

**Ph.D. in History of Ideas
CIP 24.0101
University of Florida**

Board of Governors' Staff Analysis
November 2025





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Program Description and Overview

The University of Florida (UF) proposes a Ph.D. in History of Ideas to be housed within the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education (Hamilton Center). This proposed doctoral program fulfills the legislative mandate in section 1004.6496, Florida Statutes, which directs the Hamilton Center to support teaching and research based on the foundations of Western and American civilization. The program will emphasize the Western intellectual tradition as its core while offering advanced, interdisciplinary education in philosophy, political thought, literature, ethics, and related fields.

Prospective students may be admitted to the proposed program following successful completion of a master’s degree in History of Ideas from the Hamilton Center. The master’s degree requires 30 credit hours, and the Ph.D. requires an additional 60 credit hours for a total of 90 credit hours. Doctoral students must qualify for candidacy by passing general examinations and the oral examination of the dissertation prospectus. After qualification, the Ph.D. candidate must successfully research, write, and defend an original dissertation before a faculty committee.

Program graduates will be prepared for academic careers as postsecondary faculty in political science, philosophy, or history. The program will also prepare graduates for a career in political science.

The University of Florida’s Board of Trustees approved the proposed program on June 5, 2025. If approved by the Board of Governors, this will be the first Ph.D. program in the State University System in CIP 24.0101. Table 1 provides a summary overview of the proposed Ph.D. in History of Ideas.

Table 1: Proposed Program Summary

Ph.D. in History of Ideas	
Tuition per Credit Hour	Standard approved graduate tuition rates for resident & non-resident students
Delivery Mode	Traditional
Location	Main Campus
Graduation Requirements	90 Graduate Credit Hours
Effective Date	Fall 2026

Source: University of Florida Ph.D. in History of Ideas program proposal

Need for Graduates in the Labor Market

The proposed multidisciplinary program will prepare graduates with advanced knowledge in the study of ideas from disciplines including philosophy, ethics, political theory, literature, political economy, and social theory. The curriculum includes the Great Books, political and historical traditions and ideas, liberal arts in theory and practice, as well as philosophical and literary traditions and ideas. Program graduates will be prepared for academic careers at the university level in political science, philosophy, or history. In addition to universities, graduates will be prepared for positions in centers of civic and classical education, as well as in Western Civilization programs. Graduates will also be positioned for careers outside of academia, including roles in political science.

Workforce Demand

The proposed Ph.D. in History of Ideas will position graduates for employment opportunities projected to grow in Florida and nationwide. Table 2 provides details on the workforce demand for these occupations.

Table 2: Labor Market Demand, CIP Code 24.0101

Occupations	% Change in Job Openings		Annual Average Job Openings		Total # of New Jobs		Education Level Needed for Entry
	FL 2024-32	U.S. 2023-33	FL 2024-32	U.S. 2023-33	FL 2024-32	U.S. 2023-33	
Political Science Teachers, Postsecondary 25-1065	5.1%	3.3%	67	1,700	40	700	Doctoral or professional degree
Philosophy and Religion Teachers, Postsecondary 25-1126	4.5%	2.0%	94	2,000	50	500	Doctoral or professional degree
History Teachers, Postsecondary 25-1125	4.3%	0.9%	65	1,900	33	200	Doctoral or professional degree
Political Scientists 19-3094	6.5%	2.6%	4	500	3	200	Master's Degree

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Florida Department of Commerce, retrieved: 9/29/2025.

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 about one to over three percent through 2033. The current median salary in Florida for postsecondary faculty in these fields ranges from \$49,142 to \$59,395, and the national median salary ranges from \$78,050 to \$94,680.

The program will also prepare graduates for a career as a political scientist, which is projected to grow by over six percent in Florida and by almost three percent nationally. The median salary for this position in Florida is not available. The current national median salary for a political scientist is \$139,380. While a master's degree is the typical minimum requirement, graduates of this program will be qualified for advanced leadership positions in political science.

