Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences
CIP Change Request
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Board of Governors' Staff Analysis

November 2026

Rationale for CIP Reclassification

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University proposes changing the CIP code for the Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from CIP 51.2099, Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Administration, Other, to CIP 51.2010, Pharmaceutical Sciences. The request is based on the program's current curriculum and scientific focus in pharmacology, toxicology, pharmaceutics, dosage formulation, and regulatory science. The curriculum has evolved to strengthen this focus, including the addition of a three-course Advanced Bioorganic Chemistry sequence.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) defines the current CIP 51.2099 as any instructional program in pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences, and administration that is not covered by any other CIP in these areas. This CIP serves as a broad classification. The NCES defines the requested CIP 51.2010, Pharmaceutical Sciences, as a program focused on the basic sciences underlying drugs and drug therapy and prepares graduates for careers in pharmaceutical science and research, biotechnology, drug manufacturing, regulatory affairs, and related fields. This definition includes instruction in areas such as pharmaceutics, pharmacology, toxicology, dosage formulation, manufacturing, quality assurance, and regulations, which aligns with the structure and content of FAMU's curriculum.

Graduates of the program will continue to be prepared for work in medical science and research, as well as for postsecondary faculty roles. The proposed CIP change will have no impact on the current curriculum, faculty assignments, admission standards, credit hour requirements, course offerings, or program resources. This program is not the entry program to become a licensed pharmacist.

If the CIP code change is approved by the Board of Governors, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University will implement the change effective spring 2027.

Table 1: Program Summary

Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences	
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	Spring 2027

Source: Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University CIP Change Request

Reclassifying the program to CIP 51.2010, Pharmaceutical Sciences, will align it with the similar doctoral program at the University of Florida in the System. Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's program would be the second Ph.D. program in the System under this CIP. The proposed reclassification would also ensure consistency across degree levels at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. The university's Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences have been reclassified in the SUS Academic Degree Program Inventory to CIP 51.2010, effective spring 2027.

Table 3 shows the number of doctoral degrees awarded across the System in Pharmaceutical Sciences over the past three academic years, including degrees awarded by Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University under the program's existing CIP code.

Table 3: Degrees Awarded, Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences, CIP 51.2010

Institution	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
FAMU[1]	6	5	6
UF	21	20	23
Total	**27**	**25**	**29**

[1] FAMU degree counts reflect the Ph.D. in Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Administration, Other (CIP 51.2099), which is proposed for reclassification to Pharmaceutical Sciences (CIP 51.2010) effective spring 2027.
Source: Board Office of Data Analytics, Degrees Awarded by CIP, retrieved 10/13/2026.

Conclusion and Board Staff Comments

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University has provided sufficient information to support the administrative reclassification of the Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from CIP 51.2099 to CIP 51.2010. The proposed change does not alter the program's current curriculum, admission standards, degree requirements, faculty, or resources. The reclassification more accurately reflects the program's curriculum in pharmaceutical sciences. Board staff have no concerns about the proposed CIP code change.