

EXCESS CREDIT HOURS

The state of Florida has a statute affecting tuition rates for students at state universities.

Section 1009.286, Florida Statutes, (<https://www.flsenate.gov/laws/statutes/2011/1009.286>) establishes an “excess hour” surcharge for a student seeking a baccalaureate degree at a state university. It is critical that students, including those entering Florida colleges, are aware of the potential for additional course fees. “Excess hours” are defined as hours that go beyond 120% of the units required for a baccalaureate degree program. For example, if the length of the program is 120 units, the student may be subject to an excess hour surcharge for any units attempted beyond 144 credits (120% x 120).

All students whose academic progress may include earning a baccalaureate degree should make every effort to enroll in and successfully complete those courses that are required for the intended major on their first attempt. Florida college students intending to transfer to a state university should identify a major or “transfer program” early and be advised of admission requirements for that program, including the approved common prerequisites. Course withdrawals and/or repeats, as well as enrollment in courses nonessential to the intended major, may contribute to a potential excess hours surcharge.