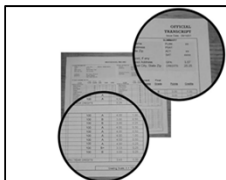


Florida Association Of Student
Financial Aid Administrators
(FASFAA) Annual Conference

May 23, 2013
Bonito Springs, Florida

Decoding and Determining the
Validity of High School
Transcripts



Dr. Susan Fell, Director of Admissions & Records
St. Petersburg College

Topics

- History/Background in Florida of the various diploma types and coding issues
- Diploma Mills and how state colleges in Florida are addressing this to validate high schools
- High School VALIDITY and the student's ability to receive financial assistance
- Recommended protocols and procedures
- Resources

Frame of Reference

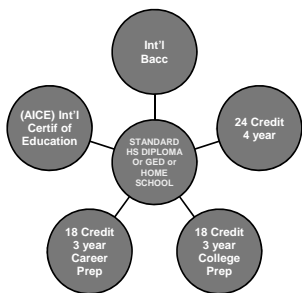
- FLORIDA HIGHER EDUCATION LANDSCAPE

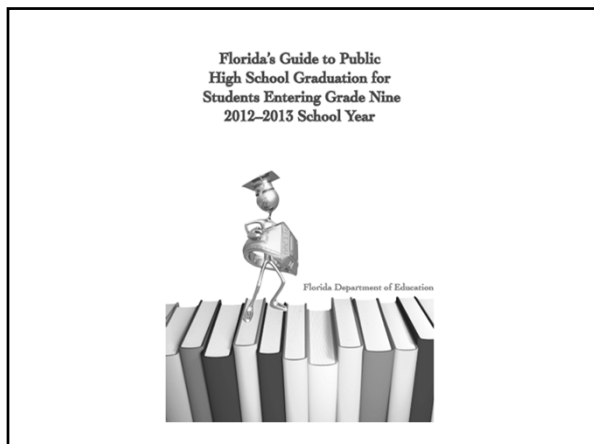


Frame of Reference

- St. Petersburg College is a public, four-year institution, but with a community college mission, an open-door admissions policy at the two-year level
- We do not deny general admission to students without a valid high school diploma, but it might prevent the student from becoming degree-seeking at SPC, which will prevent the student from receiving federal financial assistance

FLORIDA Paths to Graduation





High School Graduation Requirements

The chart below outlines the minimum 4-year, 24-credit standard diploma requirements for Florida public school students. It's important to note that individual high schools may have additional requirements and you should always consult your school counselor for assistance.

Find the year you will enter/attend sixth grade to see your requirements:

	2012	2013	2014
English	4 credits in English	4 credits in English	4 credits in English
Mathematics	1 credit in Algebra 1 by passing the EOC assessment 1 credit in Geometry 2 credits in Math	1 credit in Algebra 1 by passing the EOC assessment 1 credit in Geometry by passing the EOC assessment 1 credit in Algebra 2 1 credit in Math	1 credit in Algebra 1 by passing the EOC assessment 1 credit in Geometry by passing the EOC assessment 1 credit in Algebra 2 1 credit in Math
Science	1 credit in Biology by passing the EOC assessment 2 credits in Science	1 credit in Biology by passing the EOC assessment 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics or its equivalent 1 credit in an equally rigorous Science course	1 credit in Biology by passing the EOC assessment 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics or its equivalent 1 credit in an equally rigorous Science course
Social Studies	1 credit in World History 1 credit in U.S. History 3 credits in U.S. Government	1 credit in World History 1 credit in U.S. History 3 credits in U.S. Government 2 credits in Economics	1 credit in World History 1 credit in U.S. History 3 credits in U.S. Government 2 credits in Economics
Fine/Performing Arts	1 credit in Fine or Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts	1 credit in Fine or Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts	1 credit in Fine or Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts
Physical Education	1 credit of Physical Education to include the integration of Health	1 credit of Physical Education to include the integration of Health	1 credit of Physical Education to include the integration of Health
Electives	8 credits selected from below	8 credits selected from below	8 credits selected from below
College Prep	2 credits in core academic areas 2 credits in single World Language 2 credits in academic electives	3 credits in single vocational/career education program 6 credits in electives	2 credits in core academic areas 2 credits in single World Language 3 credits in single vocational/career education program

