

## **FIU-2506 Authorization, Termination, and Temporary Suspension of Degree Programs**

1. Authorization of Academic Degree Programs
  - a. All proposals for new degree programs shall be reviewed and approved in accordance with FIU Policy Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricular Offerings # 350.010.
2. Academic Program Termination
  - a. To ensure the efficient use of state resources and maintain the quality and relevancy of academic programs offered within the State University System (SUS), programs at Florida International University (University) may be terminated. Reasons for terminating programs may include but are not limited to the following:
    - i. Enrollments are no longer sufficient to justify the cost of instruction, facilities, and equipment;
    - ii. The program duplicates other offerings at the University;
    - iii. Faculty or other resources are no longer sufficient to deliver a high-quality program;
    - iv. The program is no longer aligned with the mission or strategic goals of the University or the Board of Governors (BOG); or
    - v. The program no longer meets the needs of the citizens of Florida in providing a viable educational or occupational objective.
  - b. No program funded through the Education and General budget may be terminated in favor of an identical or similar self-supporting or market tuition rate program at the same degree level.
  - c. Programs may be identified for termination by the academic program, college or department director, chair, dean, or faculty, and/or the Provost. The BOG Program Termination Form, available upon request to the Office of the Provost, must accompany the recommendation.
  - d. In considering programs for possible termination, the following items will be evaluated:
    - i. Relationship of the program to the University Mission;
    - ii. Relationship of the program to University Strategic Objectives;
    - iii. (Student FTE)/(Faculty FTE);
    - iv. (Program Expenses)/(State appropriations plus tuition);
    - v. Number of graduates;
    - vi. Time to degree;
    - vii. Percent completing within four (4) years, six (6) years, or (8) eight years for graduate programs;
    - viii. Faculty scholarly and/or creative productivity;
    - ix. Record of faculty external funding, where appropriate;
    - x. Impact on students in the program;
    - xi. Impact on educational opportunities for underrepresented minorities;
    - xii. Impact on faculty in the program;
    - xiii. External community financial support; and
    - xiv. Accreditation status for accredited programs.
  - e. All proposals for program termination must include:
    - i. A plan to accommodate students active in a scheduled program termination.
      1. All students will be allowed a reasonable amount of time to graduate. The teach-out plan must include a timeline, with written, verifiable notification to affected students of the last date by which they must graduate and the University Curriculum Committee program deletion form.

- ii. A plan to accommodate faculty in a scheduled program termination. University administration and the Board of Trustees shall make a reasonable effort to locate appropriate alternative or equivalent employment within the University for faculty affected by the program termination in accordance with the UFF Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- iii. Plan for notification to Florida College System (FCS) institutions of a scheduled baccalaureate program termination. The University's liaison to the Statewide Articulation Committee will inform the FCS of the program closure and removal from the Common Prerequisite Manual.
- iv. A process for evaluation and mitigation of any potential negative impact on the current representation of faculty and students.
  - 1. The Provost or designee will review the proportional gender and ethnic/racial representation of the current population of faculty and students in the university versus the proportional population in the program proposed for termination.
  - 2. If there is no significant difference in the proportional population loss, no efforts at mitigation are necessary.
  - 3. If the loss of student or faculty through program termination is significant, the program termination may be cancelled or a plan for mitigation must go into effect. The plan could include among others special emphasis in graduate and undergraduate recruitment to significantly increase student groups lost in the termination. Another option would be to institute new or expand existing programs which would replace the number of students or faculty lost in termination.

f. Approval for Program Termination

- i. The Provost will review all proposals for program termination with input from appropriate curriculum committees and financial administrators, and advice from the dean and Faculty Senate. If approved, the Provost shall present the proposal of program termination to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- ii. Requests for termination of Nursing master's degree programs must also be approved by the BOG.
- iii. Upon termination of a degree program, the University will submit to the BOG a request for termination prior to the start of the effective term.
- iv. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools must approve the program termination and the teach-out plan prior to the start of the effective term.

3. Temporary Suspension of New Enrollments in an Academic Program

- a. A program that temporarily suspends new enrollments remains an active program in the SUS Academic Degree Program Inventory. Students currently enrolled may continue to progress towards degree completion. A program can be temporarily suspended for new enrollments for up to nine (9) consecutive terms, including summer. At the end of the ninth term, the University must notify the BOG Office on the desired course of action for the program. A program's temporary suspension can be removed by the University at any time and the program can begin accepting new enrollments, with notification to the BOG Office.
- b. To temporarily suspend a program:
  - i. Programs may be identified for suspension by the academic program, college or department director, chair, dean, or faculty, and/or the Provost. The BOG Temporary Suspension of New Enrollments in an Academic Program Form, available upon request to the Office of the Provost, must accompany the

- recommendation.
- ii. In considering programs for possible suspension, the following influencing factors will be evaluated:
    1. Curriculum revision;
    2. Key faculty member(s) vacancies;
    3. Changing accreditation standards;
    4. Reprioritizing university resources and/or efforts;
    5. Diminished student demand for the program;
    6. Number of graduates.
  - iii. Consider if there will be any undue loss of educational opportunities for underrepresented minorities.
  - iv. The Provost has the responsibility to review and approve a recommendation for program suspension with advice from the dean, with the exception of the suspension of new enrollments for master's degree programs in nursing, which must be approved by the BOG.
  - v. FIU's liaison to the Statewide Articulation Committee must notify FCS institutions that the University has begun the process of temporary suspension of new enrollments in a baccalaureate program.

Authority: Art. IX, sec. 7, Fla. Const., Board of Governors Regulation 8.012; History; New, 10.11.2019, Amended 6.20.2023.