



Board of Governors, State University System of Florida  
**ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM TERMINATION FORM**  
In Accordance with BOG Regulation 8.012

**INSTITUTION:** Florida Atlantic University

**PROGRAM NAME:** Complex Systems and Brain Sciences

**DEGREE LEVEL(S):** PhD **CIP CODE:** 42.2706  
(B., M., Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.) (Classification of Instructional Programs)

**ANTICIPATED TERMINATION TERM:** Fall, 2022  
(First term when no new students will be accepted into the program)

**ANTICIPATED PHASE-OUT TERM:** Fall, 2026  
(First term when no student data will be reported for this program)

*Please use this form for academic program termination. The form should be approved by the University Board of Trustees (UBOT) prior to submission to the Board of Governors, State University System of Florida for consideration. Please fill out this form completely for each program to be terminated in order for your request to be processed as quickly as possible. Attach additional pages as necessary to provide a complete response. In the case of baccalaureate or master's degree programs, the UBOT may approve termination in accordance with BOG Regulation 8.012, and submit this form to the Board of Governors, Office of Academic and Student Affairs. For doctoral level programs, please submit this form with all appropriate signatures for Board of Governor's consideration. The issues outlined below should be examined by the UBOT when approving program terminations.*

**1. Provide a narrative rationale for the request to terminate the program.**

The program will be merged with the new PhD in Neuroscience at FAU to provide the "Computational and Theoretical Neuroscience" track within the new PhD degree program. For several years the program in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences has experienced low enrollment and low graduation rates falling below BOG graduation criteria in some years for PhD graduation.

- 2. Indicate on which campus(es) the program is being offered and the extent to which the proposed termination has had or will have an impact on enrollment, enrollment planning, and/or the reallocation of resources.**

The program is offered primarily on the Boca Raton campus. The impact on graduate enrollment and enrollment planning will be minimal since students who would have been admitted to the program can follow a similar curriculum through the new PhD in Neuroscience. Resources committed in the program are primarily stipends and tuition waivers to support graduate students in teaching assistantships.

- 3. Explain how the university intends to accommodate any students or faculty who are currently active in the program scheduled to be terminated. State what steps have been taken to inform students and faculty of the intent to terminate the program.**

For current students, a teach-out plan will allow them to graduate with the PhD in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences over the next several years. Some students may want to transfer into the new Neuroscience PhD program. Program faculty are members of the new Neuroscience PhD program as well as programs in their home academic department. Faculty have been actively involved in planning the new Neuroscience PhD program. Students have been informed of the teach-out plan for them to graduate with the PhD in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences.

- 4. Please provide the date when the teach-out plan was submitted to SACSCOC. Include a copy of the notification letter with your submission.**

The Provost's Office will submit the teach out plan to SACSCOC <sup>Feb 1, 2022</sup> ~~September 2024~~. All currently enrolled students will be given the opportunity to complete the program by the end of Fall 2026.

- 5. Provide data (and cite sources) on the gender and racial distribution of students in and faculty affiliated with the program. For faculty, also list the rank and tenure status of all affected individuals.**

Students: Self-reported: 5M/5F — 6W,not Hispanic, 1W,Hispanic, 2Asian, 1Ind  
Faculty: W. Alexander, Asst Prof, not tenured (W/M); G. Anzures, Asst Prof, not tenured (W/F); E. Barenholtz, Assoc Prof, tenured (W/M); E. Engeberg, Prof, tenured (W/M); B. Ghoraani, Assoc Prof, tenured, (W/F); W. Hahn, Asst Prof, not tenured (W/M); H. Hock, Research Prof, not tenured, (W/M); S. Hong, Assoc Prof, tenured, (W/M); S. Kelso, Prof, tenured, (W/M); A. Peah, Aff Prof, not tenured, (W/M); G. Perry, Prof, tenured, (W/M); H. Prentice, Prof, tenured, (W/M); W. Shen, Assoc Prof, tenured, (W/F); S. Sheremata, Asst Prof, not tenured, (W/F); R. Stackman, Prof, tenured, (W/M); E. Tognoli, Research Prof, not tenured, (W/F); C. Varela, Asst Prof, not tenured, (H/F); R. Vertes, Prof, tenured, (W/M); J. Wu, Prof, tenured, (W/M).

**6. Identify any potential negative impact of the proposed action on the current representation of females, minorities, faculty, and students in the program.**

No impact is expected as the current students will finish their degrees over the next several years and faculty will remain in the program until it is terminated.

**7. If this is a baccalaureate program, please explain how and when the Florida College System (FCS) institutions have been notified of its termination so that students can be notified accordingly.**

The proposed degree termination is for a PhD level degree program.

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<u>Gary W Perry</u> Requestor/Initiator	<u>09/14/21</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Signature of Campus EO Officer	<u>10-4-21</u> Date
<u>Teresa Wilcox</u> Signature of College Dean	<u>10-01-2021</u> Date
<u>Russell Dy</u> Signature of President or Vice President for Academic Affairs	<u>10/1/21</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Signature of Chair of the Board of Trustees	<u>4/13/22</u> Date
<u>2/1/22</u> Date Approved by the Board of Trustees	



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
Office of the Provost  
777 Glades Road, AD10-309  
Boca Raton, FL 33431  
tel: 561.297.3062  
fax: 561.297.3942  
[www.fau.edu/provost](http://www.fau.edu/provost)

February 1, 2022

Dr. Kevin Sightler  
Director of Substantive Change  
SACSCOC  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, GA 30033

Dear Dr. Sightler,

Florida Atlantic University would like to close our doctoral degree program in complex systems and brain sciences (CIP 42.2706). The program will be folded into another doctoral program at FAU as a track/concentration. No new students will be admitted into the program beginning in Fall 2022. Attached is our proposed teach-out plan for SACSCOC approval, which will allow students to either transfer to the new degree program track or to finish the existing program by the end of the Fall 2026 term.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this degree program termination request or the attached teach-out plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Russell Ivy'.

