

**FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

July 22, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Implementation Authorization for a Ph.D. in Sociology  
at the University of Central Florida

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Consider implementation authorization for a Ph.D. in Sociology (CIP 45.1101) at the University of Central Florida.

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7 (d), Constitution of the State of Florida

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

If approved for implementation, the University of Central Florida's Ph.D. in Sociology will have an emphasis on applied rather than theoretical sociology, focusing on the following core areas: crime and deviance, domestic violence, inequality and diversity, and urban and environmental issues. UCF's doctorate will join only four other programs found nationally with an emphasis on applied sociology; none of which are found in Florida or the Southeast.

UCF has provided evidence that the demand for Ph.D.s in applied sociology is growing. Graduates are expected to be placed in academia, local government, industry, and social service as sociologists, analysts, and statisticians. The proposed program's cost per student FTE is significantly lower than costs associated with similar programs at other state universities. There are currently 16 sociology faculty who would participate in the program by year five, and the University is currently searching to fill three additional faculty lines. UCF's nationally recognized faculty is highly active in research productivity, publication, and grant acquisition.

The requested program is aligned with the mission and strengths of UCF. Dr. William B. Bankston, Professor and Chair of the Louisiana State University Department of Sociology, was retained as a consultant to review the proposal. He noted that, "The structure of the program is well thought out and should produce high quality Ph.D. graduates. It will contribute much to the realization of the University's mission to achieve national prominence . . . the department will quickly find a niche in the top tier of Ph.D. granting departments in Applied Sociology."

The UCF Board of Trustees approved the proposal for the Sociology Ph.D. at its March 25, 2004, meeting. If the Board of Governors approves implementation, the University plans to begin the program in the fall of 2005.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:**

Staff Analysis

**Facilitators/Presenters:**

Chancellor Austin / R. E. LeMon  
UCF Representatives