State Assessment Requirements: Students must earn passing scores on the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading or concordance scores on a standardized test (ACT or SAT). Students must earn a passing score or attain an equivalent score on end-of-course (EOC) assessments in order to earn course credit as indicated above. GPA Requirement: Students must receive a minimum of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale for the eligible for graduation. State educational and assessment have higher GPA standards. Online Learning Requirement: At least one course within the 24 credits must be completed through online learning. State University System (SUS) Admission Requirements: Students applying to gain admission to competitive universities must also take in the SUS must complete the College Prep or College & Career Prep credit requirements (where all courses earned must satisfy admission requirements) and achieve GPA and entrance exam minimums as set forth by the university. To determine which courses meet SUS admission requirements, visit the Comprehensive Course Table at http://www.doeflora.org/doflora/bsoc002_CCTMain.aspx.

State University System Admission Requirements

To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a student must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Graduate high school with a standard diploma
- Earn a minimum 2.5 GPA in high school academic core courses (see chart)
- Earn minimum admissions test scores
 - SAT: Reading 460/Math 460/Writing 440
 - ACT Plus Writing: Reading 19 Math 19/Combined English/Writing 18
- A GPA of 3.0 or higher requires no minimum scores; however, admission test is still required.

OR

 Qualify for the Talented 20 program

OR

 Be selected through a "student profile assessment" that considers other special factors (e.g., special talents, accomplishments, etc.)

What Do Freshmen in Florida Universities Look Like?


State University	College Prep GPA mid-range	SAT Combined Average (3 sections)	ACT mid-range
FAMU	2.9 - 3.4	1426	19 - 23
FAU	3.2 - 3.8	1629	22 - 25
FGCU	3.0 - 3.7	1537	20 - 24
FIU	3.4 - 4.0	1699	24 - 27
FSU	3.6 - 4.2	1840	26 - 29
NCF	3.7 - 4.3	1946	27 - 31
UCF	3.6 - 4.2	1836	25 - 29
UF	4.1 - 4.4	1914	27 - 31
UNF	3.5 - 4.2	1776	24 - 28
USF	3.6 - 4.1	1755	25 - 29
UWF	3.0 - 3.8	1551	21 - 25

Florida College System Admission Requirements
 Florida colleges offer an "open-door" policy which guarantees admission to obtain an Associate's degree provided you have completed any of the following:

- Earned a standard high school diploma
- Earned a high school equivalency diploma
- Previously demonstrated competency in college credit coursework

Upon admission, students are required to take the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.), CPT-Accuplacer, or present scores on the ACT or SAT to determine appropriate course placement. Baccalaureate degree admission requirements depend on the program of study. Students seeking a Bachelor's degree at a college are encouraged to contact the college of interest.

Brevard Community College—Cocoa
 Broward College— Ft. Lauderdale
 Chipola College—Marianna
 College of Central Florida—Ocala
 Daytona State College—Daytona Beach
 Edison State College— Ft. Myers
 Florida Gateway College—Lake City
 Florida Keys Community College—Key West
 Florida State College at Jacksonville—Jacksonville
 Gulf Coast State College—Panama City
 Hillsborough Community College—Tampa
 Indian River State College— Ft. Pierce
 Lake-Sumter Community College—Leesburg
 Miami Dade College—Miami
 North Florida Community College—Madison
 Northwest Florida State College—Niceville
 Palm Beach State College—Lake Worth
 Pasco-Hernando Community College—New Port Richey
 Pensacola State College—Pensacola
 Polk State College—Winter Haven
 Santa Fe College—Gainesville
 Seminole State College of Florida—Sanford
 South Florida Community College—Avon Park
 St. Johns River State College—Palatka
 St. Petersburg College—St. Petersburg
 State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota—Bradenton
 Tallahassee Community College—Tallahassee
 Valencia College—Orlando



Career and Technical Centers
 Florida also offers students 46 Career and Technical Centers throughout the state which offer the education and certification necessary to work in a particular career or technical field. Programs are flexible for students and provide industry specific education and training for a wide variety of occupations.

Career and Technical Center Fast Facts

- Over 320,000 students enrolled in a Florida public Career and Technical Center during the 2010-2011 year.
- More than 7,100 students participated in an Apprenticeship program at their chosen Career and Technical Center during the 2010-2011 year.
- 29 school districts have one or more Career and Technical Center.
- The Bright Futures Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award is available to help eligible high school students pay tuition and fees at a Florida public Career and Technical Center.

Independent Colleges and Universities
 In addition to public colleges and universities, Florida offers 29 private, not-for-profit, educational institutions all based in Florida and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS). These schools serve 135,000 students across Florida at 135 different locations. Florida's independent colleges and universities award nearly 22% of all the degrees earned in Florida each year. They vary in enrollment size from 200 to 29,000 students. Florida's independent colleges and universities guarantee access for all state college graduates as well. Nearly 80% of full- and part-time students do receive some form of financial aid. Admission requirements vary by school, so students must stay informed about what each program requires.

Other Diploma Types

Type of Diploma	Status
CPT Certificate of Completion	Admission to state college, not eligible for FA
Certificate of Completion	No admission to degree-seeking status, not eligible for FA
Special Diploma	Depending on the diploma option selected, some students may need to spend more than four years in high school. The school district must continue to offer special education and related services until a student with a disability is 22, or until the student earns a standard diploma, whichever comes first. Students who do not meet requirements for a standard or special diploma may be awarded either a regular or a special certificate of completion, depending on their coursework.

Florida High School Withdrawal Codes

Withdrawal Code	High School Graduation	Degree Seeking	Financial Aid
Standard High School Diploma			
W06	Standard Diploma (Passed FCAT)	Yes	Yes
W07**	Special Diploma (Option One)	No	No***
W10	Standard Diploma (GED Exit Option)	Yes	Yes
W22**	Special Diploma (Option Two)	No	No***
W43*	Adult Standard High School Diploma	Yes	Yes
W52*	Adult Standard High School Diploma (Alternate Assessment)	Yes	Yes
W6A	Standard Diploma (18-Credit College Prep)	Yes	Yes
W6B	Standard Diploma (18-Credit Career Prep)	Yes	Yes
WFA	Standard Diploma (18-Credit College Prep, Alternate Assessment)	Yes	Yes
WFB	Standard Diploma (18-Credit Career Prep, Alternate Assessment)	Yes	Yes
WFT	Standard Diploma (Accelerated, Alternate Assessment)	Yes	Yes
WFN**	Standard Diploma (FCAT Waiver)	Yes	Yes
WGA	Standard Diploma (GED Exit Option, Alternate Assessment)	Yes	Yes
State of Florida Diploma			
WGD	State of Florida Diploma (GED only)	Yes	Yes
W45*	Adult State of Florida Diploma (GED)	Yes	Yes
Certificate of Completion			
W8A	CPT-Eligible Certificate of Completion	Yes	No***
W08	Certificate of Completion	No	No***
W09**	Special Certificate of Completion	No	No***
W44*	Adult Certificate of Completion	No	No***
W53*	Adult CPT-Eligible Certificate of Completion	Yes	No***

Home School

- Florida Statute 1002.41 provides for students to complete high school requirements through completion of a home education program of study
- Eligible for admission to state colleges and university, Bright Futures, Dual Enrollment, etc.

General Equivalency Development (GED)

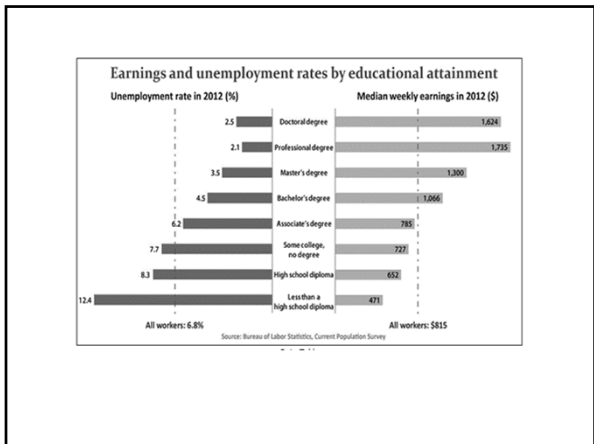
- Acceptable for admission to state colleges
- Transcript issued by state agency

Non-Florida HS Graduation

- At SPC, for admission at the two-year level, we simply require an official transcript indicating a date of graduation from a "valid" high school (as defined by FCRAO)
- OR a GED transcript

High Stakes

- Extreme pressure to graduate to qualify for college admission
- USDOE requirement that colleges and universities evaluate the validity of student's high school completion



- High Stakes and economic pressures have contributed to proliferation of diploma mills

Diploma Mills

The Higher Education Opportunity Act defines a diploma mill as follows:

