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**DFC Memorandum Number: 2021-12**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Florida College System Presidents

**FROM:** Kathryn S. Hebda 

**DATE:** October 21, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-10.02413, Florida Administrative Code, Civic Literacy Competency**

On October 20, 2021, the State Board of Education approved revisions to Rule 6A-10.02413, Florida Administrative Code, Civic Literacy Competency. This rule amendment is in accordance with section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, which was modified by Senate Bill 1008 (Chapter No. 2021-157, Laws of Florida), that passed during the 2021 legislative session. A copy of the rule is attached for your reference.

Previously, associate in arts and baccalaureate degree first-time-in-college students could demonstrate competency in civic literacy through the successful completion of a course (POSX041 American Government or AMHX020 Introductory Survey Since 1877) or by achieving a passing score on an assessment, including:

- AP Government and Politics: United States;
- AP United States History; or
- CLEP: American Government.

The rule amendment specifies the previous requirement – passing a course or an assessment – applies to students from 2018-19 through 2020-21. Additionally, the rule amendment specifies, beginning in 2021-22, and thereafter:

- Both an assessment and a course are required to meet the civic literacy competency requirements for A.A. and baccalaureate students.
- The Florida Civic Literacy Examination (FCLE) is a new low-cost option that students may use to meet the assessment requirement.
- High school students who take the U.S. Government course and pass the FCLE will have met the postsecondary civic literacy assessment requirement.
- Students must be provided opportunities to engage synchronously in political discussions.
- Credit earned through articulated acceleration mechanisms counts toward the course requirement and the assessment requirement, if the assessment is identified in rule.

KATHRYN S. HEBDA  
FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR

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**Action Required:** Each college should review the statutory and rule requirements and update their existing policies and procedures to comply with the provisions. This may include updating institutional catalogs and websites, informing admissions advisors and modifying reporting mechanisms. More information regarding updates to FASTER, as well as state reporting, will be transmitted as soon as available.

To assist institutions in implementing the provisions, attached are responses to several implementation questions that emerged during rule development. The division is hosting a webinar on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. ET, to review several rule revisions, including civic literacy. The registration link is available at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8280444477088431632>.

Please note, the division anticipates entering into rule development in spring 2022 to add the civic literacy requirement as a condition of associate in science/associate in applied science degree completion. It is expected the changes would take effect for the 2022-23 academic year to coincide with general education changes from House Bill 1507.

Please contact Dr. Mike Sfiropoulos, Director of Academic Affairs, at [Mike.Sfiropoulos@fldoe.org](mailto:Mike.Sfiropoulos@fldoe.org) for questions regarding the rule.

KH/ms

Attachments

Cc: Henry Mack, Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education (DCAE)  
Elizabeth Moya, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Articulation & Career Education Policy, DCAE  
Dr. Carrie Henderson, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges (DFC)  
Dr. Mike Sfiropoulos, Director, Academic Affairs, DFC  
Dr. Hayley Spencer, Director, Research and Analytics, DFC  
Dr. Shanna Autry, Director, Student Affairs, DFC  
Katie Grissom, Deputy Director, Academic Affairs, DFC  
Caleb Hawkes, Director of External and Governmental Affairs, DFC  
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