

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
October 25, 2018

SUBJECT: New Bachelor Degree Program in the Florida College System

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Degree program with prior baccalaureate authorization:

- Valencia College - Bachelor of Applied Science in Software Development

A Notice of Intent followed by a proposal was submitted to the Department of Education for this proposed Board action. Appropriate notification of intent was provided to the Board of Governors, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida and the Commission for Independent Education, as required in section 1007.33, Florida Statutes. An extensive review of criteria was conducted of the proposal submitted, and written comments and recommendations were provided to the college. The final submission was subsequently received and is being submitted to the State Board of Education for approval.

The proposed new baccalaureate degree program is an opportunity to provide citizens of Florida greater access to higher education.

- Software developers are the creative driving force and are responsible for the entire software development process. They collaborate with clients, software engineers and software programmers to develop, test and correct any issues. Software developers lead and provide technical guidance throughout the software development lifecycle.
- At Valencia College, prior approved bachelor degrees range from nursing to electrical and computer engineering technology to radiologic and imaging sciences.
- The BAS in Software Development has been designated a \$10,000 degree — eligible students will be able to complete the program for a total cost of no more than \$10,000 in tuition and fees.
- UCF, the only state university in Valencia’s service area, is suspending its BAS degree tracks, including a track in software development. UCF has expressed its support of Valencia’s intent to offer the BAS in Software Development.
- The Direct Connect Consortium, a group of local higher education institutions, focused on meeting the needs of the local region, also supports Valencia’s BAS in Software Development. Prior to a member of the consortium moving a degree proposal through the approval process, all members must review and support the program proposal.
- This program is a 2+2 pathway designed for students in the Computer Programming and Analysis Associate in Science (AS) degree. Associate in Arts as well as students in Computer Information Technology degree and Network Engineering Technology AS programs also have a pathway.

- In 2018, U.S. News and World Report ranked the Software Developer #1 in all three categories of Best Technology Jobs, 100 Best Jobs and Best STEM Jobs.
- Department of Economic Opportunity projections indicate average annual job openings of 1,261 in software development in Valencia’s service district. The regional supply of graduates is small (less than 200)—resulting in an unmet need for more than 1,000 graduates.
- Students graduating from the BAS in Software Development will be prepared to work in a wide variety of industries; tourism, defense, entertainment, health care, and space exploration are among the highly diverse employers of software developers in the Orange and Osceola regions.
- Members of several Advisory Councils, who are local employers, supported the creation of the BAS degree in Software Development at Valencia, including iBoxx, Unikey Technologies, Sprint-Network Operations Solutions and Universal Creative.

Supporting Documentation Included: Valencia College’s Proposal for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Software Development (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Dr. Carrie Henderson, Executive Vice Chancellor, Florida College System and Dr. Kathleen Plinske, Executive Vice President and Provost, Valencia College