

8.011 Academic Degree Program Coordination and Approval.

(1) Definitions

- (a) Degree Program: An organized curriculum

required, depending on college and department policies, and may or may not appear on the student's transcript or credential.

- (f) College Credit Certificate Program: An organized curriculum of college credit courses offered as a distinct area of study that leads to specific educational

academic degree programs the university wishes to implement in the upcoming academic year. The university must submit this list to the Board office for review by the Chancellor or designee. The Chancellor or designee

effective term in the proposal or a later term. If a program is approved with contingencies, the university will be required to submit regular updates to the Board of Governors' office.

- (4) Criteria for New Degree Programs: A proposal for a new degree program must meet the criteria in sections (4)(a)-(k), use a template approved by the Chancellor, be approved by the university board of trustees, and if required, the Board of Governors.
- (a) Submission of New Academic Degree Program Proposals: The university board of trustees must submit a proposal for a new academic degree program within four weeks of its approval.
 - 1. The Board of Governors' office will verify the CIP code for each program is appropriate.
 - 2. For baccalaureate programs, the proposal must include any request for specialized admissions status, exceptions to the 120 credit hours to a degree, and exceptions to the established statewide common prerequisite courses. If the university is seeking these designations, the proposal must provide documentation that it aligns with the appropriate Board of Governors' regulations.
 - (b) Institutional and State-Level Accountability: The proposal must demonstrate that the goals of the program are consistent with the current State University System strategic plan and the current university's strategic plan and which goals the program will directly advance. The proposal must demonstrate that the program goals are aligned with the university's mission and with the requirements set forth in section 1001.706, Florida Statutes. The proposal must describe the projected benefit to the university, the local community, and the state of Florida if the program is implemented. The proposal must also demonstrate the efficient use of resources and justification for the investment.
 - (c) Student and Workforce Demand: The proposal must demonstrate a need for more individuals to be educated in the program at the level proposed using appropriate workforce data for opportunities both in Florida and nationally. Additional documentation for workforce needs may include letters of program support by employers and job postings for program graduates. The proposal must provide an estimate of the headcount and full-time equivalent count for students who will complete the program, along with documentation of student interest or demand. If an argument is made for the program based on research or service need, then specific supporting information shall be provided.
 - (d) Duplication of Existing Programs: The proposed program must not unnecessarily duplicate existing degree programs in Florida. If the program duplicates another degree program at a private or public state university in Florida with a substantially similar curriculum, evidence shall be provided that the university has investigated the potential impact on that program, has discussed opportunities for collaboration with the affected university, and can substantiate a need for duplication. If the proposed program curriculum substantially duplicates an existing program at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, the university proposing the program must provide

evidence that the proposed program does not affect the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's enrollment in the existing program.

- (e) Curriculum: The proposal must describe an appropriate sequenced course of study with expected student learning outcomes and appropriate industry-driven competencies. The proposal must include the following:
 - 1. A strategy for assessing student learning and reviewing academic-workforce alignment to modify the curriculum as needed.
 - 2. Admissions and graduation criteria, along with the credit hours required and a timeframe consistent with similar programs.
 - 3. How the program will be delivered.
 - 4. If appropriate internships, fellowships, scholarships, and assistantships are in place or are planned.
 - 5. For new baccalaureate programs, identify prerequisite courses consistent with common prerequisites for similar degree programs within the State University System and the Florida College System. Any exceptions must be submitted for approval to the Articulation Coordinating Committee in accordance with Board Regulation 8.010, Common Prerequisites.
- (f) Faculty: The proposal must demonstrate

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- (i) Institutional Resources: The proposal must provide evidence that the institution has resources or will make the necessary investments to ensure that the proposed program will be of high quality. The proposal shall demonstrate that the necessary library volumes and serials, classrooms, teaching laboratories, research laboratories, offices, and any other types of physical spaces and equipment are sufficient for program implementation. If program reviews or accreditation activities in the discipline pertinent to the proposed program or in related disciplines have included recommendations affecting the proposed program, the proposal shall provide evidence that progress has been made in implementing those recommendations.
- (j) External Review: Proposals for doctoral programs must include documentation of the formal written review of the degree program by a qualified external academic consultant or a cross-section of experts.
- (k) Implementation Term: The effective term must be after the term when the proposal is submitted.

(5) Changing a Degree Program's Assigned CIP Code

- (a) Existing programs' curricula may evolve in response to changing industry needs. The Chancellor, or designee, is authorized to approve CIP code changes requested by a university for an existing degree program in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory and to establish a process for university and state-level review to ensure the program is properly coded.
- (b) The new CIP code will be used for state-level accountability calculations starting with the effective term. The effective term must be after the term submitted for the change.
- (c) A CIP code change cannot have the net effect of adding a new degree program to the academic program inventory by changing the code for a major offered under a current program.
- (d) Institutions cannot request a CIP code change during an academic year for programs whose CIP codes qualify for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis waiver.

(6) Independent Degree Programs at Branch Campuses and Off-Campus Sites

- (a) Complete degree programs, or substantially complete degree programs, having designated faculty lines with independent curricular decision-making authority, designated facilities and instructional resources, and a designated student body, shall not be is10 (e ac)14 (a9T[s)4 (t) (i.(i)6.1 (2 ()10 (not)12 (be i)15c -0.01r

for one location that share faculty and students between or among instructional locations.

(c) New academic degree programs may not be implemented at an educational site that has not been approved in accordance with Regulation 8.009, Educational Sites.

(7) Universities must establish policies that align with the requirements in this regulation.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const., Sections 1007.23, 1007.25 Florida Statutes;

History: — New 3-27-07, Amended 3-24-11, 9-22-16, 6-30-22, 03-27-24.