

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
September 11, 2025**

SUBJECT: Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders, CIP 51.0204, University of Central Florida

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Consider approval of the Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders, CIP 51.0204, at the University of Central Florida.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Board of Governors Regulation 8.011

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The University of Central Florida (UCF) proposes a Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders to be housed within the College of Health Professions and Sciences. The proposed program expands traditional speech-language pathology to include emerging technologies in advanced instrumentation, simulation, data analytics, and healthcare management for communication disorders. If approved, the proposed Ph.D. program will be the third active program under CIP code 51.0204 in the System.

Graduates of the program will be prepared for jobs such as speech-language pathologists, which are projected to grow in Florida by eight percent through 2032. Nationally, these jobs are projected to grow by 18 percent through 2033.

The University of Central Florida plans to charge the approved graduate tuition rate for resident students and non-resident students.

The University of Central Florida's Board of Trustees approved the program on April 17, 2025. If approved by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, the proposal will be forwarded to the full Board for consideration. If approved by the Board of Governors, UCF will implement the program effective fall 2026.

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

Supporting Documentation Included:

1. Board Staff Analysis
2. Proposal

Facilitators/Presenters:

Dr. Lynn Nelson