



## Civic Literacy Implementation & Guidance Document

Updated August 19, 2021

### Background

In 2017, the Florida Legislature amended section 1007,25, Florida Statutes, and introduced a new Civic Literacy Competency requirement for all students graduating from a public Florida institution, the State University System (SUS) or Florida College System (FCS). Beginning in fall 2018, students entering a Florida public institution for the first time would need to demonstrate civic literacy through either taking a certain course or passing an exam. The 2021 Legislature further amended Florida Statutes, requiring students to complete both a civic literacy course and exam. As a result, there are three cohorts of students currently matriculating at Florida public institutions subject to varying requirements. As demonstrated in Table 1, the exact civic literacy requirements are based on the academic term in which a student first enrolled in a Florida public institution.

**Table 1: Civic Literacy Requirements by Cohort of Students**

Students Included in Cohort		Civic Literacy Competency Requirement
Cohort 1	Students first entering the SUS or FCS prior to fall 2018	None
Cohort 2	Students first entering the SUS or FCS in fall 2018 – summer A 2021	Complete a course <b>or</b> exam
Cohort 3	Students first entering the SUS or FCS in summer B 2021 and thereafter	Complete <b>both</b> a course <b>and</b> exam

Additionally, the 2021 Legislature made two additional exceptions: approving the use of accelerated mechanisms for meeting the course competency requirement and exempting high school students who pass the Florida Civic Literacy Exam in high school from the postsecondary exam requirement. These two changes are in effect for Cohort 3.

### 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. Although Table 2 provides details on which options meet which competency, students in Cohort 2 need only complete either the course or the exam competency as noted above.

**Table 2: Current Options for Cohorts 2 & 3**

Options	Score	Meets Course Competency	Meets Exam Competency
<b>Courses</b>			
POSX041 if taken after fall 2018 ( <i>including dual enrollment if taken after fall 2018</i> )	Passing grade	X	
AMHX020 if taken after fall 2018 ( <i>including dual enrollment if taken after Fall 2018</i> )	Passing grade	X	
<b>Accelerated Mechanisms</b>			
Advanced Placement Government and Politics: United States Exam	3	X	X
Advanced Placement United States History Exam	4	X	X
Cambridge AICE History, US History, c.1789-1917 (AS-Level)*	A-E	X	
CLEP American Government Exam	50	X	X
IB History: History of America*	5-7	X	
<b>Additional Assessments^</b>			
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Test – Civics (U.S. history and government) with supplemental questions	60		X

*\*The 2021 Legislature also amended section 1007.25, Florida Statutes, allowing all accelerated mechanism to count towards meeting civic literacy course requirements. Since these exams do not meet the exam competencies, they do not satisfy the exam competency requirement.*

*^A new assessment is currently under development by the Department of Education but has not yet been officially adopted for use by the State University System.*

## Frequently Asked Questions by Topic

### SUS Students Subjected to the Requirement

1. How does the course and exam requirement apply to students who transfer to an SUS institution?

Out-of-state students transferring to an SUS institution during the 2021-22 academic year or thereafter, who have never previously enrolled in a public Florida institution (SUS or FCS), must meet the new civic literacy requirement, which includes both a course and an exam.