

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

SUBJECT: Bachelors' Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirement Update

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Board of Governors Regulation 8.014

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Board of Governors Regulation 8.014, Bachelors' Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirement, authorizes the Board of Governors to consider requests for exceptions to the number of credit hours required for baccalaureate degree completion. Regulation 8.014 delineates the following reasons for which baccalaureate degree programs can be approved for more than 120 credit hours.

- Additional courses are required to meet specialized accreditation standards for program content, and such accreditation is expected or required for program graduates to become employed in the profession for which they are being prepared.
- Additional courses are required to meet state or federally mandated criteria for professional licensing.
- The degree program offers a unique and innovative learning experience, such as honors programs, individualized study, and other non-traditional educational approaches.

The Board of Governors requested that Board staff review current degree programs offered by State University System institutions that require more than 120 credit hours to complete a degree, and these programs were presented at the January 2024 Board meeting. At that time, there were 98 programs that were approved for an exception to the 120 credit hours requirement. Since that time, university faculty and administration have been reviewing the curriculum required in these programs and making program updates in an effort to reduce the time to degree. Currently, there are 79 programs that exceed 120 credit hours. These programs include engineering, architecture, music teacher education, and performing arts.

Dr. Lynn Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Innovation, will provide an update on the programs approved to exceed 120 credit hours.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Table of Programs Exceeding
120 Credit Hours

Facilitators/Presenters:

Dr. Lynn Nelson