Board staff conducted an independent search on HigherEdJobs.com for postsecondary faculty positions in Florida across the fields of political science, philosophy, or history that either require or prefer a Ph.D. The search identified 32 current job openings in Florida, including full-time faculty positions such as Assistant Professor of Political Science at Florida Gulf Coast University, Assistant Professor of U.S. History at the University of South Florida, and Assistant Professor of Philosophy of Religion at Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Graduates from the University of Chicago's Committee on Social Thought, the model for the proposed Ph.D. program, have pursued a wide range of careers in academia and beyond. Alumni hold positions such as Assistant Professor of Government at Hillsdale College, and outside academia, such as a Senior Fellow in Social, Cultural, and Constitutional Studies at the American Enterprise Institute, and Senior Policy Advisor at the Illinois Department of Human Rights. These outcomes reflect the program's interdisciplinary design and demonstrate its ability to prepare graduates for scholarly and professional roles across academic, governmental, and civic institutions.

Support from Academic Scholars

The proposed program was reviewed by experienced and reputable faculty in institutions offering related programs of study. The consultant reviews for the proposed program highlight the need for faculty and scholars in civic affairs and Western civilization programs. They noted that new programs focused on civic and classical education, as well as Western and American civilization, are being established across private and public universities, and that there will not be enough qualified faculty to meet the demand.

Student Demand and Projected Enrollment

The University of Florida projects student interest in the proposed program based on the enrollment of current graduate programs in the humanities and social sciences at UF, the experience of Hamilton Center faculty during their time teaching in peer programs, and inquiries from interested students. The University of Florida reported that these factors together informed the enrollment estimates for the proposed program.

The anticipated total student enrollment is 10 in Year 1, with a projected enrollment of 40 students in Year 5, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Projected Total Student Enrollment

Implementation Year	Proposed Student Headcount
Year 1	10
Year 2	15
Year 3	25
Year 4	35
Year 5	40

Source: University of Florida Ph.D. in History of Ideas program proposal

Alignment with Institutional and System Strategic Priorities

The proposed program aligns with UF's mission to enable students to lead and create new knowledge and pursue ideas by advancing education and research opportunities in the liberal arts. The Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education advances this mission by supporting teaching and research on the foundations of Western and American civilization and preparing students to contribute to the civic life of their community and state.

As part of SUS 30, each state university is elevating areas of expertise and prioritizing resources to become the very best in those areas. The University of Florida has identified the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education as an area of expertise. The proposed Ph.D. aims to advance academic excellence with top-caliber faculty and students.

Faculty and Resources

There are 27 existing faculty members who will participate in the proposed program. The university reported that one new faculty member will be hired for the program in fall 2026.

The University of Florida reported that there are available resources to implement the proposed program and sustain the program through Year 5, including classrooms to support instruction and mentoring, faculty offices, conference rooms, and graduate student workspaces. The university also highlighted the AI Civilization Lab, a collaboration with UF Research Computing, which provides students with opportunities to explore the intersection of technology and the humanities.

The Hamilton Center is actively fundraising to provide fellowships and stipends for graduate students enrolled in the program. Graduate students will be supported through assistantships and fellowship opportunities as resources become available, with additional support anticipated from philanthropic contributions and external grants.

Estimate of Investment

The proposed program will be funded through Education and General funds. The institution intends to expend \$921,626 in Year 1 and \$741,534 in Year 5. The greatest cost is incurred in the first year of the program, due to the initial expenses of hiring faculty and lower student enrollment. The program costs decrease with growing enrollment. The program will charge students the standard approved graduate tuition rates for resident and non-resident students.

Aligns with Florida Statutes

Section 1004.6496, Florida Statutes, directs the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education to support teaching and research on the ideas and texts that form the foundations of Western and American civilization, and to educate students in the principles and institutions of the American political order. As part of the statutory requirement, the Hamilton Center is to establish degree programs that meet the goals of the center, which align with the proposed Ph.D. in History of Ideas, advancing statewide priorities in civic and classical education.

Conclusion and Board Staff Comments

If approved, the proposed Ph.D. in History of Ideas will be the first in the System offered in CIP 24.0101. There is sufficient evidence to demonstrate the need for program graduates as faculty in higher education, with additional career opportunities available outside of academia. Additionally, the university has the faculty, physical resources, and funding in place to implement and sustain the program for five years. Board staff have no concerns regarding the proposed program.



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