

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

June 22, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Select STEM Tuition and Fee Waiver: Eligible Programs

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Consider approval of eight programs of strategic emphasis in science, technology, engineering, or math for which a student may be eligible to receive a new tuition and fee waiver per House Bill 1261 from the 2021 legislative session.

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

House Bill 1261 stipulates that beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year, a new tuition and fee waiver is created for students taking upper-level courses in one of eight science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) programs of strategic emphasis. The bill requires that for every course in a qualifying program of strategic emphasis in which a student is enrolled, a state university must waive 100 percent of the tuition and fees for an equivalent course in such program. Eligible students must be an in-state resident, earn at least 60 semester credit hours towards a baccalaureate degree within two academic years after initial enrollment at a Florida public postsecondary institution, and be enrolled in one of eight STEM programs of strategic emphasis selected by the Board of Governors. The tuition and fee waiver is applicable only for upper-level courses and for up to 110 percent of the number of required credit hours of the degree program for which the student is enrolled. A student receiving Bright Futures will receive a disbursement for the tuition and fees waived that is equal to his or her award amount.

Each state university must annually report to the Board of Governors the number and value of tuition and fee waivers granted. House Bill 1261 also establishes a new incentive funding program for state universities to earn based on the number and value of waivers granted under this new program.

The Board of Governors is required to select eight STEM programs of strategic emphasis offered at a majority of state universities that reflect the priorities of the state. Board staff have identified eleven potential programs that qualify according to the requirements outlined in the bill.

If approved by the Strategic Planning Committee, the eight STEM programs of strategic emphasis will be forwarded to the Full Board for consideration.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** In Strategic Planning Committee Materials