

Methodology for Identifying Two Gap Analysis Programs for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis Tuition and Fee Waiver

Background/Overview

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 and are listed in Exhibit 1 below. The eight programs remain in effect for the upcoming 2022-23 Academic Year.

Exhibit 1 – The Eight Designated STEM Programs

	CIP	CIP Title
1	11.0101	Computer and Information Sciences
2	11.0103	Information Technology
3	14.0801	Civil Engineering
4	14.0901	Computer Engineering
5	14.1001	Electrical and Electronics Engineering
6	27.0101	Mathematics
7	40.0801	Physics
8	52.1201	Management Information Systems

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 is 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 states that the programs identified for this waiver for the gap analysis category cannot be from CIP code 9, Communication, Journalism, and Related Areas.

Identifying Programs that Qualify for Consideration

Senate Bill 2524 states that the programs adopted by the Board must reflect the priorities of the state and be offered at a majority of state universities. Board staff began the process of identifying qualifying programs by reviewing the academic program inventory and selecting those programs in the gap analysis category. The selection was further refined by identifying those programs offered at seven or more institutions, which resulted in four programs. These four programs, shown in Exhibit 2 below, are the only programs from which the final two programs can be selected.

Exhibit 2 – The Four Eligible Gap Analysis Programs

	CIP	CIP Title	Area	# Institutions Offering Program
1	50.0702	Fine/Studio Arts	GAP	8
2	52.0301	Accounting	GAP	10
3	52.0801	Finance	GAP	9
4	52.1401	Marketing	GAP	9

Source: BOG staff analysis of the academic program inventory.

Estimating the Fiscal Impact of the Two New Gap Analysis Programs

Board staff next estimated the fiscal impact range for each gap analysis program, as a point of reference, utilizing the data collected for the prior fall semester regarding the number and dollar value of actual STEM waivers granted. Exhibit 3 below details the final results of the fiscal impact analysis.

Exhibit 3 – Estimated Fiscal Impact per Term

	CIP	CIP Title	Low Estimated Waiver Cost Per Term	High Estimated Waiver Cost Per Term
1	50.0702	Fine/Studio Arts	\$293,569	\$358,807
2	52.0301	Accounting	\$1,422,898	\$1,739,097
3	52.0801	Finance	\$2,620,536	\$3,202,877
4	52.1401	Marketing	\$1,971,913	\$2,410,116

Source: BOG staff analysis of data provided by the Budget Office.

Developing Programmatic Recommendations

Board staff next gathered a number of relevant data points for the four eligible gap analysis programs, including upper-division enrollment data from the fall of 2021 and an updated workforce gap calculation. A selective gap analysis was completed to determine the relative need in the workforce for graduates from each program by analyzing a subset of relevant occupations related to the four academic programs based on the National Center for Education Statistics CIP to SOC crosswalk and the newly recommended Florida CIP to SOC crosswalk. The methodology used for performing this specialized gap analysis is comparable to the documented gap analysis process used for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis¹.

Methods for Selecting the Two Gap Analysis Programs

Board staff developed several potential methods for selecting the top two programs. Options considered focused on the programs with the most significant workforce gap, aiming to recognize the greatest need in the marketplace, and on programs with the lowest enrollment, with the goal being to incentivize enrollment in the least populous programs. Another option considered was to combine the approaches using a scoring rubric such that both the workforce gap and enrollment data are taken into consideration when selecting the two programs. Exhibit 4 shows the data considered.

Exhibit 4 – Eligible Gap Analysis Programs with Relevant Selection Criteria

CIP	CIP Title	Composite Score: Gap & Enrollment	Gap 2022	Gap Score	Upper Division Resident Enrollment Fall 2021	Upper Division Resident Enrollment Score
50.0702	Fine/Studio Arts	5	132	1	959	4
52.0301	Accounting	6	5,505	3	3,545	3
52.0801	Finance	5	7,387	4	5,694	1
52.1401	Marketing	4	4,523	2	4,282	2

Source: BOG staff analysis of data provided by the Office of Data Analytics and an internal gap analysis for selected programs/occupations.

¹ The PSE gap analysis methodology can be found at https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/SPC_06d_2019_Gap_Analysis_Methodology_CE.pdf

Staff Recommendation

Board staff recommends using the workforce gap approach described above, which is to select the two programs with the largest calculated gaps. Exhibit 5 below provides the final two recommended gap analysis programs employing the recommended method.

Exhibit 5 – Recommended Gap Analysis Program List

	CIP	CIP Title
1	52.0301	Accounting
2	52.0801	Finance

Incentive Funding

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.