



**Board of Trustees
Academics and Campus Environment Committee**

**Tuesday, May 13, 2025
Microsoft Teams**

Trustees: Chair Oscar Horton; Charbel Barakat, Suryakanth Prasad Gottipati,
Lauran Monbarren, Rick Piccolo, Melissa Seixas, David Simmons
USF Foundation Board Liaison: Debbie Sembler
Provost and Executive Vice President: Prasant Mohapatra

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Comments Chair Oscar Horton
- II. Public Comments Subject to USF Procedure Chair Horton
- III. New Business – Action Items
 - a. Approval of Minutes Chair Horton
 - i. [February 17, 2025, Meeting](#)
 - ii. [April 23, 2025, Meeting](#)
 - b. [Faculty Nominations for Tenure](#) Provost Prasant Mohapatra
Sr. Assoc Vice President Javier Cuevas
 - c. [Tenure as a Condition of Employment](#) Provost Prasant Mohapatra
 - d. [M.A. French Termination – CIP 16.0901](#) Dean Elizabeth Spiller
- IV. New Business – Information Items Chair Horton
 - a. [Academic Degree Programs Anticipated for AY2025-2026 \(BOG Reg 8.011\)](#) Provost Prasant Mohapatra
Vice Provost Terry Chisolm
- V. Adjournment Chair Horton

**USF Board of Trustees
ACE Committee
Microsoft Teams Meeting
February 17, 2025**

MINUTES

ACE Committee Chair Oscar Horton welcomed everyone and convened the meeting.

Chair Horton asked Kiara Gayle to call the Roll.

Trustee Suryakanth Gottipati
Trustee Oscar Horton
Trustee Luran Monbarren
Trustee Fredrick Piccolo
Trustee Melissa Seixas
Trustee David Simmons

A quorum was confirmed for the committee meeting.

There were no public comments.

Chair Horton proceeded with the meeting.

New Business – Action Items

- a. Approval of Minutes:** Oscar Horton led the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on November 25th. The motion was moved by Trustee Piccolo and seconded by Trustee Gottipati, with all members in favor.
- b. Faculty Tenure Nominations:** Prasant presented three faculty nominations for tenure as a condition of employment. The nominees were Dr. Zinning, Dr. Sheturu Iguchi, and Dr. Stein Vermund, all of whom have impressive credentials and previous tenure at other institutions. The nominations were approved unanimously.
 - **Dr. Jinying Zhao's Credentials:** Dr. Zhao joined the Morsani College of Medicine on August 30th, 2024, as a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and Health Informatics Institute. She is an accomplished researcher with expertise in genetic epidemiology, statistical genetics, multiomics, bioinformatics, and computational biology. She has a strong track record of obtaining extramural funding, serving as PI on 10 NIH-funded RO1s with combined funding close to \$31 million. Dr. Zhao comes from the University of Florida, where she served as

the Dean's Endowed Chair Professor of Epidemiology and Director of the Center of Genetic Epidemiology.

- **Dr. Satoru Eguchi's Credentials:** Dr. Eguchi joined the Morsani College of Medicine on January 20th, 2025, as a professor in the Department of Surgery, Division of Surgical Research. He is an internationally recognized senior investigator in cardiovascular biology and hypertension research. His research focuses on cardiovascular endocrinology, and he has made groundbreaking discoveries in this area. Dr. Eguchi has a strong track record in NIH funding, currently holding two RO1 NIH grants, and has published over 200 peer-reviewed papers. He comes from Temple University School of Medicine, where he was a tenured professor. He earned his MD from Tohoku University School of Medicine and PhD from Tokyo Medical and Dental University.
- **Dr. Sten Vermund's Credentials:** Dr. Vermund joined as the Dean of the College of Public Health on January 1st, 2025, and will hold a Distinguished University Health Professor Public Health & Medicine; Senior Vice President, USF Health. He is an internationally recognized physician-scientist and a member of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Vermund has an active federal grant portfolio close to \$3 million and has over 500 publications in prestigious journals and presentations at international conferences. His research focuses on HIV and AIDS, and he has been on the editorial board of 13 prestigious journals. He comes from Yale University, where he was a tenured professor of Pediatrics and Public Health.
- **Annual Plan for Headcount:** Oscar Horton inquired about the annual plan for headcount and whether these positions were included in the plan or created as needed. Prasant explained that during the annual budget process, a plan for the number of faculty positions for each college is created. However, if exceptional talent is identified, positions can be created above the allocated positions to bring in superstars.
- **The board approved the tenure nominations for Dr. Zhao, Dr. Eguchi, and Dr. Vermund, with motions from Trustees Piccolo and Gottipati**

C. New Degree Proposal: Interim Dean Jenifer Jasinski Schneider presented a proposal for a new Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science and Kinesiology. The degree aims to prepare students for professional certifications and various health and wellness workforce positions. The proposal was approved unanimously.

- **Degree Overview:** Jenifer Jasinski Schneider, the interim Dean of the College of Education, presented a proposal for a new Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science and Kinesiology. The degree aims to prepare students for professional

certifications in sports medicine and strength and conditioning, as well as health and wellness workforce positions such as fitness, strength and conditioning, cardiac rehabilitation, and performance athletics. It also prepares students for postgraduate studies in exercise and kinesiology, physical therapy, physician assistant, and occupational therapy.

- **Workforce Demand:** Dean Jasinski Schneider highlighted the growing demand for jobs in exercise science and kinesiology at both the national and state levels. The degree is needed to meet this demand and provide students with the necessary skills and certifications for various health and wellness positions.
- **Program Structure:** The proposed program includes a core curriculum with three new concentrations: sports nutrition, strength and conditioning, and exercise and wellness. The program provides experiential learning opportunities throughout the curriculum, with students gaining hands-on experience in various fields. The current enrollment is 450 students, and the projected headcount is expected to increase over five years based on market analysis.
- **Support and Approval:** There is support for this degree among other state universities, and the current Master of Science program already exists in the appropriate CIP code. The proposal requests that the Bachelor's degree join the Master's program under the same CIP code. **Trustee Piccolo motioned for approval with a second by Trustee Monbarren. The proposal was approved unanimously by the board.**

d. Master's Degree in FinTech: Dean David Blackwell presented a proposal for a new self-supporting Master's degree in FinTech. The program aims to provide students with expertise in both finance and technology, with strong demand and high starting salaries. The proposal was approved unanimously.

- **Program Overview:** Dean Blackwell presented a proposal for a new self-supporting Master's degree in FinTech. The program aims to provide students with expertise in both finance and technology, covering areas such as blockchain, cybersecurity, and algorithmic trading. The degree is a STEM program, emphasizing the deep involvement and learning of technology in financial transactions.
- **Industry Demand:** Dean Blackwell highlighted the strong demand for FinTech expertise in the financial services industry. The program is designed to be accessible to both traditional students who are looking to up their skillset and professionals looking to upscale as well. The demand for FinTech professionals is growing, with starting salaries ranging from \$80,000 to over \$100,000 per year.

- **Program Support:** The FinTech program is supported by the FinTech Center within the Kate Tiedemann School of Business and Finance. The center has strong donor support, and faculty members are in place to teach the program. The program has also received positive feedback from industry executives and has collaborated with the Tampa Bay Wave on a FinTech accelerator.
 - **Self-Supporting Model:** Dean Blackwell explained that the program will be self-supporting, with funding primarily coming from student tuition. This model allows for flexibility and scalability, enabling the program to grow and add faculty and staff as needed. The self-supporting model also provides flexibility in student support and the acquisition of specialized software and data to satisfy the needs of the program.
 - **Approval and Comments: Trustee** **The proposal was approved unanimously by the board.** Trustee David Simmons commented on the importance of developing a strategy for self-supporting programs and praised the FinTech program as a good example for this model. Student Trustee Gottipati expressed enthusiasm for the program, highlighting its benefits for international students due to its STEM designation. **Trustee Gottipati motioned for approval with a second by Trustee Piccolo. The proposal was approved unanimously.**
- e. Reduction of Credit Hours-Chemical Engineering:** Vice Provost Terry Chisolm presented a proposal to reduce the credit hours for the Chemical Engineering program from 131 to 125. The BOT has the authority to approve a reduction of credit hours in programs approved to be greater than 120 credit hours. This recommendation was made after careful review of the curriculum and ABET standards. **The proposal was approved unanimously.**
- f. Textbook and Instructional Material Affordability:** Vice Provost Steve Stark presented updates to USF regulation 3.029 to align with BOG Reg 8.003. The updates require faculty to submit textbook order forms for all courses and attest that they have reviewed the materials.
- **Regulation Updates:** Stephen presented updates to USF regulation 3.029 to align with BOG Reg 8.003. The updates require faculty to submit textbook order forms for all courses, including those that do not require textbooks or other instructional materials for purchase. Faculty must also attest that they have reviewed the materials and that they are appropriate for the course.
 - **Attestation Process:** The attestation process requires faculty to confirm that they have reviewed the required course materials, including textbooks, test and assignment questions, supplemental readings, and any other instructional

materials. **Trustee Monbarren motioned for approval with a second by Trustee Piccolo. The updates were approved by the committee.**

New Business – Information Items

- a. Accreditation Update:** Christopher Combie provided an update on USF's reaffirmation accreditation process. The site visit is scheduled to begin today, February 17, 2025 and will conclude in December, 2025. USF has performed well in the off-site review, with only minor additional documentation required.

