



**University of Florida
CIP Change Request
Ph.D. Zoology**

Proposal document included:

Program CIP Change Request

Additional Supporting Information



Program CIP Change Request

In Accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 8.011,
Academic Degree Program Coordination and Approval

Institution: University of Florida

Program Name: Zoology

Degree Level(s): R (PhD)

Current CIP Code: 26.0701 **Requested CIP Code:** 26.0101

Effective Term of Reporting Student in New CIP: Summer 2026

This is the first term for students in the program using the new CIP code. The effective term must be a future term.

1. Does the proposed program qualify as a Program of Strategic Emphasis, as described in the Florida Board of Governors 2025 System Strategic Plan?

[Programs of Strategic Emphasis List](#)

☒ Yes, it does qualify as a Program of Strategic Emphasis. (Doctorate)

☐ No, it does not qualify as a Program of Strategic Emphasis.

Does the program fall under one of the CIP codes listed below that qualifies for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis Waiver? *(for baccalaureate programs only)*

CIP CODE	CIP TITLE
11.0101	Computer and Information Sciences
11.0103	Information Technology
13.1001	Special Education and Teaching
13.1202	Elementary Education and Teaching
14.0801	Civil Engineering
14.0901	Computer Engineering
14.1001	Electrical and Electronics Engineering
14.1901	Mechanical Engineering
27.0101	Mathematics
52.0301	Accounting
52.0801	Finance
52.1201	Management Information Systems

40.0801	Physics*
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*Beginning in the 2024-2025 Academic Year, Physics will no longer be included in the list of approved programs. Students who have previously been granted the waiver for Physics will continue receiving the waiver until they graduate, exceed the number of allowable credit hours, or withdraw from the program.

☐ Yes. If yes, students in the program will be eligible for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis waiver. Refer to [Board Regulation 7.008](#) and the [Programs of Strategic Emphasis Waiver Guidance](#).

X No

2. Provide the rationale for the CIP change request.

We are requesting a CIP change to merge the Zoology and Botany graduate programs that the Department of Biology offers into a single program under Biology. This program will be in better alignment with our program and department for the following reasons:

1. Zoology is a sub disciplines of Biology with substantial overlap in scope and information.
 2. A general background in biological processes that includes animals is a usual prerequisite for admission into Zoology graduate program studies.
 3. Several faculty in the Department of Biology have research programs that examine aspects of animal systems (i.e. Ecology, molecular biology and genomics, cell biology, computational biology). Graduate students pursuing research in these fields are expected to enroll in Zoology, although it does not truly reflects the scope of the research.
 4. Several faculty in the Department of Biology have Biology research programs that do not fit into the Zoology paradigms - (i.e. AI using yeast as a model, synthetic biology, computational biology, mathematical modeling of biological processes). Merging Zoology into a Biology program is in better alignments with the scientific diversity of the department.
3. Describe any changes that have occurred to the curriculum. Include a copy of the curriculum with the application submission.

There have been no changes to the curriculum. The request to change the CIP code grad program under Biology will not change the current SLOs, PGs, degree requirements or courses offered. There are only two courses that are required for all graduate students within the Biology department. These are ZOO 6920 – Principles in Grad Training and ZOO 6927 – Practical Pedagogy when they first TA with us. If our request is granted we will request to change the prefix to PCB.

A link to our course offerings is:

<https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/colleges-departments/liberal-arts-sciences/biology/botany/>



Curriculum information for our Graduate program:

<https://biology.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/handbook-final-2022.pdf> - see first page, C.

A link to our department's list of graduate courses:

<https://biology.ufl.edu/graduate-programs/gradcourses/>

4. Complete the curriculum crosswalk below, describing how the new CIP code description aligns with the required courses offered in the academic degree program.

CIP CODE DESCRIPTION	COURSES THAT ALIGN WITH THE NEW CIP	ALIGNMENT RATIONALE
26.0101 - Biology/Biological Sciences, General. A general program of biology at the introductory, basic level or a program in biology or the biological sciences that is undifferentiated as to title or content. Includes instruction in general biology and programs covering a variety of biological specializations.	All courses at 5000 level or higher with a BOT or ZOO prefix will be changed to a "PCB" prefix. There will be no other changes to the curriculum.	The content of the program will not change. The Botany and Zoology Ph.D graduate curricula are identical; the only difference is the prefix of some courses.

5. Explain the impact of the proposed change on the current faculty and current and future students.

The proposed change is more inclusive in research scope, better represents the breath of faculty research interests and research opportunities and better aligns with faculty and current/future students research interests. While we do have faculty that examine questions in the zoological sciences, we have several that examine aspects of biology (i.e. genome evolution, cell biology, molecular biology, etc.) or whose research questions apply to zoological sciences systems but do have exclusive reliance on (theoretical biology, mathematical modeling, synthetic biology, etc.). Changing the CIP code allows the programs to enable the seamless ability of students to get their required coursework credits without having to pick from limited options.

6. Provide evidence that considerations have been given to the impact of this CIP change on existing programs at the university and the possibility that the program using the new CIP will duplicate existing programs at other SUS institutions. The Department of Biology offers four undergraduate majors (Biology, Zoology, Botany, and Marine Sciences). All of the courses that are taught in all four majors are taught by the Biology faculty, who accept graduate students from the Zoology graduate program. Approximately 90% of the undergraduates that declare a major within our unit (CLAS Department of Biology) are Biology majors, while ~10% are split across Botany, Zoology or Marine Science. Changing the Zoology graduate program CIP code to Biology program better aligns with the department's academic and research mission but has no impact on other life science units at UF (i.e. IFAS-horticulture, IFAS-agronomy, IFAS-PMCB, IFAS-WEC, IFAS-SNRE).
7. If applicable, please explain how the CIP change will impact the program's listing in a Programs of Strategic Emphasis (PSE) category. Please provide a rationale to support the need for the program to be included in a PSE category if it is not already included in a PSE category.

Zoology is not listed a Programs of Strategic Emphasis, although Biology is at the doctoral level. Because Z is a sub discipline, changing the CIP code better aligns the graduate degrees regularly conferred by our department to the economic and workforce needs of Florida.

8. For baccalaureate programs, please identify any related changes to the approved common prerequisites and degree program length.

Not applicable, not a baccalaureate program.

9. If this is a baccalaureate program, please list the common prerequisites for the current CIP code as listed in the program's curriculum and the common prerequisites associated with the new CIP code.

Not applicable, not a baccalaureate program.

10. For baccalaureate programs, please identify any related changes to the approved common prerequisites and degree program length.

Not applicable, not a baccalaureate program.

11. If this is a baccalaureate program, please list the common prerequisites for the current CIP code as listed in the program's curriculum and the common prerequisites associated with the new CIP code.

Not applicable, not a baccalaureate program.

Required Signatures

College Dean/Chair's Signature

3.5.2025

Date

Joseph Glover

Provost's Signature

4/23/2025 | 10:30 AM EDT

Date

September 5, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Emily Sikes
Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

FROM: Cheryl L. Gater *CLG*
Associate Provost and Director of Academic Program Oversight

SUBJECT: CIP Code Change Request for PhD in Botany and Zoology

As requested, we are providing additional information to request the CIP code change for our PhDs in Botany (26.0301) and Zoology (26.0701.) to Biology (26.0101). The transition from botany and zoology specific disciplines has evolved over time and currently, the faculty research focuses on biology, not the more specific fields of botany or zoology. The department currently has 43 faculty. Only 10 of the current faculty were hired by former zoology and 4 were former botany. The remaining 29 were hired by the Department of Biology. It is worth noting that most of the legacy botany and zoology hires do evolutionary, ecology, or theoretical work (a combination of these). We have attached the current faculty listing with their research. Looking at the faculty interests column, there is little distinction as plant or animal specific, and several more recent hires are neither.

The second attachment illustrates a number of AAU institutions and departments that are most like UF. The vast majority of which are biology departments (or integrative biology). We do not believe any of the institutions have dedicated zoology or botany departments, and that these majors (when present) are at the undergraduate level and served through the biology department as happens at UF. These are the same institutions and departments that UF biology uses as comparators when considering post tenure review requirements.

Lastly, we also note that Biology at the PhD level is a Program of Strategic Emphasis whereas botany and zoology are not. Botany and zoology are subdisciplines of biology. Reclassifying our existing PhD in Botany and PhD in Zoology ensures UF is offering relevant programs to the state and its educational programs.

cc: Joseph Glover, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Cathy Lebo, Associate Provost and Director, Institutional Planning and Research

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