GENERAL STATEMENT

The College will provide reasonable substitutions for eligible students with disabilities within the terms and intent of this policy. Factors such as accreditation standards, licensure or certification requirements, the significance of particular requirements to the program, and the availability of alternative means of achieving the purpose of the requirement are important considerations in the determination whether reasonable substitutions are available or whether a substitution would constitute a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program. All substitution requests for program/graduation requirements shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

THE POLICY and THE STUDENT

Eligibility for Substitutions. Any person who has a documented disability shall be eligible for reasonable substitution for any requirement for graduation. College Policy 6Hx2-5.09 describes the role of Accessibility Resources for students. Documentation to show that the person’s failure to meet the requirement is related to the disability and where the failure to meet the graduation requirement or program admission requirement will not constitute a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program must be provided. For purposes of this policy, the terms identifying the disability shall be defined in the manner set forth in Florida State Board of Education Administrative Rules, Chapter 6A-10.041

In determining whether to grant a substitution, the College will establish mechanisms to inform students with disabilities how to seek accommodations and provide documentation to substantiate that the disability can be reasonably expected to prevent the individual from meeting requirements for, admission to a program of study, entry to upper division, or graduation.

As an Equal Access/Equal Opportunity institution, the College publishes information for students regarding Accessibility Resources and how they may seek accommodations in the college catalog, student handbook, College Policy 6Hx2-5.09 and the college website. Each substitution request is handled on an individual basis. Students should refer to College Procedure 6Hx2-4.09 for criteria on securing reasonable substitutions for criteria for admission to a program of study, entry to upper division, or graduation related to each disability.

Students who qualify for a course substitution may be exempt from the college preparatory requirements, as provided in State Board Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C., in the basic skill area for which the student is eligible for a course substitution, provided that successful completion of the college preparatory coursework is not considered an essential part of the curriculum in the student’s academic program.
Admissions. The College provides equal access for admission to the institution for both disabled and nondisabled students. For admissions to a bachelor program or a limited access program, the College will not grant a substitution that alters the nature of the program. Some programs establish external affiliations with organizations, such as hospitals or medical/dental offices, to provide important specialized training; in some instances, reasonable substitutions for admission to a program and for such academic requirements may not be available. The granting of an admissions substitution may not be construed as a representation that the substitution will meet the requirements of any testing, licensing, or certificating organization.

THE POLICY and THE FACULTY AND STAFF.

Articulation with Other State Institutions. The College shall review and consider all substitutions for students which were previously granted by other accredited state postsecondary institutions in Florida in lower and upper division programs.

Compliance with Accreditation Standards. No substitution, which would constitute a violation of any requirement by an accrediting organization, shall be granted or accepted pursuant to this policy.

IMPLEMENTATION and OVERSIGHT

Committee and Procedures. The President is authorized to appoint one or more committees and to establish procedures to implement this policy in a manner consistent with the intent of this policy and with all provisions of Florida and Federal laws. College Procedure 6Hx2-4.09 outlines the student submission and appeal processes, membership and required steps of the Admissions and Program Substitution Committees and student notification and recordkeeping requirements.

Appeal Process. The College Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Services is responsible for the implementation and oversight compliance of this policy.

Students who wish to grieve a petition decision may appeal in writing or another appropriate means to the College’s Student Ombudsperson.

The Office of Civil Rights (“OCR”) has enforcement responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended which prohibit
discrimination on the basis of disability. If a student has a complaint against the institution relative to the application of this law, the students may also file a complaint to the College’s Equity Officer per Policy 6Hx2-3.34 before contacting OCR.

VIOLATION OF POLICY

Committee members, staff and non-represented faculty who violate this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Full-time Faculty will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination, as outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Trustees of Broward College and the United Faculty of Florida, Broward College Chapter.

DEFINITION

Student with a disability - any student who is documented as having a disability as defined by Florida Statute 1007.02 and Florida Administrative Rule 6A-10.041.

History: Issued as Policy 4.11 (Students with Disabilities) on September 17, 1991; revised, re-titled, and re-numbered on April 16, 1997; revised on June 27, 2001, revised on September 25, 2012; revised August 14, 2018