Having no other business Chair Horton adjourned the ACE Committee meeting.

**USF Board of Trustees
ACE Committee
Microsoft Teams Meeting
April 23, 2025**

MINUTES

ACE Committee Chair Oscar Horton welcomed everyone and convened the meeting.

Chair Horton asked Kiara Gayle to call the Roll.

Trustee Charbel Barakat
Trustee Suryakanth Gottipati
Trustee Oscar Horton
Trustee Luran Monbarren
Trustee Fredrick Piccolo
Trustee Melissa Seixas
Trustee David Simmons

There were no public comments.

- **Overview and Approval Request:** Oscar highlighted the importance of the annual event and sought approval to present the plan to the board.
- **President's Remarks:** Rhea emphasized the year-round effort and the focus on student success.

Roll Call and Quorum:

- **Roll Call:** Kiara conducted the roll call, confirming the presence of trustees and establishing a quorum.

Presentation by Provost:

Provost Mohapatra described the meeting as crucial for reviewing student success and faculty excellence efforts.

- **Metrics and Performance:** The Provost detailed the alignment with USF and SUS accountability plans, legislative budget requests, and performance-based funding.
- **PBF and Preeminence Metrics:** There was discussion about the history, metrics, and significant funding associated with PBF and preeminence.
- **Performance Review:** The Provost highlighted progress in various metrics, including student employment, median wages, graduation rates, and retention.

- **Challenges:** Noted areas needing improvement, such as the university access rate and doctoral degrees awarded.

Strategic Investments and Revenue Sources:

- **Strategic Plan Alignment:** There was emphasis regarding the need to align with the SUS 2030 plan and invest in top-quality faculty recruitment.
- **Student Retention and Advising:** Focused on improving retention rates through better advising and course offerings.
- **Infrastructure and Research:** Addressed the need for better classroom infrastructure and research facilities.
- **Revenue Enhancement:** Discussed enhancing endowment funds, securing large research grants, and advocating for state support.

Questions and Comments:

- **Trustee Charbel** asked about the one-year post-graduation employment rate and its breakdown by degree category.
- **Assoc VP Valeria Garcia** responded to Trustee Charbel's question, explaining the limitations of the data provided by the Board of Governors.
- **Trustee Simmons** commented on the importance of making the university a top place for graduate students and supporting their success.

Approval and Transition:

- **Approval of Plan:** Chair Horton called for a motion to approve the plan, which was seconded and approved
- **Transition to Full Board Meeting:** Vice Chair Griffin transitioned to the full board meeting, acknowledging the efforts of the team.

Agenda Item:

USF Board of Trustees
June 3, 2025

Issue: Faculty Nominations for Tenure

Proposed action: Approval of Nominees for Tenure

Executive Summary:

Attached is USF's list of faculty nominations for tenure for review and approval by the USF Board of Trustees. President Rhea Law has certified that the nominations for tenure have met the requirement and conditions contained in USF Regulations, Policies, and Procedures. She is satisfied that the nominees will make a significant professional contribution to USF and the academic community in general. If approved, tenure will be awarded effective August 7, 2025.

Financial Impact:

USF faculty granted tenure and promotion will receive a 9% salary increase, and \$5,000 to Associate Professor and \$7,000 to Professor in special achievement. Faculty granted tenure only will not receive a monetary award.

BOT Committee Review Date: 03/13/2025

Supporting Documentation Online (please circle):

Yes

No

- Memorandum to William Weatherford, Chair, USF Board of Trustees
- Faculty Nominations for Tenure

Prepared by: Prasant Mohapatra, Provost and Executive Vice President



MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2025
TO: William Weatherford, Chair
FROM: Rhea Law, President
SUBJECT: Faculty Nominations for Tenure

I am requesting approval by the USF Board of Trustees of the enclosed Faculty Nominations for Tenure at USF. Of the twenty-two (22) applications, eighteen (18) are nominated for tenure, three (3) were denied, and one (1) was withdrawn. Additionally, of the three (3) applications from USF Health, three (3) are nominated for tenure.

In nominating these faculty members for tenure, I certify that the requirements and conditions contained in USF Regulations, Policies, and Procedures for the granting of tenure have been met. I am satisfied that the nominees will make significant professional contribution to USF and the academic community.

Enclosures

Faculty Nomination for Tenure - 2024-2025 Effective 2025-2026
USF Board of Trustees Meeting - June 3, 2025

Alphabetized by College then by Last Name

College	First Name	Last Name	CURRENT RANK	NEW RANK	Department/School	Degree of Effort*
Behavioral & Community Sciences	Heather	George	Professor	<i>Professor (no change)</i>	Child & Family Studies	1.0
College of Arts & Sciences	Peng	Chen	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	School of Public Affairs	1.0
College of Arts & Sciences	Peter	Clayson	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Psychology	1.0
College of Arts & Sciences	Jacob	Gayles	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Physics	1.0
College of Arts & Sciences	Sonia	Ivancic	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Communication	1.0
College of Arts & Sciences	Matthew	Kessler	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	World Languages	1.0
College of Arts & Sciences	Julia	Koets	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	English	1.0
College of Arts & Sciences	Andrew	Kramer	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Integrative Biology	1.0
College of Arts & Sciences	Diana	Leon-Boys	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Communication	1.0
College of Arts & Sciences	Heather	O'Leary	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Anthropology	1.0
College of Arts & Sciences	Fan	Yang	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Zimmerman School of Advertising & Mass Communications	1.0
College of Design, Art & Performance	Elizabeth	Bourgeois	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	School of Theatre & Dance	1.0
College of Education	Mandie	Dunn	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Teaching & Learning	1.0
College of Education	Veselina	Lambrev	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Language, Literacy, Ed.D., Exceptional Education, and Physical Education	1.0
College of Education	Alexandra	Panos	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Language, Literacy, Ed.D., Exceptional Education, and Physical Education	1.0
College of Engineering	Christopher	Alexander	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Civil & Environmental Engineering	1.0
College of Engineering	Arman	Sargolzaei	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Mechanical Engineering	1.0
College of Engineering	Cai Mike	Wang	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Mechanical Engineering	1.0
Morsani College of Medicine	Elena	Suvorova	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Internal Medicine	1.0
Morsani College of Medicine	Patricia	Teran Wodzinski	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Physical Therapy	1.0
Public Health	Matthew	Valente	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor		1.0

Agenda Item:

**USF Board of
Trustees June 3, 2025**

Issue: Tenure Nomination as a Condition of Employment

Proposed action: Approve Tenure as a Condition of Employment

Executive Summary:

Administrators such as the President, Provost, Deans, Chairs, and senior faculty who are recruited to USF are normally awarded tenure as a condition of employment. These highly qualified individuals usually have earned tenure at their previous institutions, which makes them attractive candidates to USF. In order to attract them, USF must provide a package that is competitive with other nationally and internationally ranked institutions. Tenure upon appointment for qualified candidates, among other things, is a term and condition of the employment package that makes USF an institution of choice.

Financial Impact:

Supporting Documentation Online (*please circle*): ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

- Memorandum to William Weatherford, Chair, USF Board of Trustees
- Tenure Nominations as a Condition of Employment
- Faculty Profiles

Prepared by: Prasant Mohapatra, Provost and Executive Vice President



MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2025
TO: William Weatherford, Chair
FROM: Rhea Law, President
SUBJECT: Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nominations

I am requesting approval by the USF Board of Trustees of the enclosed Tenure as a Condition of Employment Nominations at USF. In nominating these faculty members for tenure, I certify that the requirements and conditions contained in USF Regulations, Policies, and Procedures for the granting of tenure have been met. I am satisfied that the nominee will make a significant professional contribution to USF and the academic community.

Enclosures

Faculty Nominations for Tenure as a Condition of Employment
USF Board of Trustees Meeting – June 3, 2025

<u>College</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Department/School</u>	<u>Degree of Effort</u>	<u>Previous Institution</u>	<u>Tenure at Previous Institution</u>
College of Behavioral & Community Sciences	Christopher Brown	Associate Professor	Communication Sciences & Disorders	1.00	University of Pittsburg	Yes
Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Computing	Chandra Kambhamettu	Professor	NA	1.00	University of Delaware	Yes

University of South Florida

Tenure Nomination as a Condition of Employment

College of Behavioral & Community Sciences

Christopher Brown, Ph.D.

Dr. Brown's training is in auditory perception and psychoacoustics. He earned his Ph.D. in experimental psychology from Loyola University of Chicago in 2004 and completed post-doctoral training at Arizona State University from 2004-2009, focusing on cochlear implant processing. Currently, he is an Associate Professor of Audiology with tenure in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Pittsburgh, which is ranked 6th in the nation in Audiology. Dr. Brown has a proven and productive research record with an interdisciplinary focus, success in obtaining NIH funding, and innovation in teaching and mentorship. He also has significant experience in faculty development and mentoring. Highlights for each competency are given below.

Research: Dr. Brown's research focuses on the perceptual impact of the loss of temporal fine-structure (TFS) processing in sensorineural hearing loss. He uses neuroimaging and behavioral approaches to develop a clinical strategy that compensates for the lack of TFS processing in cochlear implant (CI) users by magnifying envelope cues as interaural level differences (ILDs). This 'corrective binaural processing' improves speech understanding in noise by 30 percentage points and reduces localization errors, making some patients' performance comparable to normal hearing listeners. Dr. Brown is currently using functional near-infrared spectroscopy and electroencephalography to show that magnified ILD cues can facilitate spatial release from masking. This innovative work promises significant clinical outcomes and advances in understanding speech-in-noise deficits in hearing-impaired listeners.

Dr. Brown has a total of 27 peer-reviewed publications in premiere journals in the field of acoustics; e.g. Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, Ear and Hearing, and Hearing Research. He is first author on 10 of those. He has served as PI or coI on a number of previous R awards and a new ROI submitted to the National Institute on Deafness and other Communicator Disorders last June received an impact score of 22 (6th percentile), placing it safely in the funded category. The projected start date for the project is April 1, 2025.

Teaching and Mentoring: Dr. Brown helped found the School-wide faculty mentoring taskforce, on which he spearheaded the development of a comprehensive mentoring program for faculty members at all levels of career development. He served on the School-faculty mentoring committee and directed the Department-level Mentoring Program.

He integrated innovative instructional approaches in his classes, including a computer-based lab component in the Undergraduate Hearing Science class, where students serve as both experimenters and participants in psychoacoustic experiments. Dr. Brown has successfully mentored and advised many students at various levels, including undergraduates, Au.D. and Ph.D. students, and post-docs

Service: Dr. Brown co-founded the Brain and Auditory Science Research Initiative (BASRI), a shared research facility at the University of Pittsburgh. BASRI drives trans-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary innovations through collaborations across labs and disciplines. It includes seven PI's, both senior and early-career researchers, and numerous NIH-funded projects totaling millions of dollars. Dr. Brown also served as Chair of the School-wide Appointment, Tenure, and Promotion committee.

University of South Florida Tenure Nomination as a Condition of Employment

Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity & Computing

Chandra Kambhamettu, Ph.D.

Dr. Chandra Kambhamettu is an internationally recognized scholar in artificial intelligence, computer vision, and data science whose record of achievement already meets - and in several dimensions exceeds - the standards we expect of our tenured full professors.

Over a 25-year career at the University of Delaware, Chandra has attracted more than \$15 million in competitive external funding from nearly every major federal research sponsor—NSF, NIH, NASA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Homeland Security—often as principal investigator on multi-institution teams. Highlights include an NSF CAREER Award, a \$1.4 million NSF Arctic sea-ice dynamics project, a \$1 million NSF PetaApps grant enabling petascale cloud-turbulence modeling, and a current \$911K NSF award that uses deep learning on multispectral satellite imagery for disaster mapping. His defense portfolio is equally strong: he led a \$1 million Army Research Office effort that created an augmented-reality system for standoff detection of improvised explosive devices, and he co-led a \$3 million ARL Center of Excellence on obscured-target detection. Such breadth and scale of funding demonstrate not only scientific leadership but also sustained credibility with program managers across agencies - a critical asset for USF's growth trajectory.

The scholarly impacts of those grants are equally compelling. Chandra pioneered algorithms for motion analysis of deformable bodies, foundational work that underpins applications ranging from Arctic sea-ice monitoring to biomedical 4D tongue modeling for speech-pathology diagnostics. His projects regularly translate advanced AI into tangible societal benefits: protecting soldiers in the field, informing wildlife-habitat conservation, and accelerating post-disaster damage assessment. These accomplishments align squarely with USF's priorities in national security, coastal resilience, and health innovation.