DIPLOMA MILL. The term "diploma mill" means an entity that--

- (A) offers, for a fee, degrees, diplomas, or certificates that may be used to represent to the general public that the individual possessing such a degree, diploma, or certificate has completed a program of postsecondary education or training; and
- (B) requires such individual to complete little or no education or coursework to obtain such degree, diploma, or certificate; and
- (C) lacks accreditation by an accrediting agency or association that is recognized as an accrediting agency or association of institutions of higher education (as such term is defined in section 102) by--
 - (i) the Secretary pursuant to subpart 2 of part H of title IV; or
 - (ii) a Federal agency, State government, or other organization or association that recognizes accrediting agencies or associations.

High School Diploma Scams

Millions of people each year inadvertently buy into "diploma mills," scams which invite uneducated folks to simply sign up and receive a degree online. These bogus institutions confer upon their student bodies fake degrees with little or no education or field experience supplied with them. As of 2010, about 400 diploma mills and 300 counterfeit degree institutions exist; it makes a difference to check their business accreditation and legitimacy.

Belford High School

Also known as Belford University, this organization gives out counterfeit high school diplomas and university degrees for thousands of dollars. They confer such degrees by letting students pass an examination based on "life experience" and do not offer education experience in any field of study. The transcripts from Belford are patently phony. In mid-2010, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) received 139 complaints in a space of three months.

Nation High School


Nation High is not a BBB accredited online school, and received an F grade on the BBB ratings. Nation failed to respond to up to 50 complaints in a three-month period in 2010, as reported by the BBB. Based in Charlotte, NC (although it presents an unlisted and unknown address), Nation High School also goes by the name of "Global Education Service."

Jefferson High School/Vencer High School

Students here pay more than \$200 for a high school diploma, only to find that the diploma has no validity when enrolling in colleges. Students fill out a questionnaire based on "life experience," and input information not relevant to their field of study, such as hobbies and interests. Jefferson is owned by MMDS Ltd., and based in St. Kitts: a small country in the eastern Caribbean. It also operates Vencer High School Online, which uses the exact same business model under a different name.

Belford Diploma Mill Lawsuit Awards Millions to Duped Students

Diploma Mill Police > Fake Diploma News
By Rachel Wang



A network of diploma mills operating under the brand name of Belford suffered a financial blow after a federal court in Michigan mandated a \$22.7 million payout to duped students who bought the group's fake GED diplomas and college degrees. Belford High School and Belford University—both owned by Pakistani businessman Saleem Kureshi—lost a federal class-action lawsuit. Now the Belford group of schools must make financial amends to their duped alumni in what authorities have ruled a degree mill scam involving several Internet domains, all operating under the Belford tagline.

On Aug. 31, 2012, U.S. District Judge Mark Goldsmith ordered Kureshi and his co-defendants to pay \$22.7 million in a lawsuit settlement to Belford students in compensation for selling unaccredited diplomas and degrees. The Belford scam encompassed 30,500 plaintiffs living in the U.S. who purchased a fake diploma from Belford High School or Belford University from 2003 to 2009, at the start of the lawsuit.

<http://www.geteducated.com/fake-diplomas>

Online High School Diplomas- Tips and Resources

What is a high school "diploma mill"?

- A high school "diploma mill" is a business or other organization that may be presented as a school, and offers a diploma or other document of high school completion with little or no required academic study, which may end up being essentially a worthless diploma

Signs that an online program may be a high school "diploma mill"

- The program sounds too good to be true
- High school diplomas may be purchased for a flat fee
- "Fast track" or "life experience" diplomas are offered with no course work
- The diploma is granted based on online testing which may be immediately repeated or provides hints to correct answers
- A diploma program may be completed within a very short amount of time
- Little or no interaction with teachers or other staff is required
- No phone number, address, or e-mail information is available
- Transcripts show credits and grades for courses that were not taken
- Claims that diplomas are accepted in all 50 states and internationally

Suggestions to find out about an online high school diploma

- Contact the online school directly and ask detailed questions about courses, guarantees, and accreditation
- Make sure that any information provided by the online school can be verified
- Check the registration of the school with the Department of Education at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/PrivateSchoolDirectory/>, or by calling (800)447-1636
- Visit the Better Business Bureau Web site at <http://www.bbb.org/>
- Check with the State Attorney General's Office for complaints or legal action against the online school.
 - Florida- <http://myfloridalegal.com/>
 - National- <http://www.naag.org/>
- Contact admissions offices, personnel offices, or military recruiters to verify the acceptability of an online diploma

FLORIDA D.O.E.

<http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/PrivateSchoolDirectory/default.asp?whichView=parent>

Accreditation

FAKE ACCREDITING AGENCIES

Diploma mills often claim accreditation by a fake accrediting agency to attract more students to their degree programs and make them seem more legitimate. Because diploma mills aren't accredited by a nationally recognized agency, you will not find the institution's accrediting agency on the U.S. Department of Education's [List of Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies](#).

<http://www.geteducated.com/diploma-mills-police/college-degree-mills/204-fake-agencies-for-college-accreditation>

List of Fake College Degree Accreditation Agencies

Diploma Mill Police > Degree Mills, What They Are and How To Avoid Them

Here is the official Get Educated list of 40+ fake college accreditation agencies that claim to oversee a variety of online college and university degree programs.

Most of these agencies "accredit" diploma mills or degree mills.

Consumers Beware — NONE of these accrediting agencies are recognized as college accreditors in the U.S. by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation or the U.S. Department of Education. As such, colleges claiming "accreditation" by these agencies are not accepted as valid providers of online degrees and should be approached with great caution if college credibility is important to you.



Remember, most diploma mills and degree mills are accredited—but by fake or phony agencies that the degree mills themselves own and operate!

Confused about degree mills? Check out the Diploma Mill Police's list of suspected degree mills.

Report suspected diploma mill scams.

Fake College Degree Accreditation Agencies

- Accreditation Council for Distance Education (ACTDE)
- Accreditation Council for Online Academia (ACOA)
- Accreditation Panel for Online Colleges and Universities (APTEC)
- Accrediting Commission International (ACI)
- American Accrediting Association of Theological Institutions
- American Council of Private Colleges and Universities
- American Association of Drugless Practitioners (ADP)
- Association of Accredited Bible Schools
- Association of Distance Learning Programs (ADLP)
- Association of Private Colleges and Universities
- Association for Online Academic Accreditation
- Association for Online Excellence
- Association for Online Academic Excellence
- Board of Online Universities Accreditation (BOUA)
- Council for Distance Education
- Council of Online Higher Education
- Central States Consortium of Colleges & Schools
- Distance and Online Universities Accreditation Council (DOUAC)
- Distance Learning International Accreditation Association (DLIA)
- Global Accreditation Bureau (GAB)
- Global Accreditation Commission for Distance Education (GACDE)
- Global Accreditation Council for Online Academia
- International Commission for Higher Education
- International Accreditation Agency for Online Universities (IAAOU)
- International Accreditation Association for Online Education (IAAPOE)



26. When you began college in the 2013-2014 school year, what will be your high school completion status?

High school diploma Answer question 27 Home school Skip to question 28
 General Educational Development (GED) certificate Skip to question 28 None of the above Skip to question 28

For Help: www.studentaid.gov/complethigh Page 3 Step One CONTINUED on page 4

27. What is the name of the high school where you received or will receive your high school diploma? Enter the complete high school name, and the city and state where the high school is located.

High school name STATE
 High school city

28. Will you have your first bachelor's degree before July 1, 2013? Yes No

Am I eligible to receive financial aid? - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/help/ffoc03a.htm

Am I eligible to receive financial aid?

< PREVIOUS

To be eligible to receive federal student aid, you must:

- Be a citizen or eligible noncitizen of the United States.
- Have a valid Social Security Number. (Students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau are exempt from this requirement.)
- Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate, or have completed homeschooling. If you don't, you may still be eligible for federal student aid if you were enrolled in college or career school prior to July 1, 2012. Go to <http://studentaid.ed.gov/eligibility/basic-criteria> for additional information.
- Be enrolled in an eligible program as a regular student seeking a degree or certificate.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- Not owe a refund on a federal student grant or be in default on a federal student loan.
- Register (or already be registered) with Selective Service, if you are a male and not currently on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. (Students from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau are exempt from registering; see www.333.gov for more information.)
- Not have a conviction for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, loans, or work-study). If you have such a conviction, you must complete the Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet to determine if you are eligible for aid or partially eligible for aid.

Many types of federal student aid, such as the Federal Pell Grant or subsidized loans where the government pays the interest while you are in college, also require you to have financial need.

Other requirements may apply. Contact the financial aid office at your college for more information.

