

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA**

SUBJECT: Ph.D in Biostatistics at Florida State University

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider for Approval the Ph.D. in Biostatistics at Florida State University
Classification of Instructional Program Code 26.1102

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Section 7(d), Article IX, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Ph.D. in Biostatistics will prepare students in a field where there is a noted workforce shortage. Graduates of the program will be able to meet statewide workforce and research needs that provide critical support for academic, industrial, and health professions. As an interdisciplinary program, the curriculum will encourage students to expand coursework to other disciplines such as medicine, biology, computer science, life science, and epidemiology in order to develop as true interdisciplinary scientists.

The proposed program is consistent with the 2005-2013 SUS strategic goal of creating access to and production of degrees in an area that meets documented statewide professional and workforce needs in the areas of academia, industry, and government. Among others, the Public Health Association and the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institute of Health, have indicated a shortage and critical need for technical support in medical science and health care areas. Although the University of Florida and the University of South Florida both have concentrations in biostatistics within doctorates in Public Health, there is no Ph.D. in Biostatistics offered in the State University System or in Florida. Because the proposed FSU program involves existing faculty with no additional facilities or resources, proposed implementation costs are low. Thirteen current faculty with numerous publications and a record of scholarship and leadership in the field of statistics will be associated with the new program. If approved, the recruitment process will begin immediately with a proposed implementation date of fall 2007.

Documentation Included: Staff Analysis

Facilitators/Presenters: Vice Chancellor LeMon
Richard Stevens, Director, Academic and Student Affairs
Florida State University Representatives