

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Strategic Planning Committee
June 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Programs of Strategic Emphasis: 2023 Update

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

An essential component of the Board of Governors' 2025 Strategic Plan is the Programs of Strategic Emphasis list. Programs of Strategic Emphasis are one of several tools for aligning the degree production goals of the State University System with the economic and workforce needs of Florida and are also included in the Performance Based Funding Model. Every few years, Board staff, in collaboration with key stakeholders, review the list of programs and the underlying methodology used to generate the list to ensure alignment with the workforce needs of Florida and the strategic goals of the Board. The Programs of Strategic Emphasis were reviewed and updated in 2019 to better align with workforce needs and again in 2020 to incorporate federal CIP code updates that went into effect for the 2021-22 Academic Year. The currently approved list includes 871 possible academic programs at each of the three degree levels (bachelor's, master's, and doctoral), of which 155 are active in the System at the baccalaureate level, 182 are active at the master's level, and 112 are active at the doctoral level.

In January 2023, the Board provided guidance that a more targeted and workforce-driven list would be appropriate for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis. Board staff developed an updated methodology to better address Florida's workforce needs, incorporating feedback from key stakeholders. This updated methodology considers the supply of graduates across all Florida sectors of education and matches it to labor market demand and wage information across all occupations in Florida.

Board staff used the supply, demand, and wage data to develop criteria for including a program on the list. To be included at the bachelor's degree level, programs had to be associated with an occupation where demand outpaced supply resulting in a gap of at least 100 unfilled openings per year and with a projected growth rate of at least 8.6% over the next eight years, and the programs had to lead to an occupation where the starting wages were \$40,000 or higher. The \$40,000 threshold is consistent with the Board's Strategic Plan threshold for the percentage of bachelor's graduates employed, which the Board revised in November 2022. Master's and doctoral degrees were

selected using the same threshold for projected growth, but with employment gap thresholds of 50 and 25, respectively. Starting wage thresholds were not utilized for selecting graduate-level programs since valid starting wage data was not readily available. More details on the data sources used in this review can be found in the methodology document provided with the meeting materials.

Based on the revised methodology, Board staff developed the 2023 Programs of Strategic Emphasis draft list. The current list of proposed programs includes 128 bachelor's degree programs, 66 master's degree programs, and 56 doctoral programs. The proposed list reduces the total number of active programs from 155 programs to 66 programs at the baccalaureate level, from 182 to 38 programs at the master's level, and from 112 to 52 programs at the doctoral level. All programs on the current proposed list support Florida's most critical workforce needs and help ensure State University System graduates earn competitive salaries upon graduation.

After discussing the proposed draft list with the committee, the next step will be to consider feedback from the institutions and other key stakeholders. Board staff will work to develop a final proposed program list to bring to the Board in the fall for approval.

Dr. Christy England, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, will provide an update regarding the proposed methodology and the current proposed list of 2023 Programs of Strategic Emphasis.

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| Supporting Documentation Included: | 2023 Programs of Strategic Emphasis Methodology-Draft 2023 Programs of Strategic Emphasis List-Draft |
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| Facilitators/Presenters: | Dr. Christy England |
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