HELP PRINT
CLOSE

Florida College Registrars and Admission Officers (FCRAO)

- Have established a process for validating high schools
- Develop and maintain a list of High School Acceptable Transcripts (HAT) and High School Invalid Transcripts (HIT)

FCRAO VALIDATION PROCESS
Level 1

1. • Public high school in the U.S or U.S. territories?
2. • Regionally accredited high school?
3. • High schools accredited by a CHEA recognized accrediting body?
4. • GED issued by state agency, U.S. territory or military?

Validating High Schools

- List of public high schools is maintained by NCES @ <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/>
- Florida Department of Education maintains a list of high schools operating in the state. Its Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice maintains the Florida Private Schools Directory but inclusion on the list does not imply approval or accreditation by the FL DOE: <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/PrivateSchoolDirectory/>

Florida Department of **EDUCATION**



Florida Private Schools Directory

Disclaimer
Information contained in this database was submitted by private schools as part of the annual survey requirement found in section 1002.42, Florida Statutes. The intent of the Legislature in creating the database was to provide "a service to the public" and not to "regulate, control, approve or accredit private educational institutions." As such, the Department of Education does not verify the accuracy of the data submitted pursuant to the annual survey. Inclusion of a school's information in the database does not imply approval or accreditation by the Department of Education.

The Florida Department of Education does not accredit, regulate, approve, or license private high schools. Additionally, the Florida Department of Education does not officially recognize any of the various agencies that accredit private schools.

Section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, requires K-12 private schools to register with the department by completing an annual survey each year and explicitly provides that submitting annual survey data and being listed in the directory of private schools should not be used by any private school to imply approval or accreditation by the state.

There are many organizations with widely variant quality standards and program requirements that accredit private schools. Requests for information about the accreditation of a specific school should be directed to the school staff or its designated accrediting agency. **The acceptance of diplomas from private schools will be subject to the requirements of the receiving educational institution or employer.**

Search Tips

Here are some tips to begin your search.

- You must enter a name, city, or zip code to begin searching.
- You must select at least one of the four types of institutions found on the right side of the search tool.
- In doing a name search keep it as simple as possible to make sure you get results. For example, use Mary instead of Saint Mary's College in case spelling or abbreviations are difficult.
- To better target your search use more search parameters.
- To find an NCES ID for public & private schools, colleges and libraries click on the name of the institution in the search results.
- By default, search results are sorted by name within institution, however, you may select to sort by state or city.

Council for Higher Education Accreditation

A national advocate and institutional voice for self-regulation of academic quality through accreditation. CHEA is an association of 3,000 degree-granting colleges and universities and recognizes 60 institutional and programmatic accrediting organizations.

Search Colleges & Universities · Search CHEA Web Site

Search Colleges & Universities · Search CHEA Web Site

- ABOUT CHEA
- DEGREE MILLS & ACCREDITATION MILLS
- GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
- RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
- DATABASES AND DIRECTORIES
- CHEA INTERNATIONAL QUALITY GROUP
- MEMBER SERVICES
- CHEA ALMANAC ONLINE

Database of Institutions and Programs Accredited by Recognized U.S. Accrediting Organizations

Find accredited institutions and programs

- CHEA-Recognized Accrediting Organizations Directory
- International Directory Search
- Washington Higher Education Secretariat
- Higher Education Transfer Alliance (HETA)

INFORMATION ABOUT ACCREDITATION

RECOGNITION

FCRAO VALIDATION PROCESS Level 1

5. Foreign transcript evaluated by an approved NACES agency?
6. International Baccalaureate Diploma?
7. Previously approved as a HAT school by FCRAO?


HOME

ABOUT NACES®

CURRENT MEMBERS

APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP

CONTACT NACES®



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<http://www.ibo.org/>

In this section

IB World Schools

New IB World Schools

Candidate schools

Case studies

Find an IB World School

Schools' jobs

My saved schools

IB World Schools and the IB

Find an IB World School

Programme(s)

IB Diploma Programme

Country

United States

State/province

Florida

Find

The IB in

Please select

Find an IB World School

You searched for Diploma Programme (DIPLOMA) schools in Florida, the United States. Your search returned 78 matches. Select "Save" to add the school to your list of saved schools.

Page: 1 2 3 4

Country	School name	Programmes	Add to my saved schools
		PYP MYP DIP IBCC	
United States	Allen D. Nease High School 10550 Ray Road, Ponte Vedra	•	Save
United States	Atlantic Community High School 2455 West Atlantic Ave, Palm Beach County, Delray Beach	• • •	Save
United States	Boca Prep International School 10333 Diego Drive South, Boca Raton	• •	Save
United States	Boyd Anderson High School 3050 North West 41st Street, Broward County, Lauderdale Lakes	• •	Save

Resources – Validating High Schools

- FCRAO Website maintained by Palm Beach State College:
- <http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions/fcrao/members.htm>

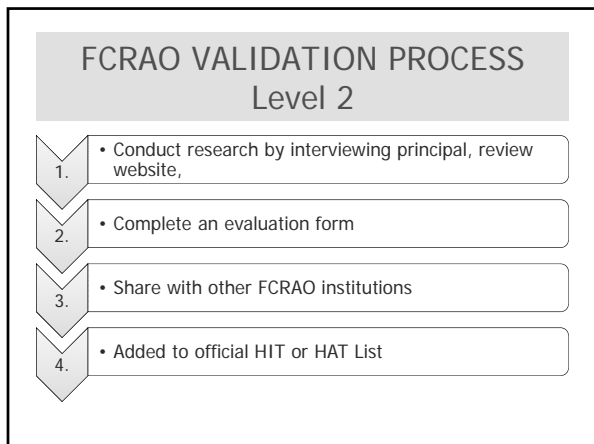
Florida College Registrars and Admissions Officers

Enrollment Figures, Group Responses, and Other Data

If you request data or ask questions of the group, please complete your responses in Microsoft Excel (a sample template is provided) and send the file to Ed Mueller (muellered@palmbeachstate.edu) according to this page.

High Schools Validation
HAT and HIT List (Nov 2, 2011)





- ### Level 2 Considerations
- Determine mode of delivery for education (online, face-to-face, hybrid, diploma-test only*)
 - Determine whether or not credentialed teachers delivered education
 - Determine if education is delivered over specified periods of time
 - Determine if curriculum is consistent with a valid secondary education
 - Determine if website is consistent with findings
 - Other information/criteria as determined by the member institution if member institution has reason to believe the high school diploma is not valid.
 - **"Diploma-test only" diplomas are considered invalid.*

- ### Validating High Schools
- The process is utilized by Florida public state colleges
 - Each institution can "validate" a questionable high school and send its evaluation to the group

Website (these affiliations are not on the "fake" accrediting agencies list)

CALL US
(813)

AFFILIATIONS

- NCACS
- N.A.L.S.A.S

AFFILIATIONS
Stepping Stones High School

Who is Stepping Stones High School Affiliated with?

Stepping Stones High School is accredited by the National Association for the Legal Support of Alternative Schools (NALASAS) who is a bona fide member in the National Coalition of Alternative Schools. Stepping Stones High School is registered with Florida School Choice.



What about CHEA?

- Neither affiliation is found at CHEA

Website (continued)

CURRICULUM

COURSES

Stepping Stones Curriculum

There will be one examination at the end of each subject (including creative writing). All subjects will be graded on an A through F grading scale.

Stepping Stones Grading System

- A = 90 - 100%
- B = 80 - 89%
- C = 70 - 79%
- D = 60 - 69%
- F = below 60%

A grade of 70% or above is needed to pass each subject.

Each student will write a short essay about their life in order to satisfy the creative writing requirement.

The student who is taking the course must do all of the work by themselves. Upon successfully completing all six units, students will receive their high school diploma and an official transcript of their grades.

American History

In this unit, students will gain a general understanding of America's history and how it has shaped our world today. Many interesting topics will be discussed including The Reconstruction Period, World Wars, space travel, and civil rights. A variety of activities are included to improve critical thinking skills, and increase comprehension.

Science

In this unit, students will gain a general understanding of human biology and how the body works. Basic elements are presented beginning with the bodies smallest part, the cell, and are followed by topics such as body systems, human reproduction, diseases, first aid, and general health.

Math

In this unit, students will gain a general understanding of mathematic skills that are essential to everyday life. This unit will help develop vital skills in problem solving, measurement, estimation, proportions, percentages, formulas, and general operations.

Contact school...

- Several attempts to schedule appointment
- "Drive by" investigation and field research



Contact school again...