Russell Ivy,  
Senior Associate Provost and SACSCOC Liaison

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**Florida Atlantic University**

***TEACH OUT PLAN FOR PROGRAM CLOSURE***

**PROGRAM NAME:** Complex Systems and Brain Sciences

**DEGREE LEVEL:** Doctoral

**CIP:** 42.2706

**Implementation Date for Closure:**

First term that no new students will be admitted is Fall 2022. Teach out plan will end with the closure of the Fall 2026 term.

**Date of FAU Board of Trustees Permission to Seek Closure:** 2/1/2022

**Justification for seeking closure of program:**

This program is requested to be terminated as it will be merged with the recently approved Ph.D. in Neuroscience at FAU (approved by the Florida SUS Board of Governors in November 2021) as part of the “Computational and Theoretical Neuroscience” track within the new doctoral degree program. With the approval of the broader neuroscience doctoral degree program, it is unlikely that the existing degree in Complex Systems will have sustainable enrollment.

**Current Student Enrollment as of Submission Date to SACSCOC:** 10

**Teach Out Plan indicating summary of the status of enrolled students and expected time to graduate as well as plans to notify:**

For current students, a teach out plan will allow them to graduate with the Ph.D. in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences over the next several years. Current students will also be allowed to make the transfer to the new Neuroscience Ph.D. program if they desire. All currently enrolled students in Complex Systems are either in dissertation mode or in the elective course selection mode of meeting their requirements (core requirements completed). The courses need to fulfill the graduation requirements for the remaining enrolled students are regularly taught as part of other degree programs at FAU and will continue to be offered. The faculty of the Complex Systems program have requested that currently enrolled students shall be given the opportunity to complete their degree requirements through the end of Fall 2026. Any

actively matriculating students remaining in Complex Systems after Fall 2026 will be automatically transferred to the appropriate track in the Neuroscience doctoral degree program.

**If Faculty/Staff are impacted, please indicate plans for redeployment or assistance in securing new employment. How will impacted faculty/staff be notified?**

There will be no negative impact on faculty and staff affiliated with the Complex Systems program. All Complex Systems faculty have been actively involved in planning the new Neuroscience Ph.D. program and curriculum and are now faculty of the newly approved doctoral program.

Signature of FAU SACSCOC Liaison Russell Ivy

Name of FAU SACSCOC Liaison Russell Ivy

Date of Signature: 2/1/22

# Substantive Change Cover Sheet

Submit to SACSCOC,  
Substantive Change, 1866  
Southern Lane, Decatur, GA  
30033. One copy only;  
electronic media preferred. Do  
not email submissions or send  
copies to staff. Thank you.

**Note:**

1. Include a completed cover sheet with each submission; please don't submit a cover sheet only.
2. Submit substantive changes as separate submissions except as permitted by policy.
3. Submit substantive changes defined in policy only; others are not reviewable.
4. For best results, download this form and complete with [Adobe Reader](#). Hover mouse over fields for guidance.

## INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

INSTITUTION (NO ABBREVIATIONS PLEASE)

# Florida Atlantic University

CITY + STATE/PROVINCE  
Boca Raton, FL

## SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RESTRICTION

- |   |                           |                                     |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Is the institution currently on Warning, Probation, or Probation for Good Cause?   | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No |
| 2. Was the institution placed on Warning, Probation, or Probation for Good Cause on or after September 3, 2020, and subsequently removed from sanction? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No |
| 3. Is the institution currently under provisional certification for participation in federal financial aid programs?                                    | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No |
| If ANY are "Yes" the institution is on <b>SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RESTRICTION</b> . Additional and/or different requirements may apply; consult policy.      |                           | <input type="radio"/> Yes           |

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE TYPE (SELECT FROM DROP-DOWN LIST: SUBMIT ONLY TYPES DEFINED IN POLICY)

# Program Change: Program Closure



SUBMISSION DATE

# 02/01/2022

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE DESCRIPTION (BRIEF SUMMARY)

FAU would like to terminate our doctoral program in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences CIP 42.2706. This content will become a track in an existing doctoral program in Neuroscience.

INTENDED IMPLEMENTATION

# 08/15/2022

OFF-CAMPUS INSTRUCTIONAL SITES SUBMITTED IN THIS SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE

Site Name, Physical Address, City, State/Province, ZIP or Postal Code, and Country/Territory

- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
- There are more than 5 sites in this submission →

PROGRAMS SUBMITTED IN THIS SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE

Include credential AND discipline: e.g., Associate of Arts in English, Bachelor of Science in Physics, Certificate in Office Management, etc.

1. Ph.D. in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences CIP 42.2706
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
- There are more than 5 programs in submission →

SUBMITTED

I certify the information on this form is correct and accurately represents the current status of the institution at the time of submission.

FOR OFFICE USE

SUBMITTING LIAISON or CEO NAME

EMAIL ADDRESS

Russell Ivy

ivy@fau.edu

Revised 01/31/2022

[Check for current version](#)