



STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM *of* FLORIDA

Board of Governors

State University System Degree Completion Initiative

Dr. Pam Northrup, Associate Provost/Dean University of West Florida
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Pilot Partnership

- Florida Board of Governors
- Florida Distance Learning Consortium
- Florida International University
- University of Florida
- University of North Florida
- University of South Florida
- University of West Florida



Purpose of Pilot Project

Test innovative, scalable, cooperative program models and instructional strategies to increase the number of Floridians holding baccalaureate degrees aligned with fast-growing occupations and overall workforce demands.



The Model

- **Audience:** reentry students, including military and veterans
- **Curriculum Innovation:** online using excellence in online learning already in Florida, testing accelerated models for delivery
- **Degree Completion Advisors:** significant support to guide students to degree
- **Website Development & Centralized Advertising:** significant messaging of the initiative, use of resources that already exist in Florida
- **Evaluation:** Continuous Improvement
- **Administration & Collaboration:**
Five SUS institutions working together to offer degree programs that align to workforce needs in Florida.



Goals

- Provide a **single point access** for students who have stopped out of college to re-enter, engage and complete bachelor's degree. *[in partnership with FDLC's and FACTS.org web presence]*
- Offer **innovative programming** to meet reentry student needs and busy schedules (online, accelerated) *[in partnership with SUS institutions]*
- **Guide** reentry students through convenient pathways to successful degree completion. *[using 'concierge' approach to academic advising]*
- Establish a network of **support services** among participating institutions.



Two Phases of the Initiative

- **Phase 1: Pilot Project** - (2 years: Fall 2012-Spring 2014)
 - Limited academic offerings aligned with high demand occupations, fully online
 - Testing of curricular innovation to reduce time to degree
 - Limited number of partner institutions
- **Phase 2 - Full Statewide Degree Completion Initiative**
 - Expansion of partner institutions and academic offerings



Phase 1: Pilot Programs

- Bachelors of General Studies, USF
- Bachelors of Interdisciplinary Information Technology, UWF
 - Selected specialization areas available for students from all six SUS participating institutions. (UF, FIU, UNF, USF and UWF)
 - Discussions are underway with St. Petersburg College and Florida State College at Jacksonville



Pilot Curriculum Innovation

Develop models of innovative uses of program delivery to include:

- Online Courses
- Accelerated Program Plans
- Accelerated Course Scheduling
- Prior Learning Assessment
- Competency-Based Education
- Collaborative Course Offerings Among Institutions



Student Support Model

- Degree Completion Specialists at each institution to support student needs
 - Concierge Approach to Advising
 - Collaborative with other institutional Degree Completion Specialists
 - Provide seamless transition to students between institutions
- Utilize services and support through FDLC and FACTS.org



Degree Completion Student

- **Step 1: Select Bachelors Degree Completion Program**
 - Bachelors of General Studies - USF
 - Bachelors of Interdisciplinary Information Technology - UWF
- **Step 2: Select Specializations/Concentrations for Bachelors Degree**
 - Student and advisor select from approved list
- **Step 3: Complete degree with significant guidance & support from advisors located at each institution.**



Degree Administration

- Admissions through degree granting institution (for the pilot, USF and UWF will serve as degree granting institutions)
- Advising through home institution (USF, UWF)
- Concentrations available from authorized list of institutions (UF, FIU, UNF, UWF, USF)
- Student credit hours accrue to the institution offering the course
- Degree administration and reporting through home institution including monitoring of residency requirements and compliance with accreditation standards.



Pilot Coordinating Council

Representatives from each participating SUS institution, Florida Board of Governors and Florida Distance Learning Consortium will:

- Maintain responsibility to align programs and specialization areas with workforce occupations and to ensure academic learning compacts and student learning outcomes are met
- Determine best practices for innovative program delivery
- Provide guidance for marketing efforts and ongoing student enrollments
- Ensure efficiency in the application and enrollment process
- Ensure alignment with SACS for reporting and quality assurance standards and guidelines



Formative Evaluation

- Data collected and monitored each semester to determine pilot success
 - Student Success
 - applications, acceptances, admissions, enrollments, persistence, graduates, # of courses enrolled/completed/success. Monitor time to graduation. Student satisfaction, Graduate success.
 - Innovative Delivery Methods
 - Success of competency-based model? Success of Prior Learning Assessment? Success of shared specializations?
- Data will be reported to the Pilot Program Coordinating Council for revision as required (based on data)



Current Status of Pilot Project

- Degree Completion Model and Business Plan being finalized by work team of five SUS institutions, the Florida Distance Learning Consortium and Board of Governors.
- Two active degree completion programs in place to build upon (USF, UWF)
- All five institutions will offer specializations and concentrations to meet workforce needs (USF, UWF, UF, FIU, FAMU, UNF)
- Cooperative Program Agreement(s) drafted for credit transfer between partner institutions.



Pilot Project Model (Annual)

- **1.6 million for SUS initiative ANNUALLY to develop and test the model**
 - Curriculum Innovation (\$400,000)
 - Testing competency-based education; prior learning assessment
 - Degree Completion Advisors (\$400,000)
 - Providing support to students at each institution
 - Website Development & Centralized Advertising (\$500,000)
 - Partnership with FDLC and FACTS.org Statewide Marketing
 - Evaluation (\$25,000)
 - Collect and monitor data, provide reporting
 - Administration & Collaboration (\$290,000)

