



26 of Florida Colleges to review proposals and, in the  
 27 event of deficiencies, to provide certain written  
 28 notice to the Florida College System institution;  
 29 providing requirements for the approval process;  
 30 providing that, upon approval of a new associate in  
 31 arts specialized transfer degree, Florida College  
 32 System institutions may offer the degree and shall  
 33 report certain data; requiring the State Board of  
 34 Education to adopt rules; conforming a provision to  
 35 changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

36  
 37 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

38  
 39 Section 1. Present subsections (8) and (9) of section  
 40 1007.23, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (9)  
 41 and (10), a new subsection (8) is added to that section, and  
 42 subsection (6) of that section is amended, to read:

43 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

44 (6) The articulation agreement must guarantee the statewide  
 45 articulation of appropriate courses within associate in science  
 46 degree programs to baccalaureate degree programs. Courses within  
 47 an associate in applied science degree program may articulate  
 48 into a baccalaureate degree program on an individual or block  
 49 basis as authorized in local interinstitutional articulation  
 50 agreements.

51 (a) No later than September 1, 2024, the Articulation  
52 Coordinating Committee shall convene a workgroup composed of  
53 faculty from the State University System, Florida College System  
54 institutions, and district career centers to facilitate the  
55 seamless transfer of the associate in science degree and reduce  
56 time to credential completion. The workgroup shall develop a  
57 minimum of four statewide "2+2" associate in science programs to  
58 baccalaureate degree articulation agreements in high-demand  
59 fields that articulate the associate in science degree into a  
60 related baccalaureate degree. These agreements must be developed  
61 for programs that are widely offered at Florida College System  
62 institutions and most state universities and must guarantee the  
63 transfer, acceptance, and credit application of the full  
64 associate in science degree toward the baccalaureate degree  
65 program requirements. The workgroup shall develop  
66 recommendations for the inclusion of up to 24 credit hours of  
67 general education courses in the "2+2" associate in science  
68 degree, the demonstration of competency in a foreign language  
69 pursuant to s. 1007.262, and the acceptance of general education  
70 and program-specific courses as transfer course credits. The  
71 workgroup shall provide its proposed articulation agreements to  
72 the Articulation Coordinating Committee for consideration by  
73 March 1, 2025. If approved, the Articulation Coordinating  
74 Committee will submit the agreements to the Board of Governors  
75 and State Board of Education for consideration of approval. If

76 approved by the Board of Governors and State Board of Education,  
 77 respectively, state universities and Florida College System  
 78 institutions must accept and apply articulated credit as  
 79 stipulated in the final articulation agreements.

80 (b) In addition to awarding credit in accordance with the  
 81 statewide "2+2" associate in science programs to baccalaureate  
 82 degree articulation agreements developed pursuant to paragraph  
 83 (a), each state university shall, by the start of the 2025-2026  
 84 academic year, adopt a minimum of one local "2+2" associate in  
 85 science programs to baccalaureate degree articulation agreement  
 86 with one or more Florida College System institutions. The  
 87 agreements must guarantee the transfer, acceptance, and credit  
 88 application of the full associate in science degree program of  
 89 study toward the baccalaureate degree program requirements. By  
 90 August 1, 2025, each state university must submit the local  
 91 "2+2" associate in science programs to baccalaureate degree  
 92 articulation agreement to the Department of Education.

93 (8) To strengthen educator preparation programs in this state  
 94 and provide seamless pathways to continued educational  
 95 opportunities, by September 1, 2023, the Articulation  
 96 Coordinating Committee shall convene a workgroup responsible for  
 97 developing recommendations for seamless student transfer from  
 98 one educational level to the next in teacher preparation  
 99 programs for education paraprofessionals and individuals who  
 100 have earned the child development associate credential. The

101 workgroup shall also develop recommendations for the seamless  
 102 transfer of teacher apprentices for the completion of their  
 103 baccalaureate degree.

104 (a) The workgroup must be composed of State University System  
 105 and Florida College System institution faculty and faculty of  
 106 district career centers established under s. 1001.44.

107 (b) The workgroup shall review existing statewide, regional,  
 108 and intrainstitutional agreements to identify seamless pathways  
 109 and course sequences through the attainment of baccalaureate  
 110 degree and develop a statewide articulation agreement that  
 111 includes articulated postsecondary credit for the child  
 112 development associate credential as specified in paragraph  
 113 (7)(a) and college-level training, experience, and education  
 114 acquired while serving as an education paraprofessional as  
 115 defined in s. 1012.01(2)(e), and a teacher apprentice to include  
 116 the award of credit toward a baccalaureate degree for experience  
 117 acquired in the teacher apprenticeship program.

118 (c) The workgroup shall provide its recommendation and proposed  
 119 articulation agreement to the Articulation Coordinating  
 120 Committee by March 1, 2024. If approved, the Articulation  
 121 Coordinating Committee will submit the agreement to the Board of  
 122 Governors and State Board of Education for consideration of  
 123 approval. If approved by the Board of Governors and State Board  
 124 of Education, respectively, state universities and Florida  
 125 College System institutions must accept and apply articulated

126 credit as stipulated in the final articulation agreement.

127 Section 2. Subsection (8) of section 1007.24, Florida  
 128 Statutes, is amended, and Subsection (10) of that section is  
 129 created, to read:

130 1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.—

131 (8) Participating postsecondary institutions receiving  
 132 transfer course credit must accept and apply general education  
 133 courses and credit in accordance with this section, s. 1007.25,  
 134 and other provisions of law, including credit earned through  
 135 dual enrollment, course equivalencies, and other acceleration  
 136 mechanisms, as first satisfying general education core course  
 137 credit requirements and other general education subject area  
 138 course credit requirements, as appropriate ~~before applying the~~  
 139 ~~course credit as elective credit.~~ Transfer course credit not  
 140 applied in satisfying general education requirements must be  
 141 applied as satisfying institutional and program-specified  
 142 requirements before it is applied as elective credit.

143 (10) The Department of Education, in conjunction with the  
 144 Board of Governors, shall provide recommendations on a process  
 145 to review and improve the statewide course numbering system. The  
 146 recommendations must include, but are not limited to,  
 147 identification of institutional usage of and compliance with the  
 148 existing statewide course numbering system, an analysis of the  
 149 extent to which courses have similar learning outcomes as other  
 150 courses, the involvement of discipline committees to modify or

151 eliminate duplicative courses, a communication process to  
152 regularly inform institutions of changes, and a cyclic review  
153 process that comports to subsection (9). The recommendations  
154 shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and the  
155 Chancellor of the State University System by July 1, 2024.

156 Section 3. Subsections (7), (9), and (12) of section  
157 1007.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

158 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites; other  
159 degree requirements.—

160 (7)(a) The department shall identify common prerequisite  
161 courses and course substitutions for degree programs across all  
162 institutions. Common degree program prerequisites shall be  
163 offered and accepted by all state universities and Florida  
164 College System institutions, except in cases approved by the  
165 State Board of Education for Florida College System institutions  
166 and the Board of Governors for state universities. The  
167 department shall develop a centralized database containing the  
168 list of courses and course substitutions that meet the  
169 prerequisite requirements for each baccalaureate degree program.

170 (b) The Department of Education, in conjunction with the Board  
171 of Governors, shall undertake a review of the prerequisite  
172 courses and course substitutions identified in paragraph (a),  
173 collectively known as the Common Prerequisite Manual. Based on  
174 the findings from the review, changes may be proposed to the  
175 Common Prerequisite Manual through the Articulation Coordinating

176 Committee to reduce duplication, improve students' access to  
177 baccalaureate degrees, and simplify admissions requirements. The  
178 Florida Virtual Campus must provide the Department of Education  
179 and Board of Governors a data file of all existing approved  
180 common prerequisites by July 20, 2023, to inform this review.  
181 The review, at a minimum, must examine the extent to which:  
182 1. Courses identified as prerequisites for program admission  
183 that also have course-level prerequisites requiring additional  
184 coursework.  
185 2. Common prerequisite courses and their alternatives are  
186 widely available at Florida College System institutions and  
187 state universities.  
188 3. All prerequisites listed for a given degree program,  
189 including those that are exceptions or additions, are necessary  
190 for admission into the baccalaureate degree program, in  
191 partnership with Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)  
192 discipline committees.  
193 (c) The Department of Education, in conjunction with the Board  
194 of Governors, shall develop a cyclical review process of the  
195 Common Prerequisite Manual that involves CIP discipline  
196 committee review.  
197 (d)1. To facilitate the use of the revisions to the Common  
198 Prerequisite Manual under paragraphs (b) and (c), the  
199 Commissioner and the Chancellor of the State University System  
200 shall establish a process for designating an entity to redevelop



201 the Common Prerequisite Manual database pursuant to s.  
 202 1006.73(3) with an interactive, student-friendly interface and  
 203 an administrative portal. The redevelopment of the database  
 204 shall follow industry standard project management protocols and  
 205 be guided by a steering committee. The steering committee shall  
 206 be comprised of representatives appointed by the Commissioner of  
 207 Education and the Chancellor of the State University System and  
 208 must include at least one representative each from the Office of  
 209 Articulation, the Division of Florida Colleges, and the Board of  
 210 Governors. The project steering committee will report regularly  
 211 to the Chancellor and Commissioner, who will have final approval  
 212 of the database and interfaces.

213 2. Florida College System and State University System  
 214 institutions must link to this database on their admissions and  
 215 program websites once it is available.

216 (9) (a) An associate in arts degree must ~~shall~~ require no more  
 217 than 60 semester hours of college credit and include 36 semester  
 218 hours of general education coursework. ~~Beginning with students~~  
 219 ~~initially entering a Florida College System institution or state~~  
 220 ~~university in the 2014-2015 academic year and thereafter,~~  
 221 Coursework ~~coursework~~ for an associate in arts degree must ~~shall~~  
 222 include demonstration of competency in a foreign language  
 223 pursuant to s. 1007.262. Except for developmental education  
 224 required pursuant to s. 1008.30, all required coursework must  
 225 ~~shall~~ count toward the associate in arts degree or the

226 | baccalaureate degree.

227 | (b) An associate in arts specialized transfer degree must  
 228 | include 36 semester hours of general education coursework and  
 229 | require 60 semester hours or more of college credit. Specialized  
 230 | transfer degrees are designed for Florida College System  
 231 | institution students who need supplemental lower-level  
 232 | coursework in preparation for transfer as provided under  
 233 | subsection (7). The State Board of Education shall establish  
 234 | criteria for the review and approval of new specialized transfer  
 235 | degrees. The approval process must require:

236 | 1. Each Florida College System institution to submit a notice  
 237 | of its intent to propose a new associate in arts specialized  
 238 | degree program to the Division of Florida Colleges. The notice  
 239 | must include the recommended credit hours, rationale for the  
 240 | specialization, the demand for students entering the field, and  
 241 | the coursework being proposed to be included beyond the 60  
 242 | semester hours required or the general transfer degree, if  
 243 | applicable. Notices of intent may be submitted by a Florida  
 244 | College System institution at any time.

245 | 2. The Division of Florida Colleges to forward the notice of  
 246 | intent within 10 business days after receipt to the Chancellor  
 247 | of the State University System and all Florida College System  
 248 | institutions. State universities and Florida College System  
 249 | institutions have 60 days after receipt of the notice to submit  
 250 | comments on the proposed associate in arts specialized transfer

251 degree.

252 3. After the submission of comments pursuant to subparagraph

253 2., the requesting Florida College System institution to submit

254 a proposal that, at a minimum, includes:

255 a. Evidence that the coursework for the associate in arts

256 specialized transfer degree includes demonstration of competency

257 in foreign language as provided in s. 1007.262 and demonstration

258 of civic literacy competency as provided in subsection (5).

259 b. Demonstration that all required coursework will count

260 toward the associate in arts degree or the baccalaureate degree.

261 c. An analysis of demand and unmet need for students entering

262 the specialized field of study at the baccalaureate level.

263 d. Justification for the program length if it exceeds 60

264 credit hours, including references to the common prerequisite

265 manual or other requirements for the baccalaureate degree. This

266 includes documentation of alignment between the exit

267 requirements of a Florida College System institution and the

268 admissions requirements of a baccalaureate degree program at a

269 state university to which students would typically transfer.

270 e. Articulation agreements for graduates of the associate in

271 arts specialized transfer degree.

272 f. Responses to comments received under subparagraph 2.

273 (c) The Division of Florida Colleges shall review the

274 proposal and, within 30 days after receipt, shall provide

275 written notification to the Florida College System institution

276 of any deficiencies and provide it with an opportunity to  
 277 correct the deficiencies. Within 45 days following receipt of a  
 278 completed proposal by the Division of Florida Colleges, the  
 279 Commissioner of Education shall recommend approval or  
 280 disapproval of the new specialized transfer degree to the State  
 281 Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall consider  
 282 the recommendation at its next meeting.

283 (d) Once the State Board of Education approves an associate  
 284 in arts specialized transfer degree, a Florida College System  
 285 institution may offer the degree and shall report data on  
 286 student and program performance in a manner prescribed by the  
 287 Department of Education.

288 (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules, pursuant  
 289 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, to prescribe format and content  
 290 requirements and submission procedures for notices of intent,  
 291 proposals, and compliance reviews under this subsection.

292 (12) A student who received an associate in arts degree ~~for~~  
 293 ~~successfully completing 60 semester credit hours~~ may continue to  
 294 earn additional credits at a Florida College System institution.  
 295 The university must provide credit toward the student's  
 296 baccalaureate degree for an additional Florida College System  
 297 institution course if, according to the statewide course  
 298 numbering, the Florida College System institution course is a  
 299 course listed in the university catalog as required for the  
 300 degree or as prerequisite to a course required for the degree.

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301 Of the courses required for the degree, at least half of the  
302 credit hours required for the degree must ~~shall~~ be achievable  
303 through courses designated as lower division, except in degree  
304 programs approved by the State Board of Education for programs  
305 offered by Florida College System institutions and by the Board  
306 of Governors for programs offered by state universities.

307 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.