

FLORIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 19, 2002

SUBJECT: Limited Access Status for the University of Florida's Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Digital Arts and Sciences

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve Limited Access status for the B.A. and B.S. in Digital Arts and Sciences (50.0705) at the University of Florida

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Section 240.2097, F.S., directs the Board of Regents (BOR) to adopt rules regarding the assignment of Limited Access status to certain baccalaureate programs. Section 240.209(2)(r), F.S., requires monitoring the extent of Limited Access programs within the state universities and to report admissions and enrollment data annually to the State Board of Education and the Legislature. These responsibilities were among those transferred from the BOR to the Florida Board of Education. Rule 6C-6.001(10) addresses the criteria and procedures for designating Limited Access programs.

Baccalaureate majors may restrict access at the upper division if they have been approved by the Board as Limited Access programs. The current criteria for receiving this designation include providing an adequate justification for restricting access, specifying the criteria by which students will be selected, ensuring that admissions criteria will not disadvantage community college transfer students in relation to the university's first-time-in-college students, and providing a strategy for maintaining or improving student diversity.

Many of the visual and performing arts programs have received Limited Access status because they require auditions or portfolios to demonstrate talent and may require special studios to accommodate a finite number of students. Both of these requirements exist for the BA/BS in Digital Arts and Sciences (DAS), which is a recently approved interdisciplinary program that runs two discreet tracks. The B.A. is a visual design degree offered through the College of Fine Arts; the B.S. is a computer technology degree offered through the College of Engineering. Both tracks require a solid educational foundation in art and computer engineering, with students in each taking courses from the two disciplines.

UF requests that both the B.A. and B.S. in DAS be designated Limited Access in order

to ensure that students have the combined ability and skills needed for success, and also to ensure that every person enrolled will have adequate access to appropriately equipped laboratories, technology, and faculty. The enrollment in the specified tracks will be limited to 64 upper division students. Acceptance to both tracks will be based on an evaluation of each applicant's portfolio to determine the student's potential for success as a digital media designer and/or developer. Community college transfers will be afforded the same opportunity as native students for admission. UF also plans to provide the DAS design core through distance learning to those community college students who may not have access to similar courses at their home institution. The university is expecting a higher percentage of minorities in these programs because of the demonstrated interest in the programs by minority students, and because the College of Fine Arts has an active minority recruitment program that includes both community colleges and historically black colleges throughout the Southeast.

The University of Florida Board of Trustees met on December 13, 2001 and approved implementation of this baccalaureate program.

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

Facilitators / Presenters:

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