

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
August 18, 2021

SUBJECT: New Bachelor Degree Program in the Florida College System

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, F.S.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hillsborough Community College (HCC) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). 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.

The degree program will prepare students for higher level employment as nurses, nursing supervisors, and in other specific nursing specialties in areas such as nursing leadership, nursing management, nursing education, infection control, nursing informatics, quality management, community resources liaisons, health navigation, nurse researchers, community health nursing and health insurance liaisons.

Labor market projections indicate a projected increase in demand of more than 1,271 annual job openings in HCC's service area. The five-year average supply has been approximately 695, which brings the estimated annual workforce unmet need to 576. In response to local labor market demand and in light of the University of South Florida phasing out its Registered Nurse (RN) to BSN specialization, this is an opportune time for HCC to fill the void and to meet the regional employer demand in nursing.

A letter of support was written by the University of South Florida in support of the proposal. Additionally, the following health care organizations within the Tampa Bay region: AdventHealth, Bay Care St. Joseph's Hospital, Lakeland Regional Health, Moffitt Cancer Center, and Tampa General Hospital. There were no letters of objection or alternative proposals for the proposed degree program.

An extensive review of criteria was conducted for the proposal submitted, and written comments and recommendations were provided to the college. The final proposal is being submitted to the State Board of Education for consideration. If approved, this will be HCC's first bachelor degree program.

Documentation Included: Summary of Hillsborough Community College's Proposal and HCC Full Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System, Dr. Ken Atwater, President, Hillsborough Community College, and guests