

**FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
NOTICE OF AMENDED REGULATION**

Date: August 16, 2007

REGULATION TITLE AND NUMBER: 6C-6.009 Admission of International Students to State University System (SUS) Institutions

SUMMARY: This proposed regulation merges and updates information that previously was contained in Board of Governors Regulation 6C-6.009 (“ Admission of Foreign Students to SUS Institutions”), as well as in prior System policy regarding mandatory health insurance for international students. It is renamed Admission of International Students to State University System (SUS) Institutions. The proposed amendments have been made based on input from university directors of international services, directors of student health centers, and members of the State University System (SUS) Student Health Insurance Task Force. Primary changes include increases in the minimum insurance coverage international students are expected to maintain to include increased coverage for mental health care, prescription drugs, repatriation, and medical evacuation. **[Please note: The Board of Governors is currently accepting input regarding an appropriate implementation timeline for this proposed regulation.]**

As drafted, this regulation reflects and supports campus-level decision making and institutional accountability within guidelines developed by the Board of Governors and under the constitutional framework established by Floridians for their system of public universities. Once adopted, it will supplant any existing policies and more clearly delineate the authority and responsibilities of the Board of Governors and University Board of Trustees with regard to admission of international students to SUS institutions.

FULL TEXT OF THE REGULATION: The full text of the amended regulation is posted on BOG’s Web site at www.flbog.org. The full text of the existing regulation is posted on BOG’s Web site at www.flbog.org/BOG_regs. In addition, the full text of the regulation is available upon request to the Office of the Chancellor, which can be contacted at (850) 245-0466.

AUTHORITY TO ADOPT/AMEND/REPEAL REGULATION: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; BOG Regulation Development Procedure dated March 23, 2006.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS’ OFFICIAL INITIATING ADOPTION/AMENDMENT/REPEAL OF REGULATIONS: R. E. LeMon, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs.

COMMENTS REGARDING ADOPTION/AMENDMENT/REPEAL OF REGULATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO

THE CONTACT PERSON IDENTIFIED BELOW. The comments must identify the regulation(s) on which you are commenting.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING ADOPTION/AMENDMENT/REPEAL OF REGULATION IS: Vikki R. Shirley, Esq., General Counsel, Board of Governors, State University System 325 W. Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, (850) 245-0466 (phone), (850) 245-9685 (fax), generalcounsel@flbog.org.

6C-6.009 Admission of International Students to State University System (SUS) Institutions.

(1) Within enrollment, space, and fiscal limitations, eligible international students may be accepted for admission at the appropriate level to an institution in the State University System (SUS). The board of trustees at each SUS institution shall develop admission policies for international students that are consistent with the policies of the Board of Governors. At a minimum, university admission policies shall require that:

(a) International students are obligated to follow the laws and regulations set by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the United States Department of State.

(b) An international applicant must be academically eligible for admission to the program at the level of entrance requested by the applicant. An international student must demonstrate the required level of academic preparation as evidenced by official copies of any academic records needed to ascertain the comparability of the level and quality of the student's previous education and achievement to that required for other students. Universities may choose to use departmental examinations to validate students' claims when official documents are unavailable or insufficient. Academic documents must be translated into English and evaluated by a reputable credential evaluator.

(c) An international applicant's proficiency in English must be adequate. International students whose first language is not English must demonstrate English language proficiency. Generally, English proficiency is measured by the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an institutionally approved examination with demonstrated equivalence. The minimum TOEFL score acceptable for admission to an SUS institution is 500 on the TOEFL paper test or 63 on the Internet-based TOEFL test. Institutions and departments may set higher minimum TOEFL or related examination scores for admission.

(d) In order for an appropriate official at the university to issue a Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 or a DS 2019) to an international applicant, the student must provide documentation showing sufficient resources to cover tuition, fees, books, room and board, health insurance, and other living expenses while enrolled at the university

(e) Each international applicant determined to be academically and financially eligible for admission must submit a health history form including proof of immunizations as required by the university.

(2) No international student in F or J non-immigrant status shall be permitted to register, or to continue enrollment, at a university without demonstrating that the student has adequate medical insurance coverage for illness or accidental injury and which includes the following minimum requirements:

(a) Coverage Period: Coverage must include the full year, including annual breaks, regardless of the student's terms of enrollment. The policy must provide continuous coverage for the entire period the insured is enrolled as an eligible student. Payment of benefits must be renewable.

(b) Basic Benefits: Room, board, hospital services, physician fees, surgeon fees, ambulance, outpatient services, and outpatient customary fees must be paid at 80% or more of usual, customary, reasonable charge per accident or illness, after deductible is met, for in-network, and 70% or more of usual, customary, and reasonable charge for out-of-network providers per accident or illness.

(c) Inpatient Mental Health Care: Must be paid at 80% in-network or 60% out-of-network of the usual and customary fees with a minimum 30-day cap per benefit period.

(d) Outpatient Mental Health Care: Must be paid at 80% in-network or 60% out-of-network of the usual and customary fees for a minimum of 30 (preferably 40) sessions per year.

(e) Maternity Benefits: Must be treated as any other temporary medical condition and paid at no less than 80% of usual and customary fees in-network or 60% out-of-network.

(f) Inpatient/Outpatient Prescription Medication: Must include coverage of \$1,000 or more.

(g) Repatriation: \$10,000 (coverage to return the student's remains to his/her native country).

(h) Medical Evacuation: \$25,000 (to permit the patient to be transported to his/her home country and to be accompanied by a provider or escort, if directed by the physician in charge).

(i) Exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions: First six months of policy period, at most.

(j) Deductible: Maximum of \$50 per occurrence if treatment or services are rendered at the Student Health Center; maximum of \$100 per occurrence if treatment or services are rendered at an off-campus ambulatory care or hospital emergency department facility.

(k) Minimum coverage: \$200,000 for covered injuries/illnesses per accident or illness, per policy year.

(l) Insurance Carrier must have an "A" rating or above per Part 62.14(c)(1) of Section 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

- (m) Policy must not unreasonably exclude coverage for perils inherent to the student's program of study.
- (n) Claims must be paid in U.S. dollars payable on a U.S. financial institution.
- (o) Policy provisions must be available from the insurer in English.

Specific Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; History--Adopted 7-6-72, Amended and Renumbered 12-17-74, Amended 6-21-83, 8-11-85, Formerly 6C-6.09, Amended 12-9-91, Amended