8.011 Academic Degree Program Coordination and Approval.

(1) Definitions

(a) Degree Program: An organized curriculum leading to a degree in an area of study recognized as an academic discipline by the higher education community, as demonstrated by the assignment of a Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code by the National Center for Educational Statistics or as demonstrated by the existence of similar degree programs at other colleges and universities. An argument may also be made for a unique degree program based on emerging research trends or occupational demand. Each degree program shall be assigned a CIP code and included in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory. Each degree program shall include at least one program major as defined in paragraph (1)(b) but may have multiple majors.

(b) Program Major: An organized curriculum offered as part or all of an existing or proposed degree program. If the term "program major" is not used by the university, the university must identify the equivalent term in its corresponding institutional policies or regulations. A program major, or its equivalent, shall be reasonably associated with the degree program under which it is offered and shall share core courses with all other majors within the same degree program. Core courses shall not include common prerequisites as defined in section 1007.25, Florida Statutes. Although the major and the degree program names are identical in some cases, only the degree program shall be assigned a CIP code and included in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory ~~as a stand-alone program~~. The number of credit hours for a program major for each degree level shall be established by the university within the parameters of paragraph (4)(a)(2) of this regulation.

(c) State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory: The Board office shall maintain a State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory that will identify the degree programs for each university and that will be used by the universities for reporting enrollments, degree completions, and other information related to instructional delivery.

(d) Program Concentration, Area of Emphasis, Track, or a similar curricular offering: Any organized curriculum that is offered as part of a degree program major, as defined in (1)(b), and enhances or complements the degree program in a manner that leads to specific educational or occupational goals. Such a curricular offering shall be as defined by the university within the credit-hour length set per this regulation and other applicable institutional policies or regulations, except that the number of credit hours shall not equal or exceed the number of credit hours established for a program major at the same degree level.

(e) Program Minor: Any organized undergraduate curriculum, independent of the program major, which leads to the completion of specific educational or occupational goals. The length of the program minor shall be as defined by the university in its policies or regulations. Program minors may be optional or

required, depending on college and department policies, and may or may not appear on the student's transcript or credential.

(f) College Credit Certificate Program: An organized curriculum of college credit courses offered as a distinct area of study that leads to specific educational or occupational goals and for which the university awards a certificate, diploma, or similar form of recognition upon completion. College credit certificate programs may consist of courses that are part of a degree program or distinct courses created outside of any degree program. The number of credit hours for a college credit certificate program shall be set by the university.

(g) Non-College-Credit Certificate: An organized curriculum of study of any length that is offered for non-college-credit (as measured through clock hours, continuing education units, competency exams, etc.) that leads to specific educational or occupational goals and for which the university awards a certificate or diploma upon completion. The university shall set the length of a non-college-credit certificate program.

(h) Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP): The CAVP membership is comprised of the Chief Academic Officers at each institution in the State University System (SUS).

(i) CAVP Academic Coordination Group (ACG): The CAVP ACG membership is comprised of one official representative from each SUS institution, appointed by their respective Chief Academic Officer. The ACG group is chaired by a member of CAVP or designee.

(2) Academic Degree Program Coordination

(a) The Board of Governors' office shall coordinate with the CAVP and CAVP ACG to ensure collaboration, articulation, and coordination of academic program delivery across the SUS and to inform both institutional and system-level strategic planning by assessing the following:

1. Whether proposed academic program duplications are warranted and the potential impacts of any proposed academic program closure;

2. Whether appropriate levels of postsecondary access are provided for students across Florida to enable citizens to pursue degrees in selected fields;

3. Opportunities for the collaborative design and delivery of degree programs utilizing shared resources across multiple SUS institutions.

(b) The Board of Governors' office shall collaborate with the CAVP and the CAVP ACG to conduct quarterly reviews of pre-proposals for new academic degree programs under consideration at SUS institutions each academic year, comprehensively review all academic program offerings at least once every three years, and review other system-wide academic policies and issues as needed.

(3) New Degree Program Approval Authority and Process

(a) The board of trustees of each institution must annually review a list of new

academic degree programs the university wishes to implement in the upcoming academic year. The university must submit this list to the Board office for review by the Chancellor or designee. The Chancellor or designee shall establish a template and deadline for the list. The university may make changes to the list during the academic year but must inform the board of trustees and the Board office of any changes. The Board office will share the combined list for the System with CAVP and CAVP ACG for discussion of program duplication and System coordination.

(b) For all new degree programs, each university shall submit a new academic degree program pre-proposal for review by the academic program coordination workgroup established by the CAVP ACG, defined in paragraph (1)(i).