Chandra's leadership record confirms his readiness to build a large, interdisciplinary research enterprise here. He has managed multi-institution teams, supervised over 30 graduate students and post-docs, and collaborated with partners from NASA Goddard to Johns Hopkins Medicine. Colleagues note his ability to mentor junior faculty and seed collaborations across colleges - capacities USF must harness as we scale our AI and data-science initiatives. His extensive agency network will accelerate new proposals and facilitate the smooth transfer of active grants, bringing immediate revenue to USF and positioning us for future center-level competitions.

Recommendation

In light of Chandra's unparalleled funding record, transformative research contributions, proven team leadership, and strategic fit with USF's mission, we strongly recommend tenure upon hire.

Agenda Item:

USF Board of Trustees
June 3, 2025

Issue: M.A. French, CIP Code 16.0901, Termination

Proposed action: Approval

Executive Summary:

In accordance with Florida Board of Governors Regulation 8.012 Academic Program Termination and Temporary Suspension of New Enrollments, each university board of trustees has the responsibility and authority to approve termination of degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels.

The Master of Arts in French at the University of South Florida offers practical training in the language, literature and culture of France and the French-speaking world. Interest in an advanced degree in French has waned over the past few years, as evidenced by the annual decrease in enrollment in USF's program. The program continues to be identified as having low productivity in the annual Degree Productivity report.

In addition, a tenured faculty member recently left the program. Due to these reasons, the College of Arts and Sciences has decided to close the program.

Financial Impact: None

BOT Committee Review Date: May 13, 2025

Supporting Documentation Online (*please circle*): Yes

No

Prepared by: Cynthia Brown Hernandez, Deputy Accreditation liaison and Director of Academic Planning, on behalf of Dr. Terry Chisolm, Vice Provost for Strategic Planning, Performance and Accountability



Academic Degree Program Termination

In Accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 8.012,
Academic Program Termination and Temporary Suspension of New Enrollments

Institution: University of South Florida (USF)

Program Name: French

Degree Level(s): M

Master's CIP Code: 16.0901

Anticipated Termination Term: Spring 2026

First term when no new students will be accepted into the program

Anticipated Phase-Out Term: Fall 2027

First term when no student data will be reported for this program

Each university board of trustees has the responsibility and authority to approve termination of degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels with the exception of master's degree programs in nursing, which must be approved by the Board of Governors in accordance with Board Regulation 8.008. Upon termination of a degree program, the university will submit to the Board of Governors' office a request for termination prior to the start of the effective term. Upon resolution of any outstanding issues regarding the program's termination, the change will be added to the State University System Academic Degree Program Inventory, and a letter of notification shall be provided to the institution.



1. Does the proposed program qualify as a Program of Strategic Emphasis, as described in the Florida Board of Governors 2025 System Strategic Plan?

[Programs of Strategic Emphasis List](#)

- ☐ Yes, it does qualify as a Program of Strategic Emphasis.
☒ No, it does not qualify as a Program of Strategic Emphasis.

Does the program fall under one of the CIP codes listed below that qualifies for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis Waiver? *(for baccalaureate programs only)*

CIP CODE	CIP TITLE
11.0101	Computer and Information Sciences
11.0103	Information Technology
13.1001	Special Education and Teaching
13.1202	Elementary Education and Teaching
14.0801	Civil Engineering
14.0901	Computer Engineering
14.1001	Electrical and Electronics Engineering
14.1901	Mechanical Engineering
27.0101	Mathematics
52.0301	Accounting
52.0801	Finance
52.1201	Management Information Systems

- ☐ Yes. If yes, students in the program will be eligible for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis waiver. Refer to [Board Regulation 7.008](#) and the [Programs of Strategic Emphasis Waiver Guidance](#).
☒ No

2. Provide a narrative rationale for the request to terminate the program.

The Master of Arts in French at the University of South Florida (USF) offers practical training in the language, literature and culture of France and the French-speaking world. Interest in an advanced degree in French has waned over the past few years, as evidenced by the annual decrease in enrollment in USF's program. The program continues to be identified as having low productivity in the annual Degree Productivity report.

In addition, a tenured faculty member recently left the program. Due to these reasons, the College of Arts and Sciences has decided to close the program.



3. Indicate on which campus(es) the program is being offered and the extent to which the proposed termination has had or will have an impact on enrollment, enrollment planning, and/or the reallocation of resources.

