

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
February 9, 2022

SUBJECT: New Bachelor Degree Programs in the Florida College System

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Seminole State College of Florida (SSCF) submitted three (3) notice of intent forms followed by proposals to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education K-6, a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education K-12, and a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration. Appropriate notifications of intent were 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 for the proposals submitted, and written comments and recommendations were provided to the college. The final proposals are being submitted to the State Board of Education for consideration.

There were no letters of objection or alternative proposals for the proposed degree programs.

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education K-6

The degree program will prepare students to become certified Elementary Education K-6 teachers. Students will graduate with a teaching certificate in Elementary Education K-6, as well as an ESOL and Reading Endorsement. Graduates will be eligible to teach kindergarten, all elementary grade levels, and sixth grade in middle school. Additional opportunities include administrative and leadership roles, positions outside the traditional public-school setting, and opportunities in careers in publishing, literacy, and instructional design.

Labor market projections indicate a projected increase in demand of 282 annual job openings in SSCF's service area. Regarding the 5-year average supply, there are currently no other institutions that offer a similar degree program within SSCF's service district. However, in response to local labor market urgent needs expressed by Seminole County Public Schools leadership for an Elementary Education K-6 Baccalaureate Degree, there is a need for baccalaureate graduates within this field to fill this critical teacher shortage area.

Letters of support were provided by the former Superintendent of Seminole County Public Schools, the Executive Director of Seminole County Public Schools, and the Vice Provost of the University of Central Florida.

Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education K-12

The degree program will prepare students to become certified Exceptional Student Education K-12 teachers. Students will graduate with an Exceptional Student Education K-12 teaching certificate, as well as an ESOL and Reading Endorsement. Graduates will be qualified to teach exceptional student education in grades K-12, Special Education Teacher-Kindergarten and Elementary, and All other, Special Education Teachers. Additional opportunities include administrative and leadership roles, positions outside the traditional public-school setting, and opportunities in careers in publishing, literacy, and instructional design.

Labor market projections indicate a projected increase in demand of 25 annual job openings in SSCF's service area. Regarding the 5-year average supply, there are currently no other institutions that offer a similar degree program within SSCF's service district. However, in response to local labor market urgent needs expressed by Seminole County Public Schools leadership for an Elementary Education K-6 Baccalaureate Degree, there is a need for baccalaureate graduates within this field to fill this critical teacher shortage area.

Letters of support were provided by the former Superintendent of Seminole County Public Schools, the Executive Director of Seminole County Public Schools, and the Vice Provost of the University of Central Florida.

Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration

The degree program will prepare students for management level employment opportunities in the sectors of law enforcement, fire services, corrections, and emergency medical services as First Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives, Forensic Science Technicians, Community and Social Service Specialists, Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers, Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists, Firefighters, and First Line Supervisors of Fire Fighting and Prevention Workers.

Labor market projections in the criminal justice fields indicate a projected increase in demand of 97 annual job openings in SSC's service area and a projected increase of 39 job openings for fire services and emergency medical services (total 136). Regarding the 5-year average supply, there are currently no other institutions that offer a similar degree program within SSC's service district. However, in response to local labor market urgent needs expressed by local agencies for a Public Safety Administration Baccalaureate Degree, there is a need for baccalaureate graduates within this field.

Letters of support were provided from various criminal justice, fire services, and emergency medical services agencies, including Criminal Justice, Fire, and EMS Advisory Committees and the University of Central Florida (UCF) and the Central Florida Higher Education Consortium, that expressed the need for a baccalaureate degree to prepare graduates for administrative and management opportunities within the fields of law enforcement, fire services, corrections, and emergency medical services.

Documentation Included: Seminole State College of Florida's Proposals for a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education K-6, a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education K-12, a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration and Public Safety Supplemental Materials (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System, Dr. Georgia Lorenz, President, Seminole State College of Florida, and guests