

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Research Excellence Committee**
January 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program Report

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Consider approval of the 2026 Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program Report.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Section 1004.6498, Florida Statutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Section 1004.6498, Florida Statutes, requires that the Board of Governors submit a report on the Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program to the legislature by March 15 each year. The legislature provided recurring funding of \$60 million in 2024-25 to State University System institutions to enhance the quality and excellence of professional and graduate programs in medicine, law, and business. The 2026 report includes expenditure information for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year. Board staff collected the statutorily required data points from State University System institutions in the fall of 2025 to create the 2026 report. If approved by the Academic and Research Excellence Committee, this item will be forwarded to the full Board for consideration.

Dr. Lynn Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Innovation, will provide an overview of the 2026 report.

Supporting Documentation Included:

2026 Professional and
Graduate Degree Excellence
Program Report

Facilitators/Presenters:

Dr. Lynn Nelson