

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
April 17, 2024

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

St. Petersburg College (SPC) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Cardiopulmonary Sciences. 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 proposed baccalaureate degree program will provide a strong foundation in leadership, management, and health care delivery systems and will lead to advanced credentials and increased employment and advancement opportunities for current respiratory therapists. Graduates will be prepared for roles as respiratory care managers, directors, case managers, researchers, and infection control specialists.

Labor market projections indicate a projected demand of 35 annual job openings in SPC's service area. Currently, there are no other regionally accredited postsecondary institutions in the college's service district that offer the same or similar program. Statewide, three (3) Florida College System institutions and one (1) State University System institutions offer the same or similar programs.

Letters of support were provided by the president of the University of South Florida and multiple industry partners including the American Association of Respiratory Care, Florida Society of Respiratory Care, Bayfront Hospital, John Hopkins All Children's Hospital, 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.

Documentation Included: St. Petersburg College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Cardiopulmonary Sciences (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System, Dr. Matthew Liao-Troth, St. Petersburg College, and guests