

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
June 18, 2025

SUBJECT: Special Purpose Center Request, University of Florida

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

To establish the Herbert Wertheim University of Florida Scripps Institute for Biomedical Innovation and Technology Jupiter campus as a Special Purpose Center.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Board of Governors Regulation 8.009

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In May 2025, the University of Florida (UF) submitted a request to establish the Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Institute for Biomedical Innovation and Technology Jupiter campus as a Special Purpose Center. Board of Governors Regulation 8.009, Educational Locations, defines a Special Purpose Center as a unit of a university, apart from the main campus, that provides certain special, clearly defined programs or services, such as research or public service, and reflects a relatively permanent commitment by a university for the foreseeable future. Special Purpose Centers require Board of Governors' approval.

The University of Florida took over the Scripps Institute location in Jupiter, Florida, in 2022. The university received a \$100 million gift and renamed the location the Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Institute for Biomedical Innovation and Technology. The primary purpose of the location is to work to advance human health through biomedical research, drug discovery, and clinical studies.

The University of Florida is requesting the reclassification of the location as a Special Purpose Center because it would like to begin offering a doctoral degree program in Biomedical Sciences. This academic program is an extension of the existing graduate program at the College of Medicine in Gainesville. Students will engage in biomedical research on treating infectious diseases with an approach centered on artificial intelligence at the Jupiter location. The University of Florida anticipates admitting ten students in the first two years of the program, with the goal of having 80 students by 2032.

The University of Florida Board of Trustees approved the proposed educational location on March 27, 2025. If approved by the Board of Governors, the special purpose center will be operational beginning in fall 2026. The request is for the education location classification and does not include a request for approval of any academic programs. Any academic programs must follow the process outlined in Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Academic Degree Program Coordination and Approval.

Dr. Lynn Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Innovation, will provide an overview of the proposed request.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Proposal to Establish a Special Purpose Center, University of Florida

Facilitators/Presenters:

Dr. Lynn Nelson