

**Ph.D. in Biology
CIP 26.0101
University of Florida**

**Board of Governors' Staff Analysis
January 2026**



Rationale for CIP Reclassification

The University of Florida (UF) proposes a change in the CIP classification for the Ph.D. in Zoology from CIP 26.0701 to CIP 26.0101, Biology. The request reflects the evolution of faculty research and the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of doctoral training in the Department of Biology. The department maintains a broad research portfolio spanning animal, plant, microbial, and theoretical biology, and over time, doctoral research and training have increasingly reduced the distinction between zoology and other biological subfields. The Biology (CIP 26.0101) classification, which encompasses a wide range of biological specializations, more accurately reflects the department's academic structure and graduate-level organization. This action represents an administrative reclassification only; the academic content, delivery, and requirements of the doctoral program remain unchanged.

The National Center for Education Statistics defines CIP 26.0101, Biology/Biological Sciences, General, as a broad classification covering instruction across a variety of biological specializations. This definition aligns with the structure of the University of Florida's Department of Biology for other graduate programs. The department currently offers master's degrees in botany and zoology under the Biology CIP code 26.0101. Reclassifying the Ph.D. under the same CIP ensures consistency across degree levels.

The proposed CIP change will have no impact on student admissions to the program, nor will it alter the program's budget, faculty, curriculum, or instructional resources. The university will continue to charge the approved graduate-level tuition for resident and non-resident students. Reclassification to CIP 26.0101, Biology, will designate the program as a Program of Strategic Emphasis.

If the CIP code change is approved by the Board of Governors, the university will implement the change effective Summer 2026.

Table 1: Program Summary

Ph.D. in Biology	
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	Summer 2026

Source: University of Florida CIP Change Request

Within the System, doctoral training in the biological sciences is most commonly organized under a general Biology CIP with areas of specialization, rather than under discipline-specific CIP codes. Florida State University offers a master's and doctoral degree program in CIP 26.0101 with student electives and research in an area of specialization, including ecology and evolution, cellular and molecular biology, or neuroscience. Florida Atlantic University's Department of Biological Sciences currently offers a Ph.D. in Integrative Biology, CIP 26.0101, with biological subdisciplines in environmental science, organismal biology, marine science, neuroscience, and cellular biology. The University of Florida's request aligns with the National Center for Education Statistics' CIP taxonomy and the organizational structure commonly used by peer departments across the System.

The University of Florida's program would be the fourth active Ph.D. program under CIP 26.0101 in the System. Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, and Florida State University currently offer a program in this CIP code.

As shown in Table 3, 44 doctoral degrees were awarded across the System in the 2024–25 academic year, including University of Florida graduates from the existing Ph.D. in Zoology program proposed for reclassification.

Table 3: Degrees Awarded, Ph.D. in Biology, CIP 26.0101

Institution	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
FAU	16	7	18	10	7
FIU	11	12	15	22	14
FSU	6	13	9	17	16
UF ¹	8	13	8	12	7
Total	41	45	50	61	44

¹ UF degree counts reflect the Ph.D. in Zoology (CIP 26.0701), which is proposed for reclassification to Biology (CIP 26.0101) effective summer 2026.

Source: Board Office of Data Analytics, Degrees Awarded by CIP, retrieved 12/1/2025.

Conclusion and Board Staff Comments

The University of Florida has provided sufficient information to support the administrative reclassification of the Ph.D. in Zoology to Biology, which does not alter the program's curriculum, admissions standards, degree requirements, faculty, or resources. The reclassification aligns the program with the department's interdisciplinary research structure and designates the program as a Program of Strategic Emphasis. Board staff have no concerns with the proposed CIP code change.