

FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT

DATE: June 27, 2016

REGULATION NUMBER AND TITLE: 8.012 Academic Program Termination and Temporary Suspension of New Enrollments.

SUMMARY: Board of Governors Regulation 8.012 establishes the criteria and process for termination of existing degree programs. It is being amended to clarify the termination process and also include suspension of new enrollments in existing degree programs. This distinction will better differentiate between two actions which are frequently misunderstood or confused with each other. The proposed amendments to this regulation will:

1. Include a new criterion that program termination may be due to faculty or other resources no longer being sufficient to deliver a high-quality program;
2. Require that Florida College System institutions be notified when a baccalaureate program is being considered for termination;
3. Clarify that terminations must be approved prior to the effective term date (no retroactive terminations); and
4. Provide criteria and process for temporary suspension of new enrollments in an existing academic program.

FULL TEXT OF THE REGULATION IS INCLUDED WITH THIS NOTICE.

AUTHORITY TO PROPOSE REGULATION(S): Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; BOG Regulation Development Procedure dated March 23, 2006.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS' OFFICIAL INITIATING THE PROPOSED REGULATION: Richard Stevens, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs.

COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED REGULATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO THE CONTACT PERSON IDENTIFIED BELOW. The comments must identify the regulation on which you are commenting:

General Counsel, Board of Governors, State University System, 325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1614, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, (850) 245-0466 (phone), (850) 245-9685 (fax), or generalcounsel@flbog.edu.

8.012 Academic Program Termination and Temporary Suspension of New Enrollments

(1) Academic Program Termination

- (a) ~~(1)~~ To ensure the efficient use of state resources and maintain the quality and relevancy of academic programs offered within the State University System, programs may be terminated. Reasons for terminating programs may include but are not limited to the following:
- (a) 1. Enrollments are no longer sufficient to justify the cost of instruction, facilities, and equipment; or the program duplicates other offerings at the university.
2. Faculty or other resources are no longer sufficient to deliver a high-quality program.
- (b) 3. The program is no longer aligned with the mission or strategic goals of the university, or is no longer aligned with the strategic goals of the Board of Governors.
- (c) 4. The program no longer meets the needs of the citizens of Florida in providing a viable education or occupational objective.
- (2) ~~(b)~~ Each University Board of Trustees must adopt regulations ~~policies and procedures~~ for degree program termination that are consistent with this regulation, with copies provided to the Board of Governors, Office of Academic and Student Affairs. The regulations must ~~policies will~~ include at a minimum:
- (a) 1. A formal process for determining degree programs that are candidates for termination that includes review by the appropriate curriculum, financial, and administrative councils of the university; and
- (b) 2. A plan to accommodate any students or faculty who are currently active in a program that is scheduled to be terminated;
3. A plan to notify Florida College System (FCS) institutions that the university has begun the process of terminating a baccalaureate program so that FCS students may be advised appropriately; and
- (c) 4. A process for evaluation and mitigation of any potential negative impact the proposed termination may have on the current representation of females and ethnic minorities within the faculty and students.
- (3) ~~(c)~~ Each University Board of Trustees has the responsibility and authority to approve termination of degree programs at the bachelor's, master's, advanced master's, and specialist level in accordance with this regulation ~~BOG Regulation 6C 8.012 (1) and subsection (2)~~. Upon termination of a degree program, the university will notify the Board of Governors, Office of Academic and Student Affairs within four weeks of the University Board of Trustees decision.

(4-d) Each University Board of Trustees has the responsibility and authority to recommend termination of degree programs at the professional and doctoral level to the Board of Governors in accordance with this regulation. ~~BOG Regulation 6C-8.012 (1) and subsection (2)~~. In its request for termination of a program the university will provide documentation that it has followed its established policies, including those related to faculty affected by program termination, and that there is a plan in place to accommodate any students who are currently active in the program.

(e) The university's Board of Trustees or the Board of Governors, if applicable, must approve the termination prior to the start of the effective term.

(2) Temporary Suspension of New Enrollments in an Academic Program

(a) A program that is temporarily suspended for new enrollments remains an active program in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory. Students that are already enrolled can continue to progress towards degree completion. A program's temporary suspension for new enrollments can be removed by the university at any time and the program can begin accepting new enrollments, with notification to the Board of Governors' Office.

1. When a university decides to suspend a program, it must submit a "Request for Temporary Suspension of New Enrollments in an Academic Program" form to enable Board staff to note the change to the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory and the Statewide Articulation Manual. Reasons for suspending programs may include but are not limited to the following:

- i. Curriculum is being revised;
- ii. Key faculty member(s) have left the university and replacements are being recruited for the program;
- iii. Accreditation standards have changed;
- iv. The university is reprioritizing its resources and/or efforts;
- v. Student demand for the program has diminished over time and the university is re-evaluating the viability of the program.

2. A program can be temporarily suspended for new enrollments for up to 9 consecutive terms, including summer. At the end of the 9th term the university must notify the Board of Governors' office on the desired course of action for the program; and

3. A plan to notify Florida College System (FCS) institutions that the university has begun the process of temporary suspension of new enrollments in a baccalaureate program so that FCS students may be advised appropriately.

(b) Temporary suspensions of degree programs must be approved in accordance with university policies prior to the start of the effective term.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; History: New 3-29-07, Amended _____.