcripts of any partial high school completion, and ACT Plus Writing and/or SAT results. Each university shall determine equivalencies to university minimum standards. Students admitted spring 2017 or later may submit ACT scores without an essay.

- (b) Alternative Admission (Profile Assessment): Applicants who are not eligible for standard admissions may be considered for alternative admission. In addition to reviewing a student's GPA and test scores, a university may consider other factors in the review of the student's application for admission. These factors may include, but are not limited to, the following: a combination of test scores and GPA that indicate potential for success, improvement in high school record, family educational background, socioeconomic status, graduation from a low-performing high school, graduation from an International Baccalaureate program, geographic location, military service, special talents and/or abilities, or other special circumstances. These additional factors shall not include preferences in the admissions process for applicants on the basis of race, national origin, or sex. The student may be admitted if, in the judgment of an appropriate institutional committee, there is sufficient evidence that the student can be expected to succeed at the institution.
1. The number of first-time-in-college students admitted through profile assessment at each university shall be determined by the university board of trustees.
  2. Each university shall implement specific measures and programs to enhance academic success and retention for students who are accepted into the institution using the alternative admissions option. The board of trustees shall review the success of students admitted under the profile assessment process to ensure that their rates of retention and graduation remain near or above the institution's average.
- (c) Talented Twenty: Within space and fiscal limitations, admission to a university in the SUS shall be granted to an FTIC applicant who is a graduate of a public Florida high school, who has completed the eighteen (18) required high school units as listed in this regulation, who ranks in the top 20% of his/her high school graduating class, and who has submitted SAT Reasoning Test or redesigned SAT scores from the College Board or ACT Plus Writing scores from ACT, Inc., prior to enrollment. A Talented Twenty student is not guaranteed admission to the university of first choice and should work closely with a high school counselor to identify options. The SUS will use class rank as determined by the Florida Department of Education. Students admitted Spring 2017 or later may submit a redesigned SAT or ACT without an essay.

(3) Any increase, change, or revision in standards of admission must be included in the undergraduate catalog and posted on the university Web site.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const., History - Formerly 6C-2.42, and 6C-6.02, 11-18-70, 5-27-74, 12-17-74, 6-25-80, 3-21-82, 4-16-84, 4-14-86, 4-20-87, 10-19-88, 1-23-90, 1-7-91, 9-15-91, 8-4-92, 5-17-95, 11-27-95, 9-19-00, 11-28-00, Amended and Renumbered as 6.002 9-27-07, 01-28-10, 11-08-12, 11-21-2013. Amended: \_\_\_\_\_.