

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
June 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Programs of Strategic Emphasis Tuition and Fee Waiver: Eligible Programs 2022-23 Academic Year

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider approval of two Programs of Strategic Emphasis in the gap analysis category for which a student may be eligible to receive a tuition and fee waiver per section 1009.26, Florida Statutes.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In June 2021, the Board of Governors selected eight Programs of Strategic Emphasis from the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) category as required in House Bill 1261 from the 2021 Legislative Session. Those eight programs were designated as the eligible programs for the Select STEM Tuition and Fee Waiver for the 2021-22 Academic Year. Section 1009.26, Florida Statutes 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 a program. Eligible students must be in-state residents, 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 the 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 required credit hours of the degree program for which the student is enrolled. Florida Statute requires that a student receiving a Bright Futures Scholarship will receive a disbursement for the tuition and fees waived that is equal to his or her award amount.

The 2022 Legislature amended section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, requiring the Board to select two additional Programs of Strategic Emphasis from the gap analysis category to be included in the waiver beginning in the 2022-23 Academic Year. Since these programs are not in the STEM category, Board staff are recommending that the name of the waiver be changed to the Programs of Strategic Emphasis Tuition and Fee Waiver to be consistent with the language used in Senate Bill 2524 from the 2022 legislative session. Students enrolling in these two additional programs must meet the same requirements as the STEM programs selected by the Board in 2021. House Bill 5001 from the 2022 legislative session also stipulates that the programs identified for this waiver for the gap analysis category cannot be from CIP code 9, Communication,

Journalism, and Related Areas.

The 2022 Legislature provided \$31,285,298 in recurring funds as incentives for Programs of Strategic Emphasis during the 2022-2023 Academic Year. Universities are eligible to receive funds based on the number and value of waivers provided under this waiver program and must annually report to the Board the number and value of tuition and fee waivers granted. House Bill 5001 requires that the Board distribute no more than \$12,500,000 for these waivers provided during fall 2022 and specifies that remaining funds first be allocated to offset summer waivers and then be distributed based on waivers provided during spring 2023.

Board staff identified four potential programs in the gap analysis category that meet the requirements in section 1009.26, Florida Statutes. If approved by the Strategic Planning Committee, the two programs from the gap analysis category that are selected for the waiver will be forwarded to the full Board for consideration.