

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
July 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of New Specialized Associate in Arts Transfer (SAAT) Degree Program(s) in the Florida College System, Northwest Florida State College – Civil, Computer, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) submitted four (4) notice of intent applications followed by four (4) proposal applications to the Department of Education to offer four (4) SAAT degree programs in Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. Articulation agreements signed by the University of West Florida (UWF) and NWFSC 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.

- Civil Engineering - Demand (20), 5-Year Average Supply (1080 statewide figures), Unmet Annual Need (20)
- Computer Engineering – Demand (145), 5-Year Average Supply (13), Unmet Annual Need (132)
- Electrical Engineering - Demand (24), 5-Year Average Supply (42), Unmet Annual Need (-18)
- Mechanical Engineering - Demand (50), 5-Year Average Supply (56), Unmet Annual Need (-6)

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 UWF.

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.

Documentation Included: Northwest Florida State College Proposal for four (4) SAAT Degree Programs in Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System; President Mel Ponder, Northwest Florida State College, and guests