

The Change to Rule 6A-10.030 (Gordon Rule) passed by the Board of Governors on November 17, 2005 requires the following:

“Six semester hours of English course work and six semester hours of additional course work in which the student is required to demonstrate college-level English skills through multiple assignments.”

Each institution is expected to determine and define the “Gordon Rule” curriculum such that it meets the following fundamental requirements:

- a) Enhance students’ ability to express in clear, concise, correct prose, the key theories, principles, and practices of their discipline.
- b) A system for completing the required curriculum that is feasible and easily understood.
- c) Outcomes and requirements that accommodate an ease of transferability intent.

The University of Florida proposes a revised Writing Requirement for Undergraduate students consistent with the intent of the aforementioned Board of Governors’ revision and the University’s emphasis on the development of these skills.

### **Writing Requirement for Undergraduate Students**

#### **Belief Statement:**

We believe that all students should be able to express in clear, concise prose, the key themes, principles, and practices in their discipline.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes for Writing:**

Students will:

- Write fluently
- Accurately and consistently employ the elements of standard written English (including punctuation, grammar, and usage)
- Organize complex arguments in writing
- Write clearly and concisely for a variety of audiences and contexts

**Implementation:**

- Students must present evidence of satisfactory evaluated writing totaling 24,000 words as a requirement for graduation.
- This required writing may be accomplished in courses that are certified as offering evaluated writing for:
  - 4,000 words;
  - 6,000 words.
- Evaluated writing is defined as:
  - Writing assignments must be received, evaluated, revised, and returned to students prior to the last day of classes.
  - Evaluations should include an assessment of the content, argument, organization, and use of standard written English.
  - Evaluations must be on individual work. Group submissions will not qualify.
- Results of evaluation should be recorded as an S/U\* for the writing aspect of the course (separate from the content grade).
- Satisfactory completion ( $\geq C$ ) of any General Education Composition course will automatically provide 6000 words of S work in the Gordon Rule domain.
- All sections of a Writing Requirement course offering Gordon Rule credit will be designated with a “G” suffix which will be part of the student’s transcript record.

\*A grade of S is defined by the University as equivalent to a C or better.

**Transition Issues**

1. The proposal must be offered on a “subject to” basis and the important contingency is faculty consideration and approval of the “separate writing grade” for Gordon Rule credit.

Faculty discussion is underway and faculty approval will be sought this Fall. It should be noted that the proposal is sufficient without this component although its evaluative possibilities will be restricted.

2. Communication with all current 2000 word Gordon Rule classes will commence upon approval. The offering Department will be given the options of increased writing required ( $\geq 4000$  words) or elimination of Gordon Rule status.
3. Appropriate catalog changes will be undertaken as soon as feasible after approval.
4. A “phase-in” schedule will be developed for the elimination of the 2000 word option and the separate grade requirement. All work completed by date of implementation will be creditable.
5. Coordinating with the Registrar’s office will be continuous in order to facilitate implementation of the suffix notation and the separate grading.

6. The transfer in/ transfer out conundrum is subject to various potential options – one of which will be the best (chosen). A possibility could be to switch with equivalents to a course perspective, i.e.,

Transfer out

Completed 8000 words,  
2 courses, UF

report as

Gordon Rule

2 courses complete

Transfer in

Completed  
2 Gordon Rule courses,  
SUS

record as

12,000 words towards  
UF requirement

**UF Requirement/ Rule Differences**

1. Rule states twelve (12) hours of course work which could mean anywhere from 3 to 12 courses. UF states 24,000 words which could mean any number of courses but at least 4.
2. Rule states demonstrate College level English skills through multiple assignments. The definition of multiple assignments left up to the institution. UF states 24,000 words of evaluated writing (defined).
3. Rule states six hours of English course work (English Language and Literature); six hours of additional coursework in which the student is required to demonstrate college level writing skills through multiple assignments. UF states 24,000 words of evaluated writing; at least 6,000 words will be in English Language and Literature (General Education Requirement).

Revised 9/29/06