The M.A. in French is currently offered on USF's Tampa campus. Enrollment in the program has been continually decreasing. Terminating the degree program will allow for current resources to be shifted to USF's B.A. in World Languages, which has healthy enrollments and degrees awarded.

4. Explain how the university intends to accommodate any students or faculty currently active in the program scheduled to be terminated. State what steps have been taken to inform students and faculty of the intent to terminate the program.

There are four students currently declared and progressing through the program. Additionally, five students have applied for Fall 2025 admission into the program. At this time, however, it is unknown whether USF will yield these five students. Nonetheless, the faculty and staff in the Department of World Languages will continue to offer the necessary courses and student support so the students are able to graduate by Fall 2027.

The faculty and staff in the Department will communicate with the nine students via email to notify them of the closure of the program.

Program faculty participated in the decision to close the program due to low enrollment, and the staff in the Department have been notified of the program closure.

No staff will be affected by the termination of this program. Faculty teaching in the program also teach in the B.A. in World Languages and their efforts will be directed to the undergraduate program.

5. Provide the date the teach-out plan was submitted to the institution's accreditor. Include a copy of the notification letter with your submission.

The Master of Arts in French will be submitted to USF's accreditor on June 4, 2025, after the University of South Florida's June 3, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting, where the item will be included on the meeting agenda.

The teach-out plan, which will be submitted to USF's accreditor, is included with this termination form.



6. Identify the process for evaluating and mitigating any potential negative impact of the proposed action on the current representation of faculty and students in the program.

The Department of World Languages and the College of Arts and Sciences reviewed the enrollments in the program and determined that the enrollments are no longer sufficient to justify the cost of instruction.

In addition, the resignation of a tenure-earning faculty left the program with insufficient faculty to deliver a high-quality program.

No staff will be affected by the termination of this program. Faculty teaching in the program also teach in the B.A. in World Languages and their efforts will be directed to the undergraduate program.

7. If this is a baccalaureate program, explain how and when the Florida College System institutions have been notified of its termination so that students can be notified accordingly.

Not applicable because this program is not a baccalaureate program.

Required Signatures

DocuSigned by:

 2179A8CE023D4C9...

Provost's Signature

4/29/2025 | 10:05 EDT

Date

Board of Trustees Chair's Signature

Date

June 3, 2025

Date Approved by the Board of Trustees



Teach-out Plan for the Master of Arts in French in the College of Arts and Sciences

Overview:

The Master of Arts in French at the University of South Florida (USF) offers practical training in the language, literature and culture of France and the French-speaking world. Interest in an advanced degree in French has waned over the past few years, as evidenced by the annual decrease in enrollment in USF's program. In addition, a tenured faculty member recently left the program. Due to these reasons, the College of Arts and Sciences has decided to close the program.

Closure Date:

Students will no longer be admitted into the program after January 1, 2026.

Explanation of how affected parties – students, faculty, staff, and community or industry partners – will be informed of the impending closure.

There are four students currently progressing through the program. Additionally, five students have applied for Fall 2025 admission into the program. The faculty and staff in the Department of World Languages will communicate with the nine students via email to notify them of the closure of the program.

Former students who have become inactive will no longer have the option to pursue the program.

The program will be removed from applicable websites and the admissions application.

Program faculty participated in the decision to close the program due to low enrollment, and the staff in the Department have been notified of the program closure.

There are no community or industry partners involved with this program.

Explanation of how all affected students will be helped to complete their programs of study with minimal disruption or additional costs.

There are four students currently declared and progressing through the program. Additionally, five students have applied for Fall 2025 admission into the program. At this time, however, it is unknown whether USF will yield these five students. Nonetheless, the faculty and staff in the Department of World Languages will continue to offer the necessary courses and student support so the students are able to graduate by Fall 2027.

Will students subject to the teach-out plan incur additional charges or other expenses because of the teach-out? If so, how will students be notified?

Students in the program will incur no additional charges or other expenses because of the teach out.

Has a teach-out agreement been executed with other institutions? If so, attach signed agreement.

A teach-out agreement is unnecessary because USF has the capacity to teach-out the student in the program.

How will faculty and staff be redeployed or helped to find new employment?

No staff will be affected by the termination of this program. Faculty teaching in the program also teach in other programs offered by the Department and will not be affected by the termination of this program.

