

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**
November 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Programs of Strategic Emphasis: 2023 Update

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider approval of the 2023 Programs of Strategic Emphasis methodology and list.

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. The list helps to provide highly qualified talent to support Florida's most critical workforce shortages, and it is a valuable resource to help students select a major that will ensure a positive return on investment for the time and money spent to earn a degree. 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 2021 and 2022, the legislature amended section 1001.706, Florida Statutes, requiring that the Programs of Strategic Emphasis list be reviewed every three years, use specific data sources, and follow a methodology similar to the one used by the Credentials Review Committee. To implement these changes, Board staff requested feedback from the Board in January 2023. During this meeting, 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, which included staff from the Governor's REACH Office, Florida Legislature, Florida Department of Education, Florida Department of Commerce, Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Council of 100, and CareerSource Florida. 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, in collaboration with key stakeholders, reviewed the proposed list of programs and the proposed methodology to ensure alignment with the workforce needs of Florida, the strategic goals of the Board, and Florida Statutes. Board staff then

provided an update to the Strategic Planning Committee at its June 21, 2023, meeting on the methodology, proposed list, and the process for university feedback.

The institutions had from June 9 to July 31, 2023, to provide feedback on the proposed methodology and list. As presented at the June 21, 2023, committee meeting, institutions were required to submit at least two forms of documentation, which included letters of support from employers, supplemental regional workforce data documenting unfilled job openings, updated occupational linkages to academic programs, pathways between degree levels, and data on new and emerging workforce needs. Board staff met with academic program staff from all 12 state universities on July 6, 2023, and with university presidents on July 24, 2023, to review this process and answer any questions.

Board staff received 87 requests for program additions from the universities. This feedback was reviewed and analyzed, and as a result, Board staff is recommending adding 35 programs to the proposed list. The remaining requests did not meet the minimum criteria outlined by Board staff and in the proposed methodology.

Board staff have now developed a final proposed program list for the Board's consideration. The draft list now includes 95 programs at the bachelor's level, with 72 currently active in the System, 75 at the master's level, with 65 active, and 57 at the doctoral level, with 54 active. Board staff provided the proposed list and methodology to key stakeholders for feedback. The stakeholders are supportive of the proposed methodology and list.

If approved by the Strategic Planning Committee, the list and methodology will be forwarded to the full Board for consideration.

Supporting Documentation Included:

In Strategic Planning Committee
Materials