

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
November 6, 2025

SUBJECT: Ph.D. in History of Ideas, CIP 24.0101, University of Florida

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Consider approval of the Ph.D. in History of Ideas, CIP 24.0101, at the University of Florida.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The University of Florida (UF) proposes a Ph.D. in History of Ideas to be offered within the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education. Section 1004.6496, Florida Statutes, establishes the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education and outlines its purpose to support education and research in the ideas, traditions, and texts that form the foundations of Western and American civilization. The proposed program aligns with the goals established in statute for the Hamilton Center, to educate university students in core texts and great debates of Western civilization and the Great Books, and in the principles, ideals, and institutions of the American political order. If approved, the proposed program will be the first Ph.D. program in the System under CIP code 24.0101.

Graduates of the program will be prepared for academic careers as postsecondary faculty in political science, philosophy, or history. Employment for faculty in some of these fields is projected to grow in Florida by over five percent through 2032, and nationally by up to three percent through 2033. Graduates of the program will also be prepared for careers as political scientists, which is projected to grow in Florida by over six percent and nationally by almost three percent.

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

The University of Florida's Board of Trustees approved the program on June 5, 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, UF 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