



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

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41 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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43 | Section 1. Subsections (8) and (9) of section 1007.23,  
 44 | Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (9) and (10),  
 45 | respectively, subsection (6) is amended, and a new subsection  
 46 | (8) is added to that section, to read:

47 | 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

48 | (6) The articulation agreement must guarantee the  
 49 | statewide articulation of appropriate courses within associate  
 50 | in science degree programs to baccalaureate degree programs.

51 Courses within an associate in applied science degree program  
52 may articulate into a baccalaureate degree program on an  
53 individual or block basis as authorized in local  
54 interinstitutional articulation agreements.

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

76 | the Articulation Coordinating Committee for consideration by  
 77 | March 1, 2025. If approved, the Articulation Coordinating  
 78 | Committee will submit the agreements to the Board of Governors  
 79 | and State Board of Education for consideration of approval. If  
 80 | approved by the Board of Governors and State Board of Education,  
 81 | respectively, state universities and Florida College System  
 82 | institutions must accept and apply articulated credit as  
 83 | stipulated in the final articulation agreements.

84 | (b) In addition to awarding credit in accordance with the  
 85 | statewide "2+2" associate in science programs to baccalaureate  
 86 | degree articulation agreements developed pursuant to paragraph  
 87 | (a), each state university shall, by the start of the 2025-2026  
 88 | academic year, adopt a minimum of one local "2+2" associate in  
 89 | science programs to baccalaureate degree articulation agreement  
 90 | with one or more Florida College System institutions. The  
 91 | agreements must guarantee the transfer, acceptance, and credit  
 92 | application of the full associate in science degree program of  
 93 | study toward the baccalaureate degree program requirements. By  
 94 | August 1, 2025, each state university must submit the local  
 95 | "2+2" associate in science programs to baccalaureate degree  
 96 | articulation agreement to the Department of Education.

97 | (8) To strengthen educator preparation programs in this  
 98 | state and provide seamless pathways to continued educational  
 99 | opportunities, by September 1, 2023, the Articulation  
 100 | Coordinating Committee shall convene a workgroup responsible for

101 developing recommendations for seamless student transfer from  
102 one educational level to the next in teacher preparation  
103 programs for education paraprofessionals and individuals who  
104 have earned the child development associate credential. The  
105 workgroup shall also develop recommendations for the seamless  
106 transfer of teacher apprentices for the completion of their  
107 baccalaureate degree.

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

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

122 (c) The workgroup shall provide its recommendation and  
123 proposed articulation agreement to the Articulation Coordinating  
124 Committee by March 1, 2024. If approved, the Articulation  
125 Coordinating Committee will submit the agreement to the Board of

126 Governors and State Board of Education for consideration of  
 127 approval. If approved by the Board of Governors and State Board  
 128 of Education, respectively, state universities and Florida  
 129 College System institutions must accept and apply articulated  
 130 credit as stipulated in the final articulation agreement.

131 Section 2. Subsection (8) of section 1007.24, Florida  
 132 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (10) is added to that  
 133 section, to read:

134 1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.—

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

147 (10) The Department of Education, in conjunction with the  
 148 Board of Governors, shall provide recommendations on a process  
 149 to review and improve the statewide course numbering system. The  
 150 recommendations must include, but are not limited to,

151 identification of institutional usage of and compliance with the  
152 existing statewide course numbering system, an analysis of the  
153 extent to which courses have similar learning outcomes as other  
154 courses, the involvement of discipline committees to modify or  
155 eliminate duplicative courses, a communication process to  
156 regularly inform institutions of changes, and a cyclic review  
157 process that meets the requirements of subsection (9). The  
158 recommendations shall be submitted to the Commissioner of  
159 Education and the Chancellor of the State University System by  
160 July 1, 2024.

161 Section 3. Subsections (7), (9), and (12) of section  
162 1007.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

163 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;  
164 other degree requirements.—

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

175 (b) The department, in conjunction with the Board of

176 Governors, shall undertake a review of the prerequisite courses  
177 and course substitutions identified in paragraph (a),  
178 collectively known as the common prerequisite manual. Based on  
179 the findings from the review, changes may be proposed to the  
180 common prerequisite manual through the Articulation Coordinating  
181 Committee to reduce duplication, improve students' access to  
182 baccalaureate degrees, and simplify admissions requirements. The  
183 Florida Virtual Campus must provide the department and Board of  
184 Governors a data file of all existing approved common  
185 prerequisites by July 20, 2023, to inform this review. The  
186 review, at a minimum, must examine the extent to which:

- 187 1. Courses identified as prerequisites for program  
188 admission also have course-level prerequisites requiring  
189 additional coursework.
- 190 2. Common prerequisite courses and their alternatives are  
191 widely available at Florida College System institutions and  
192 state universities.
- 193 3. All prerequisites listed for a given degree program,  
194 including those that are exceptions or additions, are necessary  
195 for admission into the baccalaureate degree program, in  
196 partnership with classification of instructional programs (CIP)  
197 discipline committees.

198 (c) The department, in conjunction with the Board of  
199 Governors, shall develop a cyclical review process of the common  
200 prerequisite manual that involves CIP discipline committee



201 review.

202 (d)1. To facilitate the use of the revisions to the common  
203 prerequisite manual under paragraphs (b) and (c), the  
204 Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor of the State  
205 University System shall establish a process for designating an  
206 entity to redevelop the common prerequisite manual database  
207 pursuant to s. 1006.73(3) with an interactive, student-friendly  
208 interface and an administrative portal. The redevelopment of the  
209 database shall follow industry standard project management  
210 protocols and be guided by a steering committee. The steering  
211 committee shall be comprised of representatives appointed by the  
212 commissioner and the chancellor and must include at least one  
213 representative each from the Office of Articulation, the  
214 Division of Florida Colleges, and the Board of Governors. The  
215 project steering committee shall report regularly to the  
216 commissioner and chancellor, who shall have final approval of  
217 the database and interfaces.

218 2. Florida College System and State University System  
219 institutions must link to this database on their admissions and  
220 program websites once the database is available.

221 (9)(a) An associate in arts degree ~~shall~~ must require no  
222 more than 60 semester hours of college credit and include 36  
223 semester hours of general education coursework. ~~Beginning with~~  
224 ~~students initially entering a Florida College System institution~~  
225 ~~or state university in 2014-2015 and thereafter,~~ Coursework for

226 an associate in arts degree must ~~shall~~ include demonstration of  
227 competency in a foreign language pursuant to s. 1007.262. Except  
228 for developmental education required pursuant to s. 1008.30, all  
229 required coursework must ~~shall~~ count toward the associate in  
230 arts degree or the baccalaureate degree.

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

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

249 2. The Division of Florida Colleges to forward the notice  
250 of intent within 10 business days after receipt to the

251 Chancellor of the State University System and all Florida  
252 College System institutions. State universities and Florida  
253 College System institutions have 60 days after receipt of the  
254 notice to submit comments on the proposed associate in arts  
255 specialized transfer degree.

256 3. After the submission of comments pursuant to  
257 subparagraph 2., the requesting Florida College System  
258 institution to submit a proposal that, at a minimum, includes:

259 a. Evidence that the coursework for the associate in arts  
260 specialized transfer degree includes demonstration of competency  
261 in foreign language as provided in s. 1007.262 and demonstration  
262 of civic literacy competency as provided in subsection (5).

263 b. Demonstration that all required coursework will count  
264 toward the associate in arts degree or the baccalaureate degree.

265 c. An analysis of demand and unmet need for students  
266 entering the specialized field of study at the baccalaureate  
267 level.

268 d. Justification for the program length if it exceeds 60  
269 credit hours, including references to the common prerequisite  
270 manual or other requirements for the baccalaureate degree. This  
271 includes documentation of alignment between the exit  
272 requirements of a Florida College System institution and the  
273 admissions requirements of a baccalaureate degree program at a  
274 state university to which students would typically transfer.

275 e. Articulation agreements for graduates of the associate

276 | in arts specialized transfer degree.

277 | f. Responses to comments received under subparagraph 2.

278 | (c) The Division of Florida Colleges shall review the  
279 | proposal and, within 30 days after receipt, shall provide  
280 | written notification to the Florida College System institution  
281 | of any deficiencies and provide it with an opportunity to  
282 | correct the deficiencies. Within 45 days following receipt of a  
283 | completed proposal by the Division of Florida Colleges, the  
284 | Commissioner of Education shall recommend approval or  
285 | disapproval of the new specialized transfer degree to the State  
286 | Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall consider  
287 | the recommendation at its next meeting.

288 | (d) Once the State Board of Education approves an  
289 | associate in arts specialized transfer degree, a Florida College  
290 | System institution may offer the degree and shall report data on  
291 | student and program performance in a manner prescribed by the  
292 | Department of Education.

293 | (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
294 | pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to prescribe format and  
295 | content requirements and submission procedures for notices of  
296 | intent, proposals, and compliance reviews under this subsection.

297 | (12) A student who received an associate in arts degree  
298 | ~~for successfully completing 60 semester credit hours~~ may  
299 | continue to earn additional credits at a Florida College System  
300 | institution. The university must provide credit toward the

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301 student's baccalaureate degree for an additional Florida College  
302 System institution course if, according to the statewide course  
303 numbering, the Florida College System institution course is a  
304 course listed in the university catalog as required for the  
305 degree or as prerequisite to a course required for the degree.  
306 Of the courses required for the degree, at least half of the  
307 credit hours required for the degree must ~~shall~~ be achievable  
308 through courses designated as lower division, except in degree  
309 programs approved by the State Board of Education for programs  
310 offered by Florida College System institutions and by the Board  
311 of Governors for programs offered by state universities.

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