

**FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

April 30, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Criteria for New Degree Authorization

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Approve criteria for new degree authorization.

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

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

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Florida Education Governance Reorganization Act provided that doctoral-level programs are to be authorized by the Florida Board of Education, that academic degree programs below the level of doctorates are to be authorized by university boards of trustees, and that all programs are to be authorized based on criteria established by the Florida Board of Education. Subsequently, the passage of Article IX, Section 7, Constitution of the State of Florida, created the Florida Board of Governors and vested them with the authority to "operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system" and "avoiding wasteful duplication of facilities or programs." This transferred authority for the approval of doctorates, and for the establishment of approval criteria for all academic programs to the Board of Governors.

The attached recommended criteria for program authorization have been established with input and approval from the State University System Council of Academic Vice Presidents, and were approved by the Florida Board of Education at its November 19-20, 2001 meeting. The criteria fall into the broad categories of "Readiness" and "Accountability"; with "access" being a key component of accountability for baccalaureate programs. The criteria were developed through extensive experience with consultants in various disciplines who have reviewed State University System programs, recognition of specific requirements in Florida statutes, and examination of criteria utilized by other states around the nation.

Staff will present a historical context of degree authorization, the recommended new criteria, and the recommended new processes for degree authorization by the university boards of trustees and the Florida Board of Governors.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:**  
**Facilitators/Presenters:**

Criteria for Degree Authorization  
R. E. LeMon

## CRITERIA FOR NEW DEGREE AUTHORIZATION

READINESS					
<b>1</b>	<b>Bachelor's</b>		<b>Master's &amp; Specialist</b>		<b>Professional &amp; Doctorate</b>
<b>Mission and Strength</b> - The goals of the program are aligned with the university's mission and relate to specific institutional strengths.					
<b>2</b>	<b>Bachelor's</b>		<b>Master's &amp; Specialist</b>		<b>Professional &amp; Doctorate</b>
<b>Program Quality</b> - If there have been program reviews or accreditation activities in the discipline pertinent to the proposed program, or in related disciplines, the proposal provides evidence that progress has been made in implementing the recommendations from those reviews, as appropriate.					
<b>3</b>	<b>Bachelor's</b>		<b>Master's &amp; Specialist</b>		<b>Professional &amp; Doctorate</b>
<b>Curriculum</b> - The proposal describes an appropriate and sequenced course of study, including expected student learning outcomes, an assessment plan to verify student learning, and, in the case of advanced technology and related disciplines, industry-driven competencies. Evidence is provided that, if appropriate, the university anticipates seeking accreditation for the proposed program.					
<b>Professional and Doctorate Only</b> - Admissions and graduation criteria are clearly specified and appropriate. The course of study and credit hours required may be satisfied within a timeframe consistent with similar programs. In cases where accreditation is available for existing bachelor's or master's level programs, evidence is provided that the programs are accredited, or a rationale is provided as to the lack of accreditation.					
<b>4</b>	<b>Bachelor's</b>		<b>Master's &amp; Specialist</b>		<b>Professional &amp; Doctorate</b>
<b>Faculty</b> - Evidence is provided that a critical mass of faculty is available to initiate the program based on estimated enrollments, and that, if appropriate, there is a commitment to hire additional faculty in later years, based on estimated enrollments.					
<b>Professional and Doctorate Only</b> - Evidence is provided that the faculty in the aggregate have the necessary experience and research activity to sustain a doctoral program.					
<b>5</b>	<b>Bachelor's</b>		<b>Master's &amp; Specialist</b>		<b>Professional &amp; Doctorate</b>
<b>Resources</b> - Evidence is provided that the necessary library volumes and serials; classroom, teaching laboratory, research laboratory, office, and any other type of physical space; equipment; and appropriate clinical and internship sites are sufficient to initiate the program.					
<b>All Graduate Level Programs</b> - Appropriate fellowships, scholarships, and graduate assistantships are in place, or the university has made sufficient plans for their existence.					

## ACCOUNTABILITY

6	Bachelor's	Master's & Specialist	Professional & Doctorate
<p><b>Need</b> - Evidence is provided that there is a need for more people to be educated in this program at this level. The proposal contains realistic estimates of headcount and FTE for students who will major in the proposed program and indicates steps to be taken to achieve a diverse student body.</p>			

Professional and Doctorate Only - If the program duplicates other professional and doctorate degrees in Florida, a convincing rationale for doing so is provided.

7	Bachelor's	Master's & Specialist	Professional & Doctorate
<p><b>Budget</b> - The proposal provides a complete and realistic budget for the program which reflects the text of the proposal, which is comparable to the budgets of similar programs, and which provides evidence that, in the event that resources within the institution are redirected to support the new program, such a redirection will not have an unjustified negative impact on other needed programs. The proposal demonstrates a judicious use of resources and provides a convincing argument that the output of the program justifies the investment.</p>			

8	Bachelor's	Master's & Specialist	Professional & Doctorate
<p><b>Productivity</b> - The proposal provides evidence that the academic unit(s) associated with this new degree have been productive in teaching, research, and service.</p>			

9	Bachelor's		
<p><b>Access</b> - Evidence is provided that community college articulation has been addressed and ensured.</p>			

All prerequisites are listed with assurance that they are the same standardized prerequisites for similar degree programs within the SUS. The State Board of Education shall establish policies regarding the approval of exceptions to the standardized prerequisites.

The total number of credit hours does not exceed 120. The Florida Board of Governors shall establish policies regarding the approval of exceptions to the statutory mandate of a 120-hour maximum.

The Florida Board of Governors shall establish policies regarding the authorization of limited access status for baccalaureate programs. The policies shall ensure that adequate justification exists for limited access designation and that diversity, articulation, and workforce issues are appropriately addressed.