

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

June 21, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Ph.D. in Applied Behavior Analysis (CIP 42.2814) at the University of South Florida

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Consider approval of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Applied Behavior Analysis at the University of South Florida, CIP Code 42.2814.

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Section 7(d), Art. IX, Florida Constitution; Board of Governors Regulation 8.011

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The University of South Florida (USF) is proposing to offer a Ph.D. degree program in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) located within the Department of Child and Family Studies. The emphasis of the program will be on the preparation of behavior analysts who are scientists-practitioners with a strong focus on community engagement. Graduates will work in community settings such as: schools, child welfare settings, clinics, residential settings and individual family homes; dealing with issues such as autism, developmental disabilities, child welfare and aging. Graduates will also be qualified to obtain academic positions in the ABA discipline.

The doctoral program will require 54 credit hours and will only accept students with a master's degree in applied behavior analysis or related field with strong behavior analysis content. Documentation confirms support for the program from external consultants, professional organizations, and Hillsborough County Schools where they provide opportunities for internships and hires. A letter of support is provided from the University of Florida where a focus area in ABA is provided within the Ph.D. in Psychology program.

The USF Board of Trustees approved the program on December 8, 2011. If the proposal is approved by the Board of Governors, USF will implement the program in Fall 2013.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Materials are in Committee Packet