

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

February 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of New Specialized Associate in Arts Transfer (SAAT) Degree Program(s) in the Florida College System, "Lake-Sumter State College – Biology & Health Sciences"

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lake-Sumter State College (LSSC) submitted two (2) notice of intent applications followed by two (2) proposal applications to the Department of Education to offer two (2) SAAT degree programs in Biology and Health Sciences. Articulation agreements signed by the University of Central Florida (UCF) and LSSC were also provided. Appropriate notification of intent was provided to the Board of Governors and to Florida College System (FCS) institutions, as required in section 1007.25, Florida Statutes.

Labor market projections indicate a projected surplus in demand of the annual job openings over the next eight (8) years for the below listed bachelor's degree programs in the articulated University's workforce region.

- Biology - Demand (520), 5-Year Average Supply (357), Unmet Need (163 annual)
- Health Sciences - Demand (912), 5-Year Average Supply (873), Unmet Need (39 annual)

The SAAT degree programs will streamline transfer for students who need supplemental lower-division coursework beyond the 60 credits required for a general Associate in Arts Degree, and will guarantee admission to articulated bachelor's degree programs at the UCF.

An extensive review of criteria was conducted for the proposal applications submitted, and written comments and recommendations were provided to the college. There were no comments submitted by the Florida Board of Governors or by FCS institutions. The final proposal applications are being submitted to the State Board of Education for consideration.

Supporting Documentation Included: Lake-Sumter State College Proposal for two (2) SAAT Degree Programs in Biology and Health Sciences (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System, President John Temple, Lake-Sumter State College, and guests