

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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June 9, 2003

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Community College and State University Registrars and Admissions Officers

**FROM:** J. David Armstrong, Jr., Chancellor, Division of Community Colleges  
Debra Austin, Chancellor, Division of Colleges and Universities

**SUBJECT:** Repeal of Bright Futures Testing Program - Acceptance of CLEP Credit

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During the 2003 Regular Legislative Session, the passage of Senate Bill 354 resulted in the repeal of the Bright Futures Scholarship (CLEP) Testing Program (Section 1009.539, Florida Statutes). The effect of this legislation is that Bright Futures recipients will no longer be required to make at least 5 acceleration attempts. These students will also no longer be administered CLEP tests free of charge.

When the Bright Futures Testing Program was created during the 2001 Legislative Session, the Legislature also directed the Department of Education to "identify the minimum scores, maximum credit, and course or courses for which credit is to be awarded..." for each CLEP, AP, and IB examination. The Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) Standing Committee on Alternative Ways of Earning Credit identified minimum scores for each of the above-listed examinations. The Legislature further stipulated that "each community college and state university must award credit for specific courses for which competency has been demonstrated by successful passage of one of the examinations...unless the award of credit duplicates credit already awarded."

**J. DAVID ARMSTRONG, JR.**

*Chancellor, Community Colleges*

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FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

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The statutory language requiring the identification of credit-by-exam equivalencies was included in Section 1009.539, Florida Statutes, which was repealed this year. HOWEVER, similar language also exists in Section 1007.27, Florida Statutes, relating to articulated acceleration mechanisms. Therefore, the repeal of the section on the Bright Futures Scholarship Testing Program does NOT result in the negation of the ACC credit-by-exam equivalencies. Colleges and universities must continue to award at least the minimum number of credits for AP, IB, and CLEP examinations as identified by the ACC.

JDA/DA/hsc