(c) Each university board of trustees shall approve new degree programs at the bachelor's, master's, and specialist levels for implementation in accordance with section (4) of this regulation. ~~New master's programs from New College of Florida shall be considered for approval by the Board of Governors at one of its regularly scheduled meetings.~~

(d) Each university board of trustees shall approve new research and professional doctoral degree programs, new undergraduate degrees offered at less than 120 credit hours, and new master's programs from New College of Florida and submit these programs for the Board of Governors to consider for approval. Board of Governors' staff will review the proposal to determine if it meets all requirements for new program authorization as defined in section (4) and is ready to be considered by the Board of Governors for approval. ~~The Board of Governors will consider new doctoral programs at the June and November meetings unless extenuating circumstances justify the need for consideration during a different timeframe as determined by the Chancellor. The Chancellor or designee shall establish deadlines for the university submission of new degree proposals for consideration.~~

(e) Proposals for research or professional doctoral degrees may be approved by the Board of Governors with contingencies of plans and timelines to meet the new degree program requirements, such as hiring faculty and staff, curriculum development, and funding, prior to enrollment of students to the program. The Board of Governors may require regular updates to monitor the progress on the conditions of approval. This approval process would also be applicable to proposals for master's degrees from New College of Florida.

(f) If a university seeks to implement a master's or specialist program and a doctoral program in the same discipline simultaneously, a single proposal for both degree levels should be developed, differentiating elements within the proposal as necessary. Both degree levels shall be approved by the university board of trustees before submitting the doctoral program proposal to the Board of Governors for consideration.

(g) Upon completion of this process and resolution of any issues, the Board of Governors' office will add the proposed program to the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory and notify the university. Upon

notification, the university can begin the new program consistent with the effective term in the proposal or a later term. If a program is approved with contingencies, the university will be required to submit regular updates to the Board of Governors' office.

(4) Criteria for New Degree Programs: A proposal for a new degree program must meet the criteria in sections (4)(a)-(k), use a template approved by the Chancellor, be approved by the university board of trustees, and if required, the Board of Governors.

(a) Submission of New Academic Degree Program Proposals: The university board of trustees must submit a proposal for a new academic degree program to the Board office within four weeks of its approval.

1. The Board of Governors' office will verify the CIP code for each program is appropriate.
2. For baccalaureate programs, the proposal must include any request for specialized admissions status, exceptions to the 120 credit hours to a degree, and exceptions to the established statewide common prerequisite courses. If the university is seeking these designations, the proposal must provide documentation that it aligns with the appropriate Board of Governors' regulations.

(b) Institutional and State-Level Accountability: The proposal must demonstrate that the goals of the program are consistent with the current State University System strategic plan and the current university's strategic plan and which goals the program will directly advance. The proposal must demonstrate that the program goals are aligned with the university's mission and with the requirements set forth in section 1001.706, Florida Statutes. The proposal must describe the projected benefit to the university, the local community, and the state of Florida if the program is implemented. The proposal must also demonstrate the efficient use of resources and justification for the investment.

(c) Student and Workforce Demand: The proposal must demonstrate a need for more individuals to be educated in the program at the level proposed using appropriate workforce data for opportunities both in Florida and nationally. Additional documentation for workforce needs may include letters of program support by employers and job postings for program graduates. The proposal must provide an estimate of the headcount and full-time equivalent count for students who will complete the program, along with documentation of student interest or demand. If an argument is made for the program based on research or service need, then specific supporting information shall be provided.

(d) Duplication of Existing Programs: The proposed program must not unnecessarily duplicate existing degree programs in Florida. If the program duplicates another degree program at a private or public state university in Florida with a substantially similar curriculum, evidence shall be provided that the university has investigated the potential impact on that program, has discussed opportunities for collaboration with the affected university, and can substantiate a need for duplication. If the proposed program curriculum substantially duplicates an existing program at Florida Agricultural and

Mechanical University, the university proposing the program must provide evidence that the proposed program does not affect the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's enrollment in the existing program.

(e) Curriculum: The proposal must describe an appropriate sequenced course of study with expected student learning outcomes and appropriate industry-driven competencies. The proposal must include the following:

1. A strategy for assessing student learning and reviewing academic-workforce alignment to modify the curriculum as needed.
2. Admissions and graduation criteria, along with the credit hours required and a timeframe consistent with similar programs.
3. How the program will be delivered.
4. If appropriate internships, fellowships, scholarships, and assistantships are in place or are planned.
5. For new baccalaureate programs, identify prerequisite courses consistent with common prerequisites for similar degree programs within the State University System and the Florida College System. Any exceptions must be submitted for approval to the Articulation Coordinating Committee in accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 8.007, Articulation.

(f) Faculty: The proposal must demonstrate that sufficient qualified faculty is available to initiate the program based on estimated enrollments and that, if appropriate, there is a commitment to hiring additional faculty in later years. The proposal shall demonstrate that the academic unit or units associated with the new degree have been productive in teaching, research, and service. For a research or professional doctoral program, evidence shall be provided that the faculty, in the aggregate, has the necessary instructional experience and clinical experience, where applicable, as well as the research and grant activity needed to sustain a doctoral program. If not acquired at the time of submission, the proposal shall demonstrate a plan to hire and recruit experienced faculty, including administrative staff and department leadership.

