8.002 Self-supporting and Market Tuition Rate Programs

(1) All of the educational programs and courses described in this regulation are conducted through the auxiliary enterprise of the university. The use of the term "program" within this regulation refers to all degree programs, tracks, majors, and concentrations subject to the provisions of this regulation as defined in Regulation 8.011.

(2) The following provisions apply to all market tuition rate and self-supporting tuition programs and requests.

A. The program must be offered at the graduate level only.

B. The program cannot lead to initial licensure.

C. Universities shall submit tuition requests for new or existing programs in accordance with Board of Governors Regulations and Florida Statutes. The approved tuition rate will go into effect at the start of the next academic year following approval by the Board of Governors. University-wide tuition and fee increases do not apply to programs approved for self-supporting or market tuition rates.

D. All activity for self-supporting and market tuition rate education programs shall be reflected in the auxiliary budget entity, except that activity related to self-supporting sponsored credit courses and programs may be reflected in the contracts and grants trust fund. The proposed budget must clearly indicate that the revenue generated will be sufficient to operate the program without E&G funding.

E. Self-supporting and market tuition rate education programs are not eligible for inclusion in the Southern Regional Education Board's Academic Common Market program.

F. For the purposes of this regulation, a program is considered similar if it is offered under the same six-digit CIP code as a program funded under the Education and General (E&G) budget entity.

1. The program admission and graduation requirements shall be the same as programs under the same six-digit CIP code funded by the E&G budget entity.

2. A university cannot suspend or terminate an E&G graduate-level program in favor of offering a similar market tuition rate or self-supporting education program.

3. Self-supporting or market tuition rate graduate degree programs must operate independently and shall not overlap, supplant, replace, or supersede an existing E&G funded program in any way, including

concurrent course sections.

G. Students who enroll in courses or programs approved for market tuition rates and/or self-supporting rates are eligible for tuition waivers and exemptions as authorized in Florida Statutes and Board of Governors Regulation 7.008.

H. Universities must restrict access to courses associated with programs subject to this regulation to only those students admitted to the respective program. A student who is not enrolled in the respective program may not be assessed a tuition and fee rate other than the approved E&G tuition and fee rate for the university.

I. The university must provide students with a side-by-side tuition and fee comparison between the market tuition rate program and self-supporting programs and other similar E&G programs. The comparison must also include information about financial assistance and obligations for repayment of loans for these programs. This information must be posted in an identifiable and easily accessible location on the university website and in the university catalogs.

J. The university cannot make a new request for market tuition rate or self-supporting tuition for a graduate program, or an increase in tuition specific to a market tuition rate or self-supporting graduate program while on a Student Success Plan pursuant to Regulation 5.001 or if a university is found to be out of compliance with this regulation.

K. Any request for market tuition rate or self-supporting tuition shall be submitted in a format designated by the Chancellor and be consistent with the requirements outlined in Board of Governors Regulation 8.011.

(3) A market tuition rate is defined as a tuition rate that is competitively aligned with comparable programs offered by public or private institutions located either in-state or out-of-state, and at a minimum covers the cost of the program. Market tuition rate for individual courses not included in an approved graduate-level degree program is prohibited. Market tuition rate is only applicable for graduate-level degree programs.

A. The university must provide evidence that graduate wages after one year exceed those of a similar bachelor's degree program. The program must demonstrate that the student is better off by completing the program than if they had never enrolled.

B. The Board shall consider if the proposed tuition amount exceeds the annual or total cap authorized by the U.S. Department of Education for federal loans as criteria for evaluating the proposal.

C. If the university requests a new market tuition rate program and the program is on the Board of Governors Programs of Strategic Emphasis list, the university must provide students with an E&G option. The Board may

also evaluate this request to ensure it is in the best interest of the state for a market tuition rate program to meet the critical workforce needs of the state.

D. The university must provide evidence for seeking the market tuition rate, which includes at least three examples of tuition amounts from other comparable programs at public or private four-year universities.

E. The request must provide a convincing rationale for seeking a market tuition rate, including a rationale for any tuition increase. This includes evidence of the return on the investment of the program to the student and the state.

(4) Market Rate Tuition Requests

A. New Academic Program: A university board of trustees is authorized to consider the approval of a new graduate-level degree for market tuition rate at the time it approves the new degree for implementation pursuant to Board of Governors Regulation 8.011. A university board of trustees must submit the approved request to the Board of Governors for consideration and approval of the program and tuition and any associated fees before enrollment of any students.

B. Existing Program: A university board of trustees may consider approval to apply market tuition rate to an existing graduate-level program offered by the university included in the SUS Academic Degree Program Inventory. A university board of trustees must submit the approved request to the Board of Governors for consideration and approval of the tuition and any associated fees before enrollment of any students.

C. Increase in tuition for an approved market tuition rate program.

1. Any proposed increase in tuition and fees for an approved market tuition rate program must be approved first by the university board of trustees and then by the Board of Governors.

