4.005 Authorization and Termination of Academic Programs

1. Authorization of New Academic Programs

(a) Academic degree programs may be added for various reasons, including but not limited to emerging areas, market demand, a change in the strategic direction of the University, the discipline, or the profession. A recommendation for the addition of any academic degree program shall be reviewed by the faculty of the program involved; the administrative head of the unit, institute, school, or college in which the program is located; appropriate university committees, the Faculty Senate and the Provost. The Provost will forward a recommendation to the President, who will report to the Board of Trustees for action. The Board of Trustees has the responsibility for the addition of degree programs at the bachelor’s, master’s, advanced master’s, and specialist degree programs and also the responsibility to recommend to the Board of Governors, the addition of professional and research doctoral programs.

(b) The University will engage an external consultant to review all Doctoral degree program proposals. In reviewing new degree programs for approval, the Board of Trustees will consider the criteria specified by the Board of Governors and costs. The University will utilize the SUS degree proposal format for all new degree programs to ensure that the Board of Governors criteria are adequately addressed. The University will notify the Board of Governors and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools per substantive change requirements of approval of degree programs by the Board of Trustees.

(c) The addition of a major, minor, concentration, area of emphasis or track within an existing degree program must be reviewed by the faculty of the program in which the
addition will be housed, the administrative head of the unit, institute, school or college, the Faculty Senate, and approved by the Provost of the University.

(d) The University shall adopt a formal process for determining which new programs the University will explore during the strategic plan cycle. Further, the University shall adopt a formal process for adding academic programs, which includes appropriate curriculum, financial, and administrative review. This process shall be reviewed by the Faculty Senate, and approved by the Provost and the President.

(e) A copy of this policy shall be provided to the Board of Governors, Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

2. Termination of Academic Programs

(a) Programs may be terminated to ensure the efficient use of state resources and to maintain the quality and relevancy of academic programs offered within the University. Reasons for terminating programs may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Enrollments are no longer sufficient to justify the cost of instruction, facilities, and equipment; or the program duplicates other offerings at the University.

2. The program is no longer aligned with the mission or strategic goals of the University, or is no longer aligned with strategic goals of the Board of Governors.

3. The program no longer meets the needs of the citizens of Florida in providing a viable educational or occupational objective.

(b) A recommendation for the deletion of any academic degree program shall undergo a financial review and be reviewed by the faculty of the program involved; the administrative head of the unit, institute, school or college in which the program is located; the Faculty Senate; and the Provost. The Provost will forward a recommendation to the President, who will report to the Board of Trustees for action. The recommendation shall include a plan to accommodate any students who are currently active in a program that is scheduled to be terminated and to accommodate faculty and staff active in the program, as required by personnel regulations and the collective bargaining agreements. The
plan shall also include an evaluation of any potential negative impact the proposed termination may have on the current representation of females and ethnic minorities within the students and faculty, and a recommendation for mitigation of potential negative impact.

(c) The Board of Trustees has the responsibility and authority to approve termination of degree programs at the bachelor’s, master’s, advanced master’s, and specialist level in accordance with BOG Regulation 6C-8.012 (1) and subsection (2). The University will notify the Board of Governors, Office of Academic and Student Affairs within four weeks of the University Board of Trustees decision to terminate a degree program, and also notify the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, pursuant to requirements for substantive change.

(d) The Board of Trustees has the responsibility and authority to recommend termination of degree programs at the professional and doctoral level to the Board of Governors in accordance with BOG Regulation 6C-8.012 (1) and subsection (2). In its request for termination of a program the University will provide documentation that it has followed its established policies, including those related to faculty affected by program termination, and that there is a plan in place to accommodate any students who are currently active in the program.

(e) The deletion of a major, minor, concentration, area of emphasis or track within an existing degree program must be reviewed by the faculty of the program in which the offering is housed, the administrative head of the unit, institute, school or college, the Faculty Senate, and approved by the Provost of the University.

(f) A copy of this policy shall be provided to the Board of Governors, Office of Academic and Student Affairs.