

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
March 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Ph.D. in Planetary and Space Sciences, CIP 40.0203, University of Central Florida

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Consider approval of the Ph.D. in Planetary and Space Sciences, CIP 40.0203, at the University of Central Florida.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Board of Governors Regulation 8.011

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The University of Central Florida (UCF) proposes establishing a Ph.D. in Planetary and Space Sciences within the Department of Physics and the Florida Space Institute. The proposed program will focus on developing space instruments and components by integrating AI, planetary sciences, physics, and astronomy through advanced space research. If approved, the proposed Ph.D. will be the first program under CIP code 40.0203 in the System.

Graduates of the program will be prepared for jobs such as astronomers, atmospheric and space scientists, and postsecondary faculty. According to the Florida Department of Commerce, some of these areas are projected to grow in Florida by nearly four to twelve percent through 2032.

The University of Central Florida plans to charge the currently approved graduate tuition rate of \$369.65 per credit hour for resident students and \$1,194.05 per credit hour for non-resident students.

The University of Central Florida's Board of Trustees approved the program on December 5, 2024. If approved by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, the proposal will be forwarded to the full Board for consideration. If approved by the Board of Governors, UCF will implement the program effective fall 2025.

Dr. Lynn Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Innovation, will provide an overview of the proposal.

Supporting Documentation Included:

1. Board Staff Analysis
2. Proposal

Facilitators/Presenters:

Dr. Lynn Nelson