

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 2026

TO: Deans

FROM: Ken Dawson-Scully, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Bachelor's Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirement

Purpose

This memorandum outlines the provisions of Florida Board of Governors Regulation 8.014 regarding bachelor's degree exceptions to the 120 credit-hour requirement.

1. Approval for Exceeding 120 Credit Hours:

- The Board of Governors may approve requests from Florida Atlantic University's Board of Trustees for bachelor's degree programs to exceed 120 credit hours based on the following criteria:
 - (a) Specialized Accreditation Standards:** Additional courses are required to meet specialized accreditation standards necessary for employment in specific professions (e.g., Engineering, Architecture).
 - (b) Professional Licensing Requirements:** Additional courses are required to fulfill state or federal-mandated criteria for professional licensing (e.g., Teacher Education).
 - (c) Innovative Learning Experiences:** The degree program provides a unique and innovative learning experience, such as honors programs or individualized study.

Please note: If a degree program was previously approved at a credit hour total above 120, additional approval is required to exceed the originally approved amount.

2. Application Process:

- Approval to exceed 120 credit hours applies to both the degree program and each of its majors (including specializations and tracks), as defined in Board of Governors Regulation 8.011.
- Universities must identify all majors within the degree program and specify the number of credit hours required for each major. The highest number of credit hours will be recorded in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory.

3. Implementation of Majors:

- Universities are prohibited from implementing majors within a degree program that exceeds the recorded maximum number of credit hours without adhering to the established processes.

4. Authority for Reductions:

- Each university board of trustees has the authority to approve reductions in credit hours for degree programs that have been authorized to exceed 120 credit hours.
- Upon any reduction in credit hours, the university must notify the Board of Governors' office, including the new total hours to degree, before the start of the effective term.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes.