

**Implementation of Florida State Board of Education  
Administrative Rule 6A-10.030 (“Gordon Rule”)  
Writing Requirements**

In compliance with Florida State Board of Education Administrative Rule 6A-10.030, the College will accomplish Gordon Rule writing standards through designated courses in communications, humanities and social science. These courses, which require significant writing, were incorporated into the College’s 1993 implementation of a writing-across-the-curriculum approach in its degree programs. This policy reaffirms that philosophy and clarifies the specific standards for meeting the requirements of the Gordon Rule.

College-level placement scores and/or other prerequisites (for those students required by statute to be tested and placed) are required for enrollment in all Gordon Rule writing courses. A minimum grade of “C” is required in all Gordon Rule courses.

To support a culture of academic excellence, to maintain consistency and to create comparable levels of rigor in all designated courses, the following are the minimum criteria for Gordon Rule courses:

- ▶ Designated Gordon Rule courses must be identified as such in the catalog and course syllabi.
- ▶ Syllabi of the Gordon Rule courses will include a statement on the College’s policy regarding academic integrity as stated in the Student Handbook.
- ▶ Writing assignments must be incorporated into the designated course curriculum and must be computed in the course final grade in such a way that the writing component will have a significant impact on the course grade.
- ▶ Faculty must provide feedback (strengths and weaknesses of the students’ writing) conforming to standard writing practices as expressed in the syllabus for all Gordon Rule writing assignments.
- ▶ All writing assignments must be the students’ original, independently produced work and demonstrate college-level proficiency.

Writing assignments used to fulfill the Gordon Rule requirement, may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Formal and informal essays
- In-class writings with clearly stated performance criteria
- Critical analyses of course readings, presentations, or discussions
- Research papers

- Creative writings appropriate to the course
- Reports
- Academic journals
- Case Studies
- Portfolios
- Oral history assignments
- Position papers
- Speech outlines and scripts

Assignments that are not acceptable in meeting the Gordon Rule requirement are:

- Résumés
- Note-taking
- Free-writing or brainstorming
- Class notes
- Emails
- Visual media reports without accompanying full-length script
- Writings with extensive quotations or paraphrases
- Personal writings unrelated to course content
- Homework assignments with responses copied from textbooks or reading materials, with no evidence of analysis, comparison, interpretation, or other critical thinking applications.

- ▶ Writing assignments in the designated Gordon Rule courses must be graded according to effective writing standards as expressed in the syllabus, such as organization, coherence, grammar and mechanics.
- ▶ At least one-third of the writing assignments used to meet the “multiple assignments” requirement of the Gordon Rule must be polished, edited pieces written outside of regular class time. All of these formal academic writing assignments must conform to standard writing practices including the following:
  - The writing will have a clearly defined thesis or central idea.
  - The writing will include adequate evidence to support the thesis or idea.
  - The writing will reflect the awareness of the conventions of standard written English such as grammar, punctuation, spelling and word usage.
  - The writing will use clear and logical organization.
  - The writing will demonstrate the ability to synthesize and apply discipline content at the course-specific level.
  - The writing will demonstrate the ability to discriminate between credible and unreliable sources of information.
  - The writing will be formatted or presented in a manner appropriate to the assignment.
  - The writing will conform to style standards appropriate to the course or discipline as determined by the instructor (i.e. MLA, APA, etc.).

## The “Gordon Rule”

### **6A-10.030 Other Assessment Procedures for College-Level Communication and Computation Skills.**

(1) In addition to assessments that may be adopted by the State Board of Education or Board of Governors to measure student achievement in college-level communication and computation skills, other assessment requirements shall be met by successful completion of coursework in English and mathematics. For the purposes of this rule, a grade of C or higher shall be considered successful completion.

(2) Prior to receipt of an Associate of Arts degree from a public community college or university or prior to entry into the upper division of a public university or college, a student shall complete successfully the following:

(a) Six (6) semester hours of English coursework and six (6) semester hours of additional coursework in which the student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments. Each institution shall designate the courses that fulfill the writing requirements of this section. These course designations shall be submitted to the Statewide Course Numbering System. An institution to which a student transfers shall accept courses so designated by the sending institution as meeting the writing requirements outlined in this section.

(b) Six (6) semester hours of mathematics coursework at the level of college algebra or higher. For the purposes of this rule, applied logic, statistics and other such computation coursework which may not be placed within a mathematics department may be used to fulfill three (3) hours of the six (6) hours required by this section.

(c) Students awarded college credit in English based on their demonstration of writing skills through dual enrollment, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate instruction pursuant to Rule 6A-10.024, F.A.C., and students awarded college credit based on their demonstration of mathematics skills at the level of college algebra or higher through one (1) or more of the acceleration mechanisms in Rule 6A-10.024, F.A.C., shall be considered to have satisfied the requirements in subsection 6A-10.030(2), F.A.C., to the extent of the college credit awarded.

(3) Exemptions and Waivers. Any public community college or university desiring to exempt its students from the requirements of subsection 6A-10.030(2), F.A.C., shall submit an alternative plan to the Department of Education. Upon approval of the plan by the Department, the plan shall be submitted to the State Board of Education or the Board of Governors as appropriate. Upon approval by the State Board of Education or the Board of Governors, said plan shall be deemed effective in lieu of the requirements of subsection 6A-10.030(2), F.A.C.

*Specific Authority 1001.02(1), (2)(n) FS. Law Implemented 1001.02 FS., Section 15, Chapter 87-212, Laws of Florida. History—New 1-11-82, Formerly 6A-10.30, Amended 6-8-88, 12-18-05.*