

8.004 Academic Program Coordination

- (1) To facilitate collaboration, articulation, and coordination of academic program delivery across the State University System, the Office of the Board of Governors shall coordinate with the Council of Academic Vice Presidents to conduct an annual review of all current academic degree program offerings, as well as university plans regarding the addition or termination of any degree programs. The review shall be designed to inform both institutional and System-level strategic planning and shall assess:
  - (a) Whether appropriate levels of postsecondary access are provided for students across the State of Florida to enable citizens to pursue degrees in selected fields;
  - (b) Opportunities for the collaborative design and delivery of degree programs utilizing shared resources across multiple State University System institutions;
  - (c) Whether academic program duplications are warranted; and
  - (d) Potential impacts of any proposed academic program closure.
- (2) To further facilitate articulation, collaboration, and coordination of academic program delivery across the System and the State, and to encourage further engagement with local communities, a university or team of universities will take lead responsibility for designated economic development regions. Designating one or more universities as lead does not preclude other universities from providing academic programs in the region in accordance with paragraph (3). Lead universities shall work with their community partners to identify specific unmet higher education needs and student demand in their regions, and shall coordinate any viable options to offer the needed academic programming in a cost-effective manner. Such options may include, but are not limited to, programs offered in partnership with other universities or institutions in the Florida College System. Any planned new programming shall be in alignment with Board of Governors and university strategic plans. The activities of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service that do not include academic degree programs will continue to be the responsibility of the Institute of the Food and Agricultural Sciences of the University of Florida and the College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture of Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University without regard to the economic development region in which those activities occur. For the purpose of ensuring that the higher educational needs of Florida's citizens are adequately addressed in a coordinated manner, the following regions are designated:

- (a) Northwest Region - University of West Florida, Florida State University, and Florida A&M University (Counties: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson);
  - (b) North Central Region -University of Florida (Counties: Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Dixie, Columbia, Gilchrist, Levy, Union, Bradford, Alachua, Marion);
  - (c) Northeast Region - University of North Florida (Counties: Baker, Nassau, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler);
  - (d) East Central Region - University of Central Florida (Counties: Sumter, Lake, Volusia, Seminole, Orange, Osceola, Brevard);
  - (e) Southeast Region - Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University (Counties: Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Dade, Monroe);
  - (f) Southwest Region - Florida Gulf Coast University (Counties: Collier, Lee, Charlotte);
  - (g) South Central Region - Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, and University of South Florida (Counties: Hendry, Glades, Desoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee);
  - (h) Tampa Bay Region - University of South Florida and New College of Florida (Counties: Citrus, Pasco, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota)
- (3) When a state university desires to offer a college-credit degree or certificate program, or substantial parts of a program, that requires a substantial physical presence in another university's region, prior to taking any action to establish such presence, presidents shall collaborate in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of academic programs. Presidents of lead universities within the same region shall also collaborate with each other prior to expanding program offerings within their region.
- (a) The university president shall notify the Chancellor and initiate a discussion with the president of each state university assigned lead responsibility for the region in which the university desires to expand its program offerings.

- (b) If the presidents are unable to arrive at a mutual agreement, the issue will be referred to the Chancellor to mediate and/or request a final resolution from the Board.
- (c) For the purpose of this regulation, substantial physical presence means maintaining continuously beyond the length of a single course, for any purpose related to offering a degree or certificate program, a physical location in the proposed region, to include classrooms, teaching laboratories, administrative services, or student services. The convening of students for orientation, testing, practica, and group seminars does not constitute a physical presence if no more than twenty percent of the course in which they are enrolled is delivered face-to-face at that location.