(g) Estimate of Investment: The proposal must include projected costs and associated funding sources for the program that are comparable in cost to similar existing programs and reflect the purpose of the proposal. If the institution is proposing redirecting resources to support the new program, the proposal must provide evidence that the redirection will not have an unjustified negative impact on other programs. When funding has not yet been secured for a program, the institution must provide a well-documented funding model demonstrating how the program will be sustained through year five.

(h) Tuition: The proposal must include the resident and non-resident tuition rates for the proposed program. New degree programs intending to operate as self-supporting, to seek approval for market tuition rate, or to establish ~~differentiated graduate level~~ tuition for graduate and professional programs must provide a rationale and a timeline for seeking Board of Governors' approval in accordance with Regulation 8.002, Self-supporting and Market Tuition Rate Programs ~~and course offerings~~ and section 1009.24, Florida Statutes. A new academic

degree program and the request for market tuition rate may be approved by the Board simultaneously.

(i) Institutional Resources: The proposal must provide evidence that the institution has resources or will make the necessary investments to ensure that the proposed program will be of high quality. The proposal shall demonstrate that the necessary library volumes and serials, classrooms, teaching laboratories, research laboratories, offices, and any other types of physical spaces and equipment are sufficient for program implementation. If program reviews or accreditation activities in the discipline pertinent to the proposed program or in related disciplines have included recommendations affecting the proposed program, the proposal shall provide evidence that progress has been made in implementing those recommendations.

(j) External Review: Proposals for doctoral programs must include documentation of the formal written review of the degree program by a qualified external academic consultant or a cross-section of experts.

(k) Implementation Term: The effective term must be after the term when the proposal is submitted.

(5) Changing a Degree Program's Assigned CIP Code

(a) Existing programs' curricula may evolve in response to changing industry needs. The Chancellor, or designee, is authorized to approve CIP code changes requested by a university for an existing bachelor's, master's, or specialist degree program in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory and to establish a process for university and state-level review to ensure the program is properly coded. CIP code change requests for doctoral programs at state universities, master's degree programs at New College of Florida, and undergraduate degrees offered at less than 120 credit hours must be approved by the Board of Governors.

(b) When a CIP code change is approved, universities must notify students in the existing CIP code of the programmatic change. Students who opt to remain in the current program must continue to be reported under the current CIP. Students requesting to move to the program under the new CIP, and those admitted to the program after the effective date of the CIP code change, will be reported under the newly approved CIP and meet the new program requirements.

(c) The new CIP code will be used for state-level accountability calculations starting with the effective term. The effective term must be after the term submitted for the change.

(d) A CIP code change cannot have the net effect of adding a new degree program to the academic program inventory by changing the code for a major offered under a current program.

(e) Institutions cannot request a CIP code change during an academic year for programs whose CIP codes qualify for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis waiver.

(6) ~~Independent~~ Degree Programs at ~~Branch Campuses and Off-Campus~~ Educational Locations Other than the Main Campus

(a) Existing Degree Programs: Complete degree programs, or more than half of the required courses for a ~~substantially~~ complete degree programs~~, having designated faculty lines with independent curricular decision-making authority, designated facilities and instructional resources, and a designated student body, shall not~~ may be implemented at ~~a branch campus or other off-campus instructional~~ an approved educational location other than the main campus ~~unless approved by the university board of trustees, even if the university already has authority to offer the degree program at another location~~. in accordance with Regulation 8.009, Educational Locations.

(b) New Degree Programs: Each program shall meet the Board of Governors' new degree program approval criteria and follow the same approval process as specified in this regulation.~~ This requirement does not apply to programs currently approved for one location that share faculty and students between or among instructional locations~~. and

(c) ~~New academic degree programs~~ shall only be implemented at ~~may not be implemented at an~~ educational ~~site~~ locations that have ~~has not~~ been approved in accordance with Regulation 8.009, Educational Locations.

(7) Universities that offer a graduate program that leads to school counseling certification shall offer a flexible education pathway for students as defined by section 1004.0982, Florida Statutes, and State Board of Education Rule 6A-4.0181, F.A.C.

(8) A university may submit a co-op program as part of a new bachelor's degree proposal or an approved bachelor's degree program to the Chancellor for approval.

(a) At a minimum, the co-op must meet the following criteria.

1. Align with the student's academic program of study.

2. Be equivalent to a full-time academic workload.

3. Last at least two semesters and no more than four semesters.

4. Provide employer compensation to the student.

(b) The Chancellor or designee shall establish a template for universities to submit requests for co-op programs.

(9) Universities must establish policies that align with the requirements in this regulation.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const., Sections 1007.23, 1007.25, 1001.92 Florida Statutes; History: — New 3-27-07, Amended 3-24-11, 9-22-16, 6-30-22, 03-27-24, 12-12-25, XX-XX-XX.