



Proposed New PhD Programs in Government, History, and Sociology **– Clarifying the Case for Program Approval –**

- **All three, linked PhD proposals are consistent with (a) national trends; (b) the priorities of Enterprise Florida; (c) the Florida Board of Governors’ Strategic Plan, 2005-2013 (Adopted 6/9/05); and (d) USF’s Strategic Plan, *Transforming Higher Education for Global Innovation, 2007-2012* (Adopted 5/31/07).**
- **These linked proposals support each of the BOG’s four goals:**
 - Access to and production of degrees.
 - Meeting statewide professional and workforce needs.
 - Building world-class academic programs and research capacity.
 - Meeting community needs and fulfilling unique institutional responsibilities.
- **The proposed, linked PhDs in Government, History, and Sociology are USF’s top priority for new academic programs** – with the focus and emphasis placed on *research and innovation; global literacy and impact; integrated interdisciplinary inquiry; community engagement; and, student success.*
- **The approval of these linked PhD programs will help USF address the challenges of Florida’s exodus of intellectual talent.** Nationally and globally prominent faculty are more likely to continue their careers at USF if they can participate in and contribute to doctoral programs which provide unique opportunities in research, collaboration, and intellectual inquiry.
- **The proposed PhD degree programs are neither traditional nor duplicative in nature.** Rather, they are innovative, distinctive and, together, support integrated, interdisciplinary inquiry in one of USF’s unique signature educational and research thrusts: *Sustainable Healthy Communities: A Global Challenge*. Existing programs in Engineering, Public Health, Applied Anthropology, Education, Geography/Environmental Science and Policy, Aging Studies, Psychology, Business, and Marine Science support this institutional priority.
- **The National Science Foundation has recently expanded interdisciplinary funding opportunities that integrate doctoral research and education in the social sciences and humanities into traditional STEM fields** in order to advance our knowledge of complex scientific and societal problems where technology solutions alone, are not sufficient to address these issues. **USF has launched a new, complementary and exciting global, interdisciplinary postdoctoral fellowship initiative in the humanities and social sciences intended to attract even more intellectual talent to Florida.**
- **The proposed programs require no new resources.** An outstanding, interdisciplinary doctoral-level faculty (along with graduate assistant and library resources) has been built responsibly and strategically over time, in each of the departments, to support the design and delivery of the proposed new PhD programs – **presently USF and Florida are facing a significant opportunity cost.** Moreover, the new PhD programs are expected to have a positive impact on faculty retention so preserving and optimizing existing intellectual capital.
- **Approval of these programs will not diminish USF’s ongoing commitment and support for baccalaureate degree access, success and productivity.** USF is committed to balancing graduate and undergraduate access/degree productivity at USF Tampa (where baccalaureate degree productivity is already high in Government/Political Science, History, and Sociology), with significantly expanding baccalaureate access and productivity through mission differentiation on USF’s regional campuses, following the models of the Universities of Michigan, Minnesota, Pittsburgh, Washington, and The Ohio State University.
- As one of three top-tier public research universities in Florida (and the only metropolitan-based institution) classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as *Research University/Very High Research Activity*, and one of three universities designated by the Florida State Legislature as a Research University, **expanding access to and productivity in selected doctoral degrees must represent a leading strategic priority for USF.**

- According to the Board of Governors' Strategic Plan, 2005-2013, as the youngest of the three universities by 100 years, USF (1956, 35/179) lags UF (1853, 86/694), and FSU (1857, 74/271) in the number of doctoral programs and degrees awarded. **It is altogether appropriate to support USF's careful and strategic acceleration in new and innovative doctoral degree development to meet targeted needs.**
- **The State of Florida falls significantly short of the nation's largest states in the number of PhD programs and degrees awarded in Government/Political Science, History and Sociology.** As access to baccalaureate degrees increases (across Florida's State University System, State College System, Community College System, and ICUF institutions), the demand for PhD credentialed faculty members to deliver regionally accredited general education curricular components and majors in the humanities and social sciences, as well as in other fields, will grow significantly.

Discipline		Florida	California	Texas	New York	USF Planned PhD Headcount/FTE by Year 5
Government/Political Science	PhD Programs	3	10	7	13	25/19
	PhD Productivity (IPEDS 2003-06)	32	258	83	251	
History	PhD Programs	4	11	10	12	21/20
	PhD Productivity (IPEDS 2003-06)	59	346	100	268	
Sociology	PhD Programs	4	11	5	12	23/13
	PhD Productivity (IPEDS 2003-06)	35	200	68	248	

The ratio of PhD degrees awarded (per 1,000,000 population, from 2003-06) by state = Government/Political Science: FL/1.78; CA/7.17; TX/3.61; NY/13.21 History: FL/3.28; CA/14.10; TX/4.35; NY/14.10 Sociology: FL/1.94; CA/5.56; TX/2.96; NY/13.05

- **Six (6) of USF's eight (8) BOG-approved peer institutions deliver PhD programs in all three disciplines: Government/Political Science, History and Sociology** (Cincinnati, Rutgers, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Stony Brook, University of California, Irvine, University of Illinois, Chicago). The other two (2) (NC State and the UAB) deliver PhD programs in Sociology.
- **The humanities and social sciences hold an essential and complementary place in the intellectual life of a comprehensive research university.** The humanities seek to understand what it is to be human; to make sense of our lives; and how our complex world has evolved. The social sciences attempt to explain, through scientific observation and analysis, the processes that shape individual behavior along with group and cultural interaction. Both are critical to creating effective public policy in the presence of major contemporary issues such as climate change, the environment, energy, water, globalization, public health and the introduction of novel and disruptive technologies.
- **Relevant need and uniqueness have both been well established and documented in the degree proposals:** PhD in Government/Political Science (with a focus on *governance and policy in urban populations*); PhD in History (with a focus on *community building, together with the evolution and impact of globalization*); PhD in Sociology (with a focus on *population migration, growth and sustainability*).
- **Curriculum development has been guided by continuing consultation with, as well as encouragement from, BOG staff.** In meetings with senior BOG officials (in Tampa and Tallahassee) University representatives were encouraged to link the degree proposals around a single and distinctive strategic priority. We have provided timely, comprehensive and compelling responses to all questions raised throughout the development of these degree proposals.
- **The three (3) proposals have been approved, with respect to academic and budget matters, by the appropriate departmental, college, and university committees, along with the USF Board of Trustees.** A team of distinguished external consultants provided a positive recommendation for advancement of the three linked proposals to the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors.