

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Strategic Planning Committee
September 2, 2026

SUBJECT: Programs of Strategic Emphasis: 2026 Update

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

An essential component of the SUS 30 Strategic Plan is the list of Programs of Strategic Emphasis. Programs of Strategic Emphasis are among several tools for aligning the State University System's degree production goals with Florida's economic and workforce needs and are also included in the Performance-Based Funding Model. The SUS 30 Strategic Plan also includes metrics for the percentage of bachelor's and graduate degrees awarded in Programs of Strategic Emphasis. As required by Florida Statute, the Board of Governors must review the list of programs every three years to ensure alignment with Florida's workforce needs. The list was last reviewed and updated in 2023, when the Board approved a more targeted, workforce-driven methodology that matched the supply of graduates across all Florida education sectors to labor market demand and wage information for all occupations in Florida. The 2025 Accountability Plans marked the first year that the updated list was utilized in Performance-Based Funding metrics 6 and 8.

Board staff began the current review of the Programs of Strategic Emphasis in early 2026. The review maintains the methodology approved by the Board in 2023 while updating the analysis with the most recent labor market information, including employment projections and starting wage data from Florida Commerce. This analysis matches the supply of graduates to labor market demand, projected occupational growth, and wage information at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels.

Board staff will continue developing a final proposed program list to present to the Board at a future meeting. Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, will provide an update on the 2026 revisions to Programs of Strategic Emphasis.

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

Facilitators/Presenters:

Ms. Emily Sikes