

TITLE: PROPOSED CHANGE TO POLICY MANUAL SECTION 5.1.0.1 –
COMPUTER COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS (III.A.2.a)

BACKGROUND:

At the May 18, 2006 meeting, members of the State Board approved a new competency-based model of General Education and revised the *VCCS Policy Manual* to include Section 5.0.2.2 VCCS General Education Goals and Student Learning Outcomes. Since achievement of computer competencies was included in the new student learning outcomes, the State Board voted at the July 20, 2006 meeting to remove the computer competency statement in *VCCS Policy Manual* Section 5.1.0.1 as redundant language. Finally, at the November 16, 2006 meeting, members of the State Board approved the new Tables 5-1A and 5-1B to replace the former Table 5-1 Distribution Requirements for Degree Programs. Table 5-1A outlines the General Education Goals that all degree students are required to meet upon graduation. In response to faculty requests to strengthen language in the Policy Manual related to the computer competency requirement, the State Board voted at the May 17, 2007 meeting to reinstate a revised statement of computer competency requirements in *VCCS Policy Manual* Section 5.1.0.1. This proposed revision pertains to the Other Core Competencies language that is part of Section 5.1.0.1.

Current Policy Language:

5.1.0.1 Computer Competency Requirements (SB)

Each college must ensure that students are able to demonstrate college entry-level computer skills necessary for academic success and discipline-specific skills necessary for successful transfer or employment.

Other Core Competencies

SCHEV has defined the following areas as “core competencies” to be expected of all degree graduates.

- Writing
- Oral Communication
- Information Literacy
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Scientific Reasoning
- Critical Thinking

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the State Board for Community Colleges approve the deletion of the SCHEV core competencies from Section 5.1.0.1 Computer Competency Requirements (SB) of the *VCCS Policy Manual*.

Proposed Policy Language:

5.1.0.1 Computer Competency Requirements (SB)

Each college must ensure that students are able to demonstrate college entry-level computer skills necessary for academic success and discipline-specific skills necessary for successful transfer or employment.

Other Core Competencies

~~SCHEV has defined the following areas as “core competencies” to be expected of all degree graduates.~~

- ~~● Writing~~
- ~~● Oral Communication~~
- ~~● Information Literacy~~
- ~~● Quantitative Reasoning~~
- ~~● Scientific Reasoning~~
- ~~● Critical Thinking~~

RATIONALE:

Included in Section 5.1.0.1 is language that identifies six “core competencies” that SCHEV currently expects of all degree graduates. Since Section 5.0.2.2 and Table 5-1A of the VCCS Policy Manual encompass these competency areas as requirements, the continued inclusion of a separate delineation of SCHEV core competencies is unnecessary and may lead to confusion regarding expectations for degree graduates. At the September 28, 2007 meeting, members of the Academic and Student Affairs Council approved this revision to Section 5.1.0.1. Members of the Advisory Council of Presidents also approved this revision to Section 5.1.0.1 at the October 25, 2007 meeting.

RESOURCE PERSONS:

Dr. Monty Sullivan, Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Research, VCCS, msullivan@vccs.edu, 804-819-4972.

Dr. Susan S. Wood, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Educational Programs and Instructional Technology, VCCS, swood@vccs.edu, 804-819-4936.

Mr. Bill Hightower, Director of Educational Programs, VCCS, bhightower@vccs.edu, 804-819-4696.