

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

**SUBJECT:** Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of South Florida

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Consider for Approval the Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of South Florida  
CIP Code 45.1101

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

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

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The University of South Florida's proposed doctoral degree program in Sociology is an interdisciplinary program, to be linked with new doctoral programs in Government and History, that would be part of a new USF initiative in graduate education and research called *Sustainable Healthy Communities: A Global Challenge*. The three programs would be linked through an interdisciplinary professional seminar, core electives in the three programs, and a capstone interdisciplinary seminar. In the future, links would be established with the Ph.D. programs in Anthropology and in Geography/ Environmental Science and Policy.

The proposed doctoral program in Sociology would require 60 credit hours beyond the master's. It expects to set itself apart from other doctoral programs offered in the state with its emphasis on globalization and its interdisciplinary links with other USF doctoral programs (proposed and currently offered).

This proposed program would support the University's strategic plan in becoming a nationally recognized, metropolitan-based research institution and position the University for membership in the American Association of Universities - both goals specifically mentioned in USF's mission statement and strategic plan. If the program is approved, the recruitment process would begin immediately with a proposed implementation date of fall 2008.

**Observations and relevant page numbers in staff analysis:**

- The proposed doctoral program in Sociology is not an emerging technology degree program as targeted in the 2005-2013 Strategic Plan. (Page 2)
- The program's focus on global issues would support the SUS initiative to connect education to globalization of the economy. (Page 2)

- The proposed program would support the SUS goal of economic development for high-wage programs by Year Five if combined with the proposed Ph.D. programs in Government and History. (Page 3)
- Four SUS universities offer a doctorate in Sociology. Enrollments for fall 2006 at FIU, FSU, UCF, and UF totaled 114 students. (Page 6)
- The proposal states the program would meet market-based demands for Florida employees. (Pages 4 - 7)
- The Agency for Workforce Innovation projects an employment increase of 1.01% for persons employed in Florida as sociologists and 3.2% for persons employed as postsecondary sociology instructors by 2014. (Page 5)
- Graduates would be prepared to teach sociology or to assist community or governmental agencies as they formulate policy. (Page 4-6)
- The proposed program would be implemented based on the available resources within the Department and the College of Arts & Sciences. (Pages 8 - 10)

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Provided with Committee Materials

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