2. Universities must follow the procedures for tuition increases as specified in Regulation 7.001 (4) and (6).

3. Approved requests for increases will take effect the next academic year.

(5) Self-Supporting Education Programs are graduate-level degree programs that charge a tuition rate to offset the cost of offering the program.

A. Tuition and fees charged for all self-supporting graduate degree programs must be established according to the requirements outlined in section 1009.24, Florida Statutes, and Board of Governors Regulation 7.001 and

must be sufficient to offset the full instructional cost of serving the student.

B. Any increase to the tuition rate or request to establish tuition for a self-supporting program that is beyond the state-approved rate requires approval from the Board of Governors prior to charging the requested increased tuition rate. Any increases that are less than or equal to the state-approved rate for graduate tuition may be approved by the Chancellor prior to charging the requested increased tuition rate.

C. The university must provide evidence that graduate wages after one year exceed those of a similar bachelor's degree program. The program must demonstrate that the student is better off by completing the program than if they had never enrolled.

D. The Board shall consider if the proposed tuition amount exceeds the annual or total cap authorized by the U.S. Department of Education for federal loans as criteria for evaluating the proposal.

E. If the university requests a new self-supporting program and the program is on the Board of Governors Programs of Strategic Emphasis list, the university must provide students with an E&G option. The Board may also evaluate this request to ensure it is in the best interest of the state for a self-supporting tuition program to meet the critical workforce needs of the state.

F. Self-supporting requests.

1. New academic program. A university board of trustees is authorized to consider the approval of a new graduate-level degree with self-supporting tuition at the time it approves the new degree for implementation pursuant to Board of Governors Regulation 8.011.

2. Existing academic program. A university board of trustees is authorized to consider the approval to apply a self-supporting tuition rate to an existing graduate-level degree program offered by the university that is approved pursuant to Board of Governors Regulation 8.011 and is included in the SUS Program Inventory.

3. Increase in tuition for an approved self-supporting program.

    a. Any proposed increase in tuition and fees for an approved self-supporting program that exceeds the state-approved rate must be approved first by the university board of trustees and then by the Board of Governors.

    b. Universities must follow the procedures for tuition increases as specified in Regulation 7.001 (4) and (6).

    c. Approved requests for increases will take effect the next academic year.

G. Self-Supporting College Credit Graduate Certificate Programs: State universities may establish self-supporting college credit graduate certificate programs pursuant to university regulation. The tuition and fees for such certificates must be sufficient to offset the full cost of the program and may not exceed the approved graduate tuition and fees for E&G programs unless the university has received approval from the Board of Governors pursuant to Regulation 7.001.

H. Non-credit Courses and Programs: Non-credit professional development courses and programs designed to upgrade existing technical or professional skills and courses and programs that are provided primarily for personal enrichment or as a public service to the community may be offered as self-supporting education. These courses should not be offered for college credit or count towards any degree requirements.

I. Sponsored-Credit Courses and Programs: Sponsored-credit courses and programs are self-supporting college-credit offerings where all the direct costs are paid by an external sponsoring entity. Expenditure of E&G funds for the conduct of the programs is not permitted. No fees or other assessments may be collected from students by the sponsoring entity, the university, or any other entity.

1. In determining whether the direct costs are paid by the sponsoring entity, funds paid directly to the participants in a form such as, but not limited to, stipends, travel, or book allowances should not be taken into account. "Direct costs" refer to the costs associated with the instruction or training that a participant receives. All funds collected from sponsoring entities for sponsored credit courses and programs will be remitted to the university's contract and grants trust fund and/or continuing education auxiliary trust funds as appropriate.

2. Each university board of trustees is authorized to waive any tuition, associated fees, and material and supply fees for students participating in sponsored credit courses and programs when such costs are not covered under the contract with the sponsoring entity and pursuant to a regulation adopted by the university board of trustees under section 1009.26 (9), Florida Statutes, and Board of Governors Regulation 7.008.

(6) **Reporting**

A. Credit hours generated by college-credit courses offered through all self-supporting and market tuition rate education programs shall not be reported as fundable credit hours and shall be reported to the Board of Governors separately from credit hours funded through the E&G budget entity using the State University Database System.

B. A separate student cohort for those enrolled in the market tuition rate or

self-supporting track or major shall be reported to the Board office for reporting.

C. Degrees awarded for programs offered entirely through self-supporting or market tuition rate education shall be reported to the Board of Governors separately from degrees awarded for programs funded through the E&G budget entity using the State University Data System. Degrees awarded in market tuition rate or self-supporting programs shall not count towards Programs of Strategic Emphasis metrics used for Performance-Based Funding unless authorized by the Board of Governors.

D. Institutions must complete an annual report in the format prescribed by the Chancellor for all college-credit self-supporting and market tuition rate education programs.

E. The Board shall review all approved self-supporting and market tuition rate programs every 5 years and determine if the program still requires that tuition status.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; Section 1009.24, Florida Statutes; History—New 09-15-11; Amended 08-31-17, 11-10-22, 05-10-23, 11-13-26.