

6A-14.095 Site Determined Baccalaureate Access.

(1) Purpose. This rule implements a uniform approval process for new baccalaureate degree programs proposed by Florida College System institutions, in accordance with Section 1007.33, F.S.

(2) Definitions. For the purposes of this rule, the following definitions shall be used.

(a) "College" means an institution within The Florida College System.

(b) "SACS" means the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

(c) "Division" means the Division of Florida Colleges.

(d) "Board of trustees" means a Florida College System institution board of trustees.

(3) Letter of intent. The following requirements shall apply to the letter of intent that is required pursuant to Section 1007.33(5)(a), F.S.

(a) The required components of the letter of intent, as approved by the board of trustees, are:

1. The name of the program;
2. The type of degree to be conferred under the program;
3. A brief description of the program;
4. Key skills expected of graduates;
5. A description of the career path or potential employment opportunities for graduates of the program;
6. A summary of discussions with the state university in the Florida college's service district and other public and nonpublic postsecondary institutions in the region regarding evidence of need, demand, and economic impact;
7. The workforce demand and unmet need for graduates of the program to include evidence from entities independent of the institution;
8. Expected term and year of the first upper division enrollment in the proposed program; and
9. A description of funds available for program startup costs, including promised support from local businesses and industries.

(b) The letter of intent will remain valid for two (2) years from its receipt by the Division.

(c) If the complete proposal is not received within two (2) years of receipt of the letter of intent, the college must submit a new letter of intent to the Division, to be subject to the same procedures as outlined in Sections 1007.33(5)(a)-(b), F.S., before an initial degree proposal may be submitted to the Division.

(4) Proposals for a baccalaureate degree Colleges seeking consideration of approval by the State Board of Education for a new baccalaureate degree proposal must complete and submit the Baccalaureate Proposal Approval Application BAAC-01 (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-01597>), which is hereby incorporated by reference in this rule to become effective September 2012. A copy of the form may be found at http://www.fldoe.org/cc/students/bach_degree.asp, or by writing to the Division at 325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1544, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.

(5) Alternative proposals and objections by a Florida state university or regionally accredited private college or university. Alternative proposals must be submitted to the Chancellor of the Florida College System and must address all criteria specified in Section 1007.33(5)(c), F.S., and specifically include a calculation of the total tuition and fees for a student starting as a first-time, freshman student in the program and a calculation of the total tuition and fees for completing the last two (2) years of the program. Both calculations must be based on the total hours required for the baccalaureate degree. A state university or regionally accredited private college or university may also submit an objection to a proposed new program to the Division, pursuant to Section 1007.33(5)(b), F.S. State universities have sixty (60) days following the receipt of the Letter of Intent to submit alternative proposals and objections. Subsequent to the sixty (60) day submission window for state universities, regionally accredited private colleges have thirty (30) days to submit alternative proposals and objections.

(6) Proposal Review/Approval Process.

(a) Upon receipt of a proposal, the Division shall review the proposal to determine compliance with criteria in Section 1007.33(5)(d), F.S. The proposal shall also include:

1. Evidence of collaboration via internal and external planning processes or meetings that include need, demand, regional capacity, and impact discussions with postsecondary institutions in regional proximity to the college.
2. An analysis of data and a description of the employment gap between the number of job openings and the number of graduates in the discipline area in that service region, which demonstrate demand and unmet need for graduates of the program.
3. A description of both existing and planned facilities, equipment, library/media, and academic resources needed for the program demonstrating physical capacity to support the program.

4. An enrollment projection and funding requirements for the program, including start-up costs, required faculty salaries, library resources, facility renovations/remodeling, and other anticipated operational costs to develop and maintain the program over a four-year period. Supplemental funding from outside sources should be included in a budget plan within the proposal.

5. The program curriculum, including course numbers and titles, credit hours and established or proposed common course prerequisites demonstrating comprehensive academic content and adherence to general education courses, common prerequisites and other degree requirements as outlined in Section 1007.25, F.S.

(b) The Division shall forward the final proposal to the Commissioner of Education with a written analysis, which the Commissioner shall consider in his recommendation to the State Board of Education.

(7) Adding or modifying concentration(s) to an existing baccalaureate degree program. A college seeking approval by the State Board of Education to add or modify a concentration to an existing baccalaureate degree program must submit the Application to Add or Modify Concentration(s) to an Existing Baccalaureate Degree Program, Form BAAC-02 (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-01597>), which is hereby incorporated by reference in this rule to become effective September 2012. A copy of the form may be found at http://www.fldoe.org/cc/students/bach_degree.asp or by writing to the Division at 325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1544, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.

(a) The application may be submitted to the Division at any time following approval of the program by the State Board of Education and shall include:

1. A description of the approved program and any existing concentrations, including the degree type and program title;
2. The internal and external planning process;
3. Workforce need and demand; and
4. Academic content of the proposed concentration(s) or the proposed modification(s).

(b) The Division shall forward the application to the Commissioner of Education with a written analysis, which the Commissioner shall consider in his recommendation to the State Board of Education.

(8) The timely submission of an annual baccalaureate performance accountability report as prescribed in Section 1007.33(5)(h), F.S., and referenced as a compliance review in the format prescribed by the Division. The template, Annual Baccalaureate Performance Accountability Report Template, BAAC-03 (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-01597>), effective September 2012, is hereby incorporated by reference and may be accessed at http://www.fldoe.org/cc/students/bach_degree.asp, or by writing to the Division at 325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1544, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02, 1007.33(6) FS. Law Implemented 1007.33, 1008.32 FS. History—New 8-8-10, Amended 9-16-12.