

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

September 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval of the New Specialized Associate in Arts Transfer (SAAT) Degree Programs in the Florida College System

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Valencia College (VC) submitted five (5) notice of intent applications followed by five (5) proposal applications to the Department of Education to offer five (5) SAAT degree programs in Biology, Health Sciences, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. Articulation agreements signed by the University of Central Florida (UCF) and VC 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), Supply (320), Unmet Need (200 annual)
- Civil Engineering - Demand (320), Supply (132), Unmet Need (188 annual)
- Electrical Engineering - Demand (340), Supply (137), Unmet Need (203 annual)
- Health Sciences - Demand (912), Supply (860), Unmet Need (52 annual)
- Mechanical Engineering - Demand (501), Supply (433), Unmet Need (68 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: Valencia College Proposal for Five (5) SAAT Degree Programs in Biology, Health Sciences, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Kathy Hebda, Chancellor of Florida College System; President Kathleen Plinske, Valencia College, and guests