I. PURPOSE & INTENT

The University of South Florida Board of Trustees (USF BOT) has the responsibility and authority to approve for implementation, new degree programs at the bachelor’s, master’s, advanced master’s, and specialist level in accordance with Florida Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 8.011.

The BOG has the authority to approve for implementation, new professional and research doctoral degree programs. The USF BOT must approve new professional and research doctoral degree programs for submission to the BOG for authorization, in accordance with the criteria outlined in BOG Regulation 8.011.

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

A degree program is defined as 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 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 truly unique degree program, based upon emerging research trends or occupational demand. Each degree program must demonstrate designated faculty effort and instructional resources and, when approved, will be assigned a CIP code and included in the State University System (SUS) Academic Degree Program Inventory. Each degree program must include at least one program major, but may have multiple majors.

Successful proposals for new degree programs will only be advanced to the full USF BOT after review by the Academics and Campus Environment Advisory Council (ACEAC) and the USF BOT Work Group on Academics and Campus Environment (BOT/ACE), and after all institutional approval processes, including review by the appropriate councils and committees of the Faculty Senates of each System Institution have been completed.
In accordance with BOG Regulation 2.002, inclusion of any proposed new degree program in the USF BOT- and BOG-approved Annual Work Plan for the University of South Florida System (USF System) is required before a proposal may be considered for approval at the USF System level.

All new degree program proposals will be prepared in accordance with the BOG/SUS new degree proposal format, following the USF System Procedures for Authorization of New Degree Programs. Both of these resources are available on the web site of the Office of the System Provost and Executive Vice President.

As established by the BOG and stated in USF BOT Policy 07-001, Governance Policy for the USF System, USF (which includes the main campus in Tampa, its College of Marine Science and USF Health) is the only doctoral degree granting institution within the USF System. In approving new degree programs for implementation authorization, the USF BOT (for bachelor’s and master’s programs) and the BOG consider the sufficiency of the USF System and institutional proposal evaluation process, the distinctive mission of the USF System and the institution, alignment with the SUS Strategic Plan and the USF System and institutional strategic plan, and the extent to which the programs contribute to the economic development of the local community and the state, as demonstrated by alignment with the Areas of Programmatic Strategic Emphasis adopted as part of the SUS Strategic Plan.

Approval of New Degree Programs at Second or Subsequent USF System Institutions and at 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, that already exist at an institution within the USF System, will not be implemented at a second or subsequent USF System institution or at any off-campus instructional location unless approved by the USF BOT.

Each such program must meet the new degree program approval criteria in BOG Regulation 8.011, and must undergo the same approval process (including placement on the Annual Work Plan) as that prescribed above for new degree program authorization in the USF System.

This requirement does not apply to programs currently approved for one location that share faculty and students between or among instructional locations (e.g., hosted programs and off-campus programs delivered by faculty from the home institution).

Authorized and signed by:

Ralph Wilcox, Provost and Executive Vice President
Judy Genshaft, President