

Civic Literacy Graduation Requirement at Florida State College at Jacksonville

Please note: This document may be subject to change in response to updated technical guidance from the Florida Department of Education.

The Florida legislature has modified the Civic Literacy Graduation Requirement for Florida College System students. Senate Bill 1108 amends s. 1007.25, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to require associate in arts and baccalaureate students initially entering a Florida College System (FCS) institution in the 2021-22 academic year, and thereafter, to complete a course **AND** pass an assessment to demonstrate competency in civic literacy.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q.** What is the modified Civic Literacy Graduation Requirement?
- A.** Prior to the award of an associate in arts or baccalaureate degree, students initially entering Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) in the 2021-22 school year, and thereafter, must demonstrate competency in civic literacy by successfully completing one of two civic literacy courses with a “C” or higher **AND** by achieving the standard score on one of four approved assessments before graduation ([section 1007.25\(4\), Florida Statutes](#) and [rule 6A-10.02413, Florida Administrative Code](#)).
- Q.** To whom does the Civic Literacy requirement apply?
- A.** The table below provides information about the students to whom the requirement applies:



For Students Entering in Academic Year	The Civic Literacy Requirement Applies to	In the Following Programs	These Students Must
2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21	First-time-in-college students	A.A. Baccalaureate	Pass a course OR pass an assessment
2021-22 and thereafter	Students entering an FCS under the 2021-22 catalog year	A.A. Baccalaureate	Pass a course AND pass an assessment
2022-23 and thereafter*	Students entering an FCS under the 2022-23 catalog year	A.S.	Pass a course AND pass an assessment

*The FDOE anticipates entering into rule development to add the Civic Literacy requirement as a condition of A.S. degree completion coinciding with general education changes specified in HB 1507.

Q. What are the Civic Literacy courses?

- A.**
- AMH 2020: United States History from 1877 to Present
 - POS 2041: American Federal Government

Q. What are the required Civic Literacy competencies?

A. The required Civic Literacy competencies appear below:

- Understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our form of government
- Understanding of the United States Constitution and its application
- Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance
- Understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society



Q. Where can I learn more about the Civic Literacy courses?

A. Please visit the [College Catalog](#) to learn more about AMH 2020 and POS 2041.
Note: Successful completion of either AMH 2020 or POS 2041 only partially fulfills the general education requirements for social and behavioral sciences and the Associate in Arts degree.

Q. What are the currently approved Civic Literacy assessments and standard scores?

- A.**
- AP Government and Politics: United States Score of 3 (or higher) out of 5
 - AP United States History Score of 4 (or higher) out of 5
 - CLEP American Government Score of 50 (or higher) out of 80
 - Florida Civic Literacy Examination (FCLE) (based on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Test – Civics (U.S. History and Government) Score of 48 (or higher) out of 80 (at least a 60%)

Q. When will the updated Florida Civic Literacy Examination become available?

A. The updated Florida Civic Literacy Examination will become available by December 2021.

Q. When do students need to complete the Civic Literacy assessment?

A. Students need to complete the Civic Literacy assessment before graduation.

Q. How will students take the Florida Civic Literacy Examination?

A. Students will take the Florida Civic Literacy Examination by scheduling an appointment with the Assessment Center. In addition, the examination, which will be proctored, will be administered via a computer-based testing platform developed by Cambium Assessment, Inc. Remote testing and proctoring options will likely become available as well.



- Q.** How much will the examination cost colleges?
- A.** The examination will be available to colleges at no cost.
- Q.** How can students prepare for the Florida Civic Literacy Examination?
- A.** Cambium Assessment, Inc. plans to provide test preparation resources for students by the 2022 Spring Term. Students will be able to prepare for the test by completing practice exercises and tests available on the FSCJ Assessment web page and in an FSCJ-developed libguide to be titled “Preparing for the Florida Civic Literacy Examination.”
- Q.** What is the re-take policy for students?
- A.** Students will be able to re-take the exam 30 days after an unsuccessful attempt. This policy is under review and may change.
- Q.** How does the modified Civic Literacy requirement for A.A. and baccalaureate programs read in the 2021-21 College Catalog?
- A.** Demonstrated competency in civic literacy in accordance with [section 1007.25\(4\), Florida Statutes](#) and [Rule 6A-10.02413, Florida Administrative Code \(F.A.C.\)](#). Pursuant to guidelines established by Senate Bill 1108, competency is demonstrated by completion of one of two civic literacy courses (either [AMH 2020](#) or [POS 2041](#)) with a grade of “C” or higher **AND** by achievement of the standard score on a state-approved assessment.
- Q.** How can students fulfill the modified Civic Literacy requirement through acceleration mechanisms?
- A.** Credit received for courses (AMH 2020 and POS 2041) listed in Rule 6A-10.02413, F.A.C., via credit-by-exam will count toward the course requirement.
- If the exam used as the basis of awarding credit is in Rule 6A-10.02413, F.A.C., (e.g., AP and CLEP), the student will be considered as having met both the course and the assessment competency for civic literacy.



- If the exam used as the basis of awarding credit is not in rule (e.g., AICE and IB), the student will be considered as having met only the course requirement. The student will need to take a state-approved assessment.

Q. How does the Civic Literacy requirement apply to high school students?

A. High school students enrolled in a U.S. Government course must take a civic literacy assessment. Students who pass the assessment will be exempt from the civic literacy competency assessment when they enter a Florida College System (FCS) or State University System (SUS) institution. However, these students will still need to fulfill the post-secondary civic literacy course requirement.

Q. What other provisions are in the proposed rule amendment for Civic Literacy?

A. The proposed rule also specifies that beginning in the 2021-22 school year, institutions must ensure that they provide opportunities for students to engage synchronously in political discussions and civil debates with multiple points of view and to master the ability to synthesize information that informs civic decision-making.

Q. What are some examples of how colleges can provide students with opportunities to engage synchronously in political discussions and civil debates?

A. Examples include course lectures, discussion groups, registered student organizations (e.g., speech or debate club, student government association), guest speaker series, community partnership and civic engagement events, service-learning and internships, among others.

Q. Scenario: If a student was enrolled in a program (e.g., Associate in Science or Technical Certificate) before the start of the 2021 Fall Term and then changes to the Associate in Arts degree program for the 2021 Fall Term, do they need to complete the new Civic Literacy requirement (i.e., pass both a course and an assessment)?



- A.** Yes. Students must complete the new requirement if they return and enroll in an A.A./Baccalaureate program in the Fall 2021 Term or thereafter **and** fall under the catalog year 2021-22 or thereafter.
- Q.** Scenario: A student satisfied the civic literacy requirement that existed in academic years 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21. The student enters a new program (e.g., a bachelor's program in 2021-22 or an associate in science program in 2022-23). Will the student's civic literacy requirement remain satisfied under the terms of their prior entering catalog year, or will the student need to meet the new civic literacy requirement?
- A.** Only the requirement (course or assessment) will remain satisfied. Students must complete the new requirement (whichever was not satisfied under the previous catalog year) if they return and enroll in an A.A./Baccalaureate program in the Fall 2021 Term or thereafter **and** fall under the catalog year 2021-22 or thereafter. There is currently no change to A.S. programs.
- Q.** Whom should I contact for additional information about the modified Civic Literacy requirement?
- A.** Please contact any Assessment Center or visit the [Assessment and Certification web page](#) for additional information. You are also welcome to contact Associate Provost of Curriculum and Instruction Kathleen Ciez-Volz at kathleen.ciez.volz@fscj.edu with inquiries about the requirement.

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