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

University of South Florida | 4202 E. Fowler Ave., CGS 401 | Tampa, FL 33620-6100
813-974-2154 | Fax: 813-974-5093 | usf.edu/provost

M.A. French, CIP Code 16.0901 Request for Termination

USF Board of Trustees
Academic & Campus Environment Committee

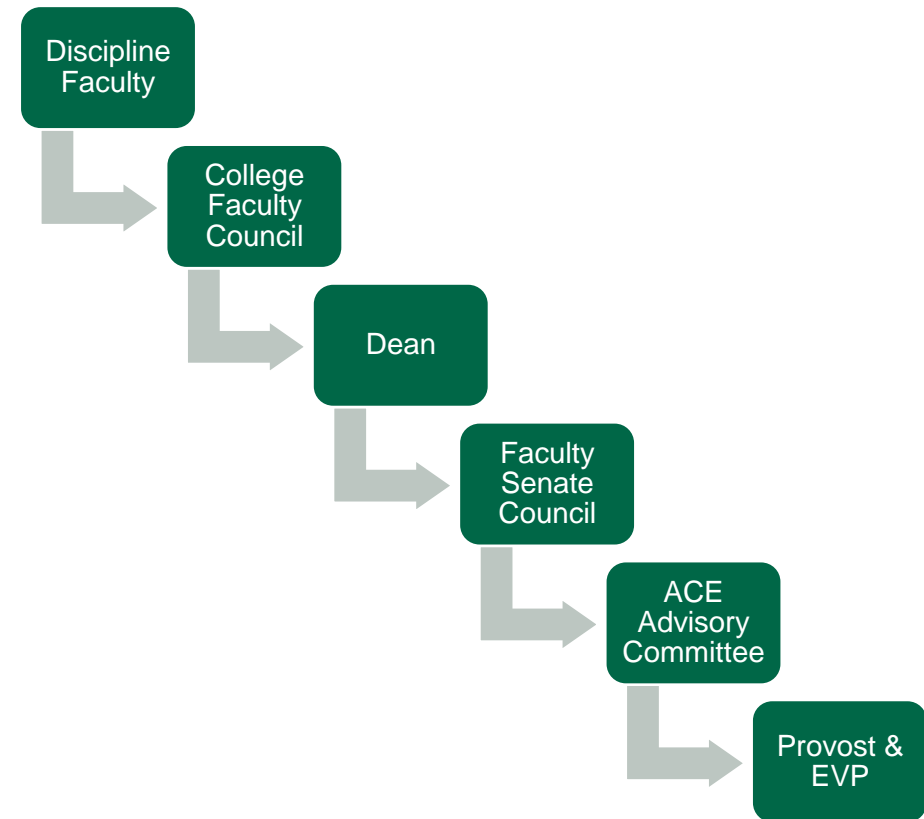
May 13, 2025



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA

Termination of Degree Programs

- State University System of Florida Board of Governors Regulation 8.012: Academic Program Termination & Temporary Suspension [6C-8](#)
 - Each university's Board of Trustees has the responsibility and authority to approve termination of degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels
- University of South Florida's Regulation 3.038 Academic Curricular Offerings [Academic Curricular Offerings-Regulation 3.038.pdf | Powered by Box](#)
 - Provides process for termination at USF
 - Includes review and recommendations from the Department Faculty through the Provost



Request for BOT approval for termination: M.A. French, CIP Code 16.0901

- Annual degree productivity reviews revealed low enrollments and completions over the last 5-years
- Tenured faculty member recently left the program
- Remaining faculty also teach in the B.A. in World Languages program; No faculty or staff will be impacted
- Teach-out plan in place for the 4 currently enrolled students; and any new students who may begin prior to termination implementation date (Spring 2026)
- Termination of the degree program will allow remaining resources to allocated to the B.A. in World Languages

Agenda Item: IV.a

USF Board of Trustees
June 3, 2025

Issue: Anticipated New Academic Programs for the 2025-26 Academic Year

Proposed action: Informational Item

Executive Summary:

The Florida Board of Governors' (BOG) Regulation 8.011, Academic Degree Program Coordination and Approval, requires the board of trustees of each institution to annually review the list of new academic degree programs the university wishes to implement in the upcoming academic year, prior to submission to the BOG office. The BOG deadline for USF to submit its list of proposed new degree programs is June 30, 2025.

Financial Impact: None

BOT Committee Review Date: May 13, 2025

Supporting Documentation Online (*please circle*):

Yes

No

Prepared by: Cynthia Brown Hernandez, Deputy Accreditation liaison and Director of Academic Planning, on behalf of Dr. Terry Chisolm, Vice Provost for Strategