

Civic Literacy Guidance

In accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 8.006, Civic Literacy
 Updated June 28, 2024

Background

In 2017, the Florida Legislature amended section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, and introduced a new civic literacy requirement for all students graduating from a Florida public postsecondary institution.

Beginning in the fall of 2018, students entering a Florida public postsecondary institution for the first time would need to demonstrate civic literacy by either taking a specific course or passing an assessment. The 2021 Legislature amended section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, requiring students to complete both a course and an assessment. In 2024, the Board of Governors revised Regulation 8.006 to include the course AMH X010 to meet civic literacy competencies and to better align the regulation to the Florida Department of Education rule.

As a result of these changes, four cohorts of students are currently matriculating through Florida public postsecondary institutions subject to varying civic literacy competency requirements. Table 1 outlines the civic literacy requirements based on the specified date of the academic term in which a student initially entered a State University System (SUS) or Florida College System (FCS) institution.

Table 1: Civic Literacy Requirements by Cohort of Students

Students Included in Cohort		Civic Literacy Requirement
Cohort 1	Students initially entering the SUS or FCS before fall 2018	None
Cohort 2	Students initially entering the SUS or FCS in Academic Year 2018 through Academic Year 2020*	Course OR Assessment
Cohort 3	Students initially entering the SUS or FCS in Academic Year 2021 through Academic Year 2023*	Course AND Assessment
Cohort 4	Students initially entering the SUS or FCS in fall 2024 and thereafter	Course AND Assessment

*It is the university's discretion to determine their academic year.

Additionally, for Cohorts 3 and 4, approved accelerated mechanisms may meet the course and/or assessment requirement, and students who pass the Florida Civic Literacy Examination (FCLE) in high school are exempt from the postsecondary assessment requirement.

Meeting the Civic Literacy Requirement

All undergraduate degree-seeking students who enroll in a Florida public institution in fall 2018 and thereafter must demonstrate civic literacy competency. Table 2 details which options meet the course and assessment requirements for each cohort of students. Some options only satisfy the course or assessment requirement, while others may satisfy both.

Credit received for courses in Board of Governors Regulation 8.006 (AMHX010, AMHX020, and POSX041) via [credit-by-exam](#) will count toward the course requirement.

- If the exam used as the basis of awarding credit is in Regulation 8.006 (e.g., AP and CLEP), the student would be considered as having met both the civic literacy competency course and the assessment requirement.
- If the exam used as the basis of awarding credit is not in regulation (e.g., AICE and IB), the student would be considered as having met only the course requirement. These students would need to be assessed using an assessment approved in the regulation.

Beginning with fall term 2024 and thereafter, any undergraduate degree-seeking student, regardless of their cohort, can use any of the approved options for Cohort 4 to satisfy civic literacy competency before graduation.

Table 2: Course and Assessment Options for Cohorts 2, 3, and 4

Options	Score	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4
Courses & Accelerated Mechanisms				
POS X041 (<i>including dual enrollment</i>)	Passing grade	Course	Course	Course
AMH X010 (<i>including dual enrollment</i>)*	Passing grade	Course*	Course*	Course*
AMH X020 (<i>including dual enrollment</i>)	Passing grade	Course	Course	Course
Advanced Placement Government and Politics: United States	3	Course & Assessment	Course & Assessment	Course & Assessment
Advanced Placement United States History	4	Course & Assessment	Course & Assessment	Course & Assessment
Cambridge AICE History, U.S. History, c.1840-1990 (A-Level)	A-E	Course	Course	Course
I.B. History: History of the Americas	5-7	Course	Course	Course
Assessments				
CLEP American Government	50	Course & Assessment	Course & Assessment	Course & Assessment
CLEP History of the United States I	50	Course & Assessment	Course & Assessment	Course & Assessment
CLEP History of the United States II	50	Course	Course	Course
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Test-Civics (U.S. history and government) with supplemental questions	60	Assessment	Assessment	None
Florida Civic Literacy Examination (FCLE)	60	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment

*If completed fall 2024 or after

Guidance for Special Populations and Cases

Students with Disabilities: Pursuant to Section 1007.265, Florida Statutes, and Board of Governors Regulation 6.018, Substitution or Modification of Requirements for Program Admission, Undergraduate Transfer, and for Graduation by Students with Disabilities, universities may substitute a graduation requirement for students where documentation can be provided that the student's failure to meet the requirement is related to the disability and where failure to meet the graduation requirement does not constitute a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program.

Out-of-State Students: Out-of-state undergraduate students transferring to a State University System institution during the 2024-2025 academic year or thereafter who have never previously enrolled in a Florida public postsecondary institution must meet both the course and assessment requirements outlined for Cohort 4. If the out-of-state transfer student has already taken an equivalent to POS X041, AMH X010, or AMH X020, the institution should review the prior course syllabus to determine if the course included the required competencies outlined in Board of Governors' Regulation 8.006. The same procedures apply to students transferring from private institutions during the 2024-2025 Academic Year or thereafter who have never previously enrolled in a Florida public postsecondary institution.

Associate in Arts Transfer Students: If a student was enrolled in a Florida public postsecondary institution prior to the fall 2018 term, then the student does not have to meet the civic literacy requirement. If a student was enrolled after fall 2018 but has not met the civic literacy competency requirement, then their requirement would be based on the academic term in which the student initially enrolled at the institution awarding the Associate in Arts Degree.

Dual Enrollment Students: Dual enrollment students who have not already completed the civic literacy competency requirements prior to entering a state university must complete the requirements that correspond with the term the student initially entered the institution as a first-time in college degree-seeking student.

Graduate Students: Graduate students do not have to meet the civic literacy requirement.

Returning Students: Students awarded an associate or baccalaureate degree by a state institution who initially entered prior to fall 2018 are required to meet the civic literacy requirements should they return to seek an additional undergraduate degree if they did not meet the requirements as part of their initial degree.

New Naturalized Citizens of the United States of America: A student who took the United States Naturalization/Citizenship Test to become a citizen does not meet the civic literacy requirement solely as a result of taking the test. Without the supplemental questions, the test does not include all of the competencies required by section 1007.25(5)(b)(2), Florida Statutes.

Records Transfer

FASTER has been updated to include indicators for civic literacy on student transcripts for both transfers between postsecondary institutions and transfers between secondary and public postsecondary institutions in the state of Florida.

Additional Guidance

Accessing and Administering the Florida Civic Literacy Exam (FCLE): Each institution has identified an institution test administrator. This individual is responsible for assigning institutional roles and training exam proctors. If you have recently assumed the role of institution test administrator and need access to the Test Information Distribution Engine, please contact the Board office for assistance. Additional information for institutional test administrators can be found on the [Florida Statewide Assessment](#) website.

The FCLE must be administered through Cambium Learning and cannot be imported into a learning management system. The exam must be proctored, and there are tools within the Cambium system that allow the exam to be proctored remotely.

The institutional test administrator can order the following through the Test Information Distribution Engine for students with a documented need.

- Regular print test book and answer book
- Large print test and answer book
- One-item-per-page test and answer materials
- Uncontracted UEB Braille materials
- Contracted UEB Braille materials

Resources are available to orient faculty and students to the nature of the test content and test questions on the FCLE. The content in the Supplemental Guide is not intended to replace associated coursework or other preparation methods required to demonstrate civic literacy, as described in Florida Statute. The sample questions and answers are not intended to demonstrate the length of the actual test. Student performance on the sample test should not be used as a predictor of performance on the actual test, and neither the sample test nor the supplemental guide should be used to guide classroom instruction.

- [Supplemental Guide for the FCLE](#) (PDF)
- [FCLE Sample Items](#) (PDF)
- [FCLE Sample Items in the Online Practice Test Site](#)

Additional Civic Literacy resources are available on this page: <https://www.fldoe.org/civilliteracy/>.

Accessing and Administering the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Naturalization Test– Civics (U.S. history and government) with supplemental questions:

An authorized institutional representative may obtain an approved version of this assessment from the Florida Virtual Campus at no cost to the institution. Institutions must administer all 100 questions of the Naturalization Test – Civics (U.S. History and Government), which includes supplemental questions developed collaboratively by the Board of Governors' staff, the Florida College System staff, and the Lou Frey Institute and incorporated into the test. This is only available to students who enrolled prior to fall 2024.

Multiple Attempts and Maintenance of Records: Institutions will develop and implement their policies related to test administration, including the number of attempts available to students. Additionally, institutions must maintain records of each student's final passing score if the institution administers the exam. The actual scores will not be noted on the student's transcript.