Florida College Registrars and Admissions Officers (FCRAO)[®]
 High School Diploma Integrity Committee[®]
 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA VALIDATION[®]

(This form is used for all high schools that are not accredited by the ACCSDE, approved body, not on the NCSA eligible high school list, and not on the FCRAO maintained H&A list. Only high schools that provided the student a transcript with semester or quarters of instruction over a period of time will qualify for validation. This form should be submitted to the FCRAO High School Diploma Integrity Committee.)

High School Name	Stepping Stones	Date	10/10/12
Address	17633 Gunn Hwy, Suite 115 (The UPS Store)	City/ST	Odessa, FL Zip 33556
Contact	Linda DeCubellis	Phone	813-973-0619
Comment	This school contracts out to a 3 rd party (through the Pinellas county Sheriff's office) who arranges sessions at local churches around Pinellas county (Odessa is not in Pinellas county)		

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Qualifications	Points	Score	Comment
1. → Schools: ¶ a. → Brick and Mortar, only—No Online or diploma testing ¶ b. → Brick and Mortar, and online ¶ c. → Brick and Mortar, online and diploma testing ¶ d. → Online and diploma testing ¶ e. → Diploma Testing (disqualifies the school) ¶	a. 10 ¶ b. 8 ¶ c. 5 ¶ d. 4 ¶ e. 0 - ¶	0 ¶	Sessions are held at local churches in Pinellas county ¶
2. → School has Accreditation: List accrediting Body: (if qualified accreditator, school is automatically qualified. Qualified accreditators may vary from school to school. If accreditator is on CHEA website it is automatically accepted. ¶	NA ¶	¶	Institution is not found on the CHEA website ¶
3. → School has qualified teachers on staff and can provide roster: ¶ a. → Qualified* teachers in most subject areas ¶ b. → Qualified teachers in some subject areas ¶ c. → No qualified teachers on staff or cannot provide a roster of teacher contacts. ¶ *Bachelor's degree in the subject area ¶	a. 10 ¶ b. 6 ¶ c. 0 ¶	0 ¶	Sessions are taught by "mentors" who are not certified teachers but are volunteers from the community. ¶
4. → School contracts with one of Florida's school boards to provide diploma testing ¶	Y 10 ¶ N 0 ¶	0 ¶	¶
5. → School can provide titles and ISBN's of three textbooks on the student's transcript ¶	Y 10 ¶ N 2 ¶	2 ¶	¶
6. → Courses and education are offered over a length of time with support from qualified teachers from 8-20 weeks. (Academic Calendar available) ¶	Y 10 ¶ N 0 ¶	0 ¶	Students are allowed work at their own pace. No calendar available. ¶
7. → Information found is consistent with answers provided by school contact ¶	Y 10 ¶ N 0 ¶	10 ¶	Information is not consistent with the website. ¶

8. → Other Qualifying information: ¶	0-5 pts ¶	0 ¶	¶
SCORE ¶ 30-65 Accepted ¶ Under 30 Add to the No Fly List ¶	TOTAL: ¶ 0 ¶	Qualified? ¶ Comments: ¶	Yes: ___ ¶ NO: X ___ ¶
College-Staff-Name-¶ Maria Drewitt ¶	College-Staff-Signature: ¶		

Challenges

- Keeping the list current as emails and forms are being prepared and submitted
- Not just the "official FCRAO list" but also each institution must keep a historical log for reference and audit purposes
- Process for "appeals" by schools not defined
- Update policy manual and admissions policies
- Impacts admission of dual-enrolled students as well

Recommendations

- Update your admissions and FA policies to acknowledge requirement of valid high school
- Update website if appropriate
- Decide what will be the criteria for determining validity and be able to defend that
- Keep a historical and chronological log for audits and reference

Resources

- U.S. Department of Education
- <http://www2.ed.gov/students/prep/college/diplomamills/accreditation.html>
- National Center for Education Statistics
- <http://nces.ed.gov/>
- Council for Higher Education Accreditation
- WWW.CHEA.ORG
- Florida Department of Education
- www.fldoe.org
- National Association for College Admission Counseling
- www.nacacnet.org

Resources

- Florida College Registrars and Admissions Officers (FCRAO)
<http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions/fcrao/members.htm>
- Florida Virtual Campus
- www.flvc.org
- U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- <http://www.bls.gov/>

Contact Information

- Dr. Susan Fell, Director of Admissions and Records, St. Petersburg College
- 727-341-3166
- fell.susan@spcollege.edu
