

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

March 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Public Notice of Approval of Amendment of Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider approval of amendment of Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings, outlines criteria and administrative processes for new academic program approval. The processes outlined in this regulation ensure that new programs offered are high quality and aligned with the Board of Governors' strategic plan.

Board staff proposed an amendment to reorganize and streamline Regulation 8.011. The amendment restructures the regulation to clearly identify the steps in the process for new academic degree programs. The amendment includes incorporating a section of Board of Governors Regulation 8.004, Academic Program Coordination, into Regulation 8.011. This consolidation organizes the academic program approval process from beginning to end in one regulation.

Currently, universities must include in their accountability plans a list of new academic degree program proposals that the university plans to submit to its board of trustees within the next three years. The proposed amendment requires universities to share a list of new academic degree programs the university wishes to implement in the upcoming academic year with its board of trustees and removes the requirement to include the programs in the accountability plan. The proposed amendment requires the university to submit the list of new academic degree programs for the upcoming academic year to the Board office for review by the Chancellor or a designee. The university can change the list during the academic year but must inform the board of trustees and the Board office of any changes. The Board office will share the combined list for the System with the Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP) and the CAVP Academic Coordination Group for discussion of program duplication and System coordination. This new process streamlines the time required to submit a new academic degree program proposal to the Board office, allows for flexibility for institutions to make changes, and allows institutions to address workforce demands more rapidly.

The proposed amendment modifies the criteria for new doctoral and professional degree program proposals to allow the Board to consider proposals requiring additional implementation time. The proposed amendment includes language that enables universities to submit, as part of the new program proposal, plans to secure funding, hire new faculty, and develop curriculum if these items are not yet developed or in place. The proposed amendment allows for the Board to approve proposals with contingencies.

Due to the proposed restructuring of Regulation 8.011 and the incorporation of language from Regulation 8.004, it is recommended that the regulation name be changed from Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings to Academic Degree Program Coordination and Approval.

The Board approved the public notice of intent to amend this regulation at the meeting on January 24, 2024. No public comments were received, and the regulation is ready for final approval.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings