

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
December 6, 2007**

SUBJECT: Ph.D. in Nutritional Science at the University of Florida

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider for Approval the Ph.D. in Nutritional Science at the University of Florida,
CIP Code 30.1901

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Section 7(d), Art. IX, Florida Constitution
Board of Governors Regulation 8.011

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The University of Florida is seeking authorization to implement a PhD in Nutritional Sciences, CIP 30.1901. The proposed Nutritional Science program would feature an integrative approach to research on diet, health, and the impact of genetic makeup on nutrient utilization. Emphasis areas would include basic nutritional sciences, biochemistry and molecular biology, genetics, immunology, physiology, and biostatistics. This proposed program would elevate an existing concentration to a stand-alone interdisciplinary degree program with participation from the Colleges of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Medicine, Liberal Arts & Sciences and Veterinary Medicine. The current Nutrition Sciences concentration was established as a track in the Food Science & Human Nutrition doctoral program in 1993 and has produced 19 PhDs.

The proposed program is research oriented and would include teaching and research resources from four colleges and access to a large practice/research clinic in the Shands Medical Complex. All courses contained in the curriculum outline for the proposed interdisciplinary PhD currently exist within the four colleges, and all faculties who teach these courses are currently employed in these programs. The proposed program curriculum is similar to the interdisciplinary Nutrition Sciences program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The doctoral programs at Pennsylvania State University and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison involve somewhat less interdisciplinary breadth, but have similar requirements in terms of credit hours, residency, and degree completion requirements.

Observations and relevant page numbers in staff analysis

- The proposed program meets the requirements in the Strategic Guidance on New Doctoral/Research Programs (SUS Strategic Plan 2005-2013). (page 2)
- The only similar program in the SUS is at Florida International University, which offers a doctorate in Dietetics and Nutrition. (page 7)
- The proposed program would align well with state economic strategy with regard to biotechnology. (page 2)
- The Agency for Workforce Innovation predicts continued and rapid growth in medical research, dietetics, biomedical industry, health care, nursing, pharmacology, and hospital industries. (page 7)
- Costs for implementing this program would be minimal because all courses, labs, and faculties are already in place. (page 8)
- Reallocation of funds would not significantly impact other programs because many of the current dollars are already being used to support the existing concentration in Nutrition Science. (page 8)
- Projected costs may be underestimated because the budget does not identify any contract and grant dollars to be associated with the program, or expense and OPS funds (typically student assistantships). (page 8)

Supporting Documentation Included: Provided with Committee Materials

Facilitators/Presenters: Richard Stevens, Director of Academic and Student Affairs