

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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August 21, 2006

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** State University Admission Directors and Academic Advisors  
Community College Admission Directors and Academic Advisors  
District Superintendents and Guidance Supervisors

**FROM:** Heather Sherry

**SUBJECT:** Updated 2006 Credit-by-Exam Guidelines

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Section 1007.27, Florida Statutes, requires the Department of Education to establish minimum scores as well as course and credit equivalencies for Advanced Placement (AP), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), International Baccalaureate (IB), and College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams. The DANTES/DSST and Excelsior College exam equivalents are not part of that requirement, but are authorized by State Board of Education Rule/Board of Governors Regulation 6A-10.024. The Commissioner of Education has assigned this responsibility to the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC), with the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors providing final approval. The ACC annually updates the Credit-by-Exam Equivalency List and Guidelines.

In response to the frequent addition and updating of exams by publishers, the ACC conducted a more extensive review in 2006. One-hundred eighty seven exams were reviewed by 106 Statewide Course Numbering System (SCNS) faculty discipline committee members. Based on a careful review of exam content, the committees recommended the minimum credit that institutions must award for passing scaled scores, and whenever possible, a specific SCNS course number was recommended.

Public community colleges and universities in Florida are required to award the minimum recommended credit for AP, AICE, IB and CLEP exams as designated. Credit for the course number(s) listed must be awarded unless it would be advantageous to the student to award a different specific course number with equal credit that satisfies program prerequisites or other requirements.

**HEATHER R. SHERRY, PH.D.**  
*Director*  
*Office of Articulation*

Transfer of credit for passing exam scores is guaranteed as long as the initial award of credit was made in accordance with ACC guidelines (6A-10.024(7), FAC). Up to 45 total credit-by-exam credits may be awarded.

The 2006 Credit-by-Exam Equivalencies were approved by the Board of Governors on August 10, 2006, and the State Board of Education on August 15, 2006, and are effective immediately. The revised ACC Credit-by-Exam Equivalency chart will be posted on FACTS.org, under Advising Manuals at this link, <http://www.facts.org>. The following describes some of the 2006 changes and suggests some key advising points.

<b>Important Changes to the 2006 Credit-by-Exam Equivalents</b>	<b>Key Advising Points</b>
<p><b>1.</b> Institutions must use the course number recommended, unless it is advantageous for the student to be awarded an institution-specific course number with equal credit that satisfies program prerequisites or other requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If no minimum credit is recommended for a particular exam, award of credit is at the discretion of the institution.</li> <li>• If no specific course number is listed, but a number of credits are recommended, institutions must award the recommended minimum number of credits and apply an appropriate course number or no number.</li> <li>• Institutions may award more credit than the minimum listed, but may not use additional course numbers that will automatically transfer. Institutions should carefully consider what is required for students' degree plans before awarding additional credit.</li> <li>• For purposes of completing the requirements for general education, Gordon Rule, or major prerequisites, credit for specific course numbers awarded by exam should be treated no differently from credit earned from enrollment in the same courses at the receiving institution.</li> <li>• Institutions may not award credit for scores below those listed. More information about how passing scaled scores are determined is provided by each exam publisher at the web addresses provided in the chart.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.</b> The effective date for the award of credit will apply to the date when scores are submitted, rather than when exams were taken.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If students have old scores, institutions may either use the new minimum scores and course equivalents, or the institution's policy in effect on the date the exam was taken.</li> </ul>

<b>Important Changes to the 2006 Credit-by-Exam Equivalents</b>	<b>Key Advising Points</b>
3. Credit awarded by exam may not duplicate other credit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A key advising point is to look carefully at the equivalencies recommended for a passing score of 3 on the AP exams for English Language and Composition and English Literature and Composition. Students enrolled in both courses and taking both exams should be clearly advised of the risk of duplicating credit. Institutions are encouraged to pay attention to the comments section in the Guidelines, noting recommendations for optional course numbers to avoid duplication.</li> </ul>
4. Foreign Language exams have been integrated into the list of exams, rather than listed at the end of the chart.	
5. New Advanced Placement exams include additional foreign languages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institutions are advised to consult the ACC Equivalency list on <a href="http://FACTS.org">FACTS.org</a> regularly as exam publishers frequently add or delete examinations. The equivalency list is revised annually, but updates regarding new exams will be posted periodically if needed.</li> </ul>
6. Cambridge AICE includes four new exams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The passing scores have been collapsed to A-E.</li> <li>AS level exams require students to complete one year of high school study and A level exams require two years of advanced extended study.</li> </ul>
7. CLEP includes the new Precalculus exam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The passing scaled score for CLEP exams is 50. This score does not apply to CLEP foreign language exams.</li> </ul>
8. International Baccalaureate added four new exams and the passing scores are represented by scores of 4 and 5-7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursuant to SBE Rule/BOG Regulation 6A-10.024, credit for passing IB exams shall be equally awarded to diploma and non-diploma holders.</li> </ul>
9. DANTES/DSST exams include 21 new exams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The passing scaled scores are noted in the chart.</li> </ul>
10. Excelsior exam credit is now awarded for passing scaled scores rather than a letter grade.	

If you have any questions regarding the updates to the 2006 ACC Credit-by-Exam Equivalency List, please contact Dr. Pamela Kerouac in the Office of Articulation at [Pamela.Kerouac@fldoe.org](mailto:Pamela.Kerouac@fldoe.org) or at (850) 245-0427.

Best of luck as you begin another successful academic year!

HRS/pka