

Regulations of Florida A&M University



4.010 Authorization of Program Majors, Minors, Other Academic Program Offerings and Off-Campus Programs

In order to ensure the offering of programs of high quality that are aligned with the mission and goals of Florida A&M University and of the Board of Governors, and meet the needs of the citizens of Florida, the following criteria and guidelines for academic program authorization and termination are established.

(1) Program Major

- (a) The concentration of coursework a program major offers allows students to gain a significant level of expertise in a discipline. A program major is an organized curriculum offered as a major area of study that is part of an approved or proposed degree program and does not constitute sufficient, distinct coursework, faculty, and instructional resources to be considered a separate degree program. A program major must be reasonably associated with the degree program under which it is offered and share common core or prerequisite courses with other majors within the same degree program. A program major will not be recognized as a stand alone degree program at the university, will not be included in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory, and will not be assigned a separate CIP Code, but will be subsumed under the CIP code of the degree program under which it resides.
- (b) A program major at the baccalaureate level consists of a minimum of 27 semester credit hours in the discipline. In order for majors within the same degree program to be established and qualify for a separate major code, they must differ from any other major by at least 15 semester hours of distinct coursework.
- (c) A program major/concentration/specialization at the master's level consists of a minimum of 18 semester credit hours of graduate level course work in the area of study.
- (d) A program major at the specialist level consists of a minimum of 18 semester credit hours of course work in the area of study and additional graduate level credit hours beyond a master's in the field as determined by the academic department.
- (e) A program major/concentration/specialization at the doctoral level consists of a minimum of 24 semester hours of graduate level course work in the area of study. The number of credit hours that must be taken by a student transferring to FAMU with a master's degree from another institution will be determined by the faculty in the FAMU program.

- (f) Approval and Termination of Program Majors: New program majors will be approved using the university procedures which provide a format and process to be followed, including review by the college, school or institute curriculum committee, the Dean or Director, the Dean of Graduate Studies in the case of graduate programs, and the Faculty Senate. The Provost reviews the proposal and makes a recommendation to the President, who is authorized to approve program majors. Program majors may be terminated with the same reviews and approvals that pertain to their implementation.

(2) Program Minor

- (a) A program minor enables a student to develop a secondary level of expertise in an area of study in addition to his or her major program of study. The minor cannot be in the same area as the major program of study. A minor is an organized curriculum that is offered as part of an individual student's degree plan and which enhances or complements the degree to be awarded in a manner that leads to specific educational or occupational goals. Such curricula offerings will not be assigned a CIP Code and will not be included in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory as a stand alone academic program at the University.
- (b) A program minor at the baccalaureate level consists of a minimum of 15 and no more than 21 semester credit hours.
- (c) A program minor at the master's, specialist and doctoral level consists of a minimum of 12 and no more than 18 graduate semester credit hours of course work defined by one or more units in an academic unit outside of the major.
- (d) Approval and Termination of Program Minors: New program minors will be approved using the University procedures which provide a format and process to be followed, including review by the school, college or institute curriculum committee, the Dean or Director, the Dean of Graduate Studies in the case of graduate programs, and the Faculty Senate. The Provost is authorized to approve program minors. Program minors may be terminated with the same reviews and approvals that pertain to their implementation.

(3) Program Concentrations, Areas of Emphasis, Tracks

- (a) Concentrations, areas of emphasis, tracks, etc. are any organized curriculum that is offered as part of an individual student's degree plan and which enhances or complements the degree to be awarded in a manner that leads to specific educational or occupational goals. Such curricula offerings will not be assigned a CIP Code and will not be included in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory as a stand alone academic program at the University. The preferred term at FAMU to describe such an element of a program is "concentration" although the terms "area of emphasis" or "track" may also be used.
- (b) A program concentration, at the undergraduate level, consists of 12- 15 semester credit hours of coursework in the discipline.
- (c) A program concentration/ major/specialization at the graduate level is a coherent program of study requiring depth of knowledge and represents a major portion of the graduate

program. It consists of a minimum of 18 credit hours of course work in the area of study at the master's level and 24 credit hours of course work in the area of study at the doctoral level.

- (d) Approval and Termination of Program Concentrations, Areas of Emphasis, Tracks: New program concentrations, areas of emphasis or tracks will be approved using the University procedures which provide a format and process to be followed, including review by the school, college or institute curriculum committee, the Dean or Director, the Dean of Graduate Studies in the case of graduate programs, and the Faculty Senate. The Provost is authorized to approve program concentrations, areas of emphasis and tracks; they may be terminated with the same reviews and approvals that pertain to their implementation.

(4) College Credit Certificate Programs

- (a) College credit certificate programs consist of an organized curriculum of college credit courses offered as a distinct area of study that leads to specific educational or occupational goals, and for which the University awards a certificate upon completion. College credit certificate programs may consist of courses that are part of a degree program or distinct courses that are created outside of any degree program. Students currently enrolled in a baccalaureate program or who already possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, may pursue a college credit certificate at the undergraduate level. Individuals who possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution may pursue post-baccalaureate certificate programs at the graduate level. Certificate programs will not be assigned a CIP Code and will not be included in the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory as a stand alone academic program at the University.
- (b) Certificate programs must consist of a minimum of 12 and no more than 15 semester hours of credit.
- (c) Approval and Termination of College Credit Certificate Programs: New certificate programs will be approved using the University procedures which provide a format and process to be followed, including review by the school, college or institute curriculum committee, the Dean or Director, the Dean of Graduate Studies in the case of graduate programs, and the Faculty Senate. The Provost is authorized to approve certificate programs, and they may be terminated with the same reviews and approvals that pertain to their implementation.

(5) Non-College Credit Certificate Programs

- (a) Non-college credit programs leading to a certificate or diploma recognized as a credential for employment are offered through Division of Continuing Education.
- (b) The originating academic unit will prepare a proposal (including a business plan), which has been approved by the academic dean.
- (c) After acquiring the academic dean's signature, the proposal will be submitted for review by the Council on Continuing Education.

- (d) Where appropriate for quality assurance purposes, the proposal may be submitted for review and comment to an academic unit.
- (e) If approved, the proposal will be presented by the administrator responsible for Continuing Education to the Provost, who may authorize implementation.

(6) Off-Campus Academic Offerings

- (a) Florida A&M University may offer courses and degree programs at locations other than the main campus, in accordance with state regulations that provide for the University offering programs and services throughout the state. Off-campus offerings may be implemented using the following process:
 - 1. Departments and colleges will prepare a proposal for review by the appropriate program, department, and college committees.
 - 2. All proposals will then be advanced to the Council on Continuing Education (CCE) for review and recommendation to the administrator responsible for continuing education. The Continuing Education Administrator will make a recommendation to the Provost for final implementation authorization.
 - 3. Colleges are required annually to review off-campus programs offered outside the FAMU main campus for quality and sustainability.
 - 4. Complete degree programs or substantially complete degree programs, having designated faculty lines with independent curricula decision-making authority, designated facilities and instructional resources, and a designated student body may not be implemented at a branch campus or other subsidiary instructional location unless approved by the University Board of Trustees regardless as to whether the University already has authority to offer the degree program. This requirement applies to programs offered in foreign countries as well. Each such program must meet the Board of Governors new degree program approval criteria and follow the same approval process as other new program offerings at the University.
- (b) Degree programs that are already authorized to be offered by the University, and do not fall under paragraph "4" above, must comply with paragraphs "1" through "3".
- (c) If a new degree program that is not currently authorized to be offered is being proposed for an off-campus site, then the policy and procedures for new degree programs as well as the above-listed items must be followed.
- (d) A Substantive Change Proposal must be submitted for approval to the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS-COC) at least six months prior to implementation by University administration if students can earn 50% or more credits toward the degree through the proposed off-campus degree program. If students can earn 25% to 49% of the degree through the proposed off-campus program, SACS must be notified prior to implementation.

(7) Degree Programs

Approval and termination of degree programs are addressed in University Regulation 4.005.

Specific Authority: Board of Governors Regulation Development Procedure Dated July 21, 2005, 1001.74(4), FS. Law Implemented Board of Governors Resolution Adopted January 7, 2003, 1001.74(7), FS. History-New 2/29/08.