

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) 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, at a location in Florida other than an existing Main Campus, Type I Campus, Type II Campus, or Type III Campus, the university shall provide to the Chancellor and the Chair of the Board of Governors a letter of intent to expand program offerings as soon as practicable. Prior to providing a letter of intent, the university may engage in planning activities designed to assess whether the proposed program furthers an educational or workforce need; whether sufficient student demand exists for the proposed program; and whether the proposed program can be implemented within existing university resources or, if not, an assessment of the anticipated cost of the new program and its impact on the university's existing resources.
  - (a) The Chancellor, in consultation with the Chair and affected institutions within the System, will have twenty business days to consider a university's letter of intent to determine whether the proposed program is market-driven, mission-justified, and would not constitute an unnecessary duplication of academic programs or a waste of state resources. If the Chancellor determines that the proposed program meets these criteria, then the program may be implemented.

- (b) The Board of Governors Office shall maintain a list of programs developed in conjunction with the Council of Academic Vice Presidents which shall be used to expedite the approval process.
- (c) If the Chancellor, in consultation with the Chair and affected institutions, determines that the proposed program does not meet the criteria specified in subparagraph (2)(a), the Chancellor shall notify the university and, within five business days from such notification, the university may request reconsideration of its program proposal by the Board's Appeals Committee, which shall consist of the Chair and the Chair of each Board committee. The Board of Governors Appeals Committee will review a university's request for reconsideration and issue a decision within twenty business days.
- (d) 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 away from the main or additional campuses, to include classrooms, teaching laboratories, or other facilities for student instruction. Externships, internships, residencies, clinical rotations, student fieldwork, and other similar educational experiences do not constitute a substantial physical presence. With regard to distance learning, the convening of students for orientation, testing, practica, and group seminars or projects 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.
- (e) The activities of Florida cooperative extension services that do not include college credit degree or certificate 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 and are not subject to the requirements of this regulation. Also not subject to the requirements of this regulation is any graduate degree program that directly supports research being conducted at an approved research and education center in which the program is proposed to be offered.