

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

**SUBJECT:** Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program Report

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**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.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:**

2026 Professional and  
Graduate Degree Excellence  
Program Report

**Facilitators/Presenters:**

Dr. Lynn Nelson