

**FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDED REGULATION**

**DATE: January 25, 2024**

**REGULATION NUMBER AND TITLE: 8.011 Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings**

**SUMMARY:**

Board of Governors Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings, outlines criteria and administrative processes for new academic program approval. The processes outlined in this regulation ensure that new programs offered are high quality and aligned with the Board of Governors' strategic plan.

Board staff propose an amendment to reorganize and streamline Regulation 8.011. The proposed amendment restructures the regulation to clearly identify the steps in the process for new academic degree programs. The proposed amendment includes incorporating a section of Board of Governors Regulation 8.004, Academic Program Coordination, into Regulation 8.011. This consolidation organizes the academic program approval process from beginning to end in one regulation.

Currently, universities must include in their accountability plans a list of new academic degree program proposals that the university plans to submit to its board of trustees within the next three years. The proposed amendment requires universities to share a list of new academic degree programs the university wishes to implement in the upcoming academic year with its board of trustees

place. The proposed amendment allows for the Board to approve proposals with contingencies.

Due to the proposed restructuring of Regulation 8.011 and the incorporation of language from Regulation 8.004, it is recommended that the regulation name be changed from Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings to Academic Degree Program Coordination and Approval.

**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:** Emily Sikes, Interim 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 St., Suite 1614, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, (850) 245-0466 (phone), (850) 245-9685 (fax), or [generalcounsel@flbog.edu](mailto:generalcounsel@flbog.edu).

**~~8.011 Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings.~~**

(1) ~~New Academic Degree Program Authorization~~ — To ensure that new academic programs implemented by a

the program list provided in the annual university accountability plan required by Board of Governors Regulation 2.002.

- ~~2. *There is a demonstrated need for program graduates, research, and/or service.* The proposal shall demonstrate a need for more individuals to be educated in the program at the level proposed, provide an estimate of the headcount and full-time equivalent for students who will major in the program, and indicate steps to be taken to achieve a diverse student body. If an argument is made for the program based upon research or service need, then specific supporting information shall be provided. In analyzing the need for the proposed program, the university shall consider whether similar programs are offered at other postsecondary institutions in Florida and what impact, if any, such programs may have on the proposed program, and shall include this analysis in the proposal to substantiate the need for the program.~~
- ~~3. *The program does not unnecessarily duplicate existing degree programs in the state of 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 a historically black university in the State University System, an analysis shall be conducted to determine whether the proposed program may adversely affect that university's ability to achieve or maintain student diversity in its existing program.~~
- ~~4. *Financial planning and resources are sufficient for implementation.* The proposal shall include a complete budget for the program that is comparable in cost to similar existing programs, reflects the purpose of the proposal, and provides evidence that, in the event resources within the institution are redirected to support the new program, such a redirection will not have an unjustified negative impact on other programs.~~
- ~~5. *There is a sufficient projected benefit of the program to the university, local community, and the state of Florida.* The proposal shall describe the projected benefit to the university, local community, and the state of Florida if the program is implemented. The proposal should demonstrate efficient use of resources and justification for the investment. The projected benefit may be both quantitative and qualitative in nature.~~



~~or if the university has made sufficient plans for their existence when student support is the norm for similar programs in the discipline.~~

(4) ~~New Degree Program Approval Authority and Process~~

- (a) ~~*All degree programs:* Each university shall submit a new academic degree program pre-proposal for review by the academic program coordination workgroup established by the Council of Academic Vice Presidents pursuant to~~

~~a minimum.~~

- ~~1. A formal process for determining degree programs that the university will explore for implementation over the period covered by the university strategic plan and the annual university accountability plan.~~
- ~~2. A formal process for review and approval of proposed programs by the appropriate curriculum, financial, and administrative entities of the university.~~
- ~~3. A formal written review of doctoral program proposals by a qualified external academic consultant prior to consideration of the proposal by the board of trustees. Alternatively, institutions may utilize a cross-section of visiting experts who contribute to the proposal development process. Their contribution to the process must be documented and described in the proposal.~~
- ~~4. A process for final consideration by the board of trustees that includes a review of the proposed program by the full board or a designated committee with regard to Board of Governors' approval criteria and implementation costs.~~
- ~~5. Adoption of a common State University System new degree proposal format developed by Board staff in collaboration with university academic affairs officers.~~

(e) ~~State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory:~~

- ~~1. The Board Office shall maintain a State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory that will identify the approved degree programs for each university and that will be use~~

~~and state-level review to ensure the program is properly coded. 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 currently approved program. The new CIP code will be used for state-level accountability calculations starting with the effective term.~~

~~(5) Independent Degree Programs at Branch Campuses and Off-Campus Sites— Complete degree programs, or 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 be~~



~~are created outside of any degree program. The number of credit hours for a college credit certificate program shall be set by the university within guidelines established by this regulation.~~

- (d) ~~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 length of a non-college-credit certificate program shall be set by the university.~~

### **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  
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(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



(d) Duplication of Existing Programs: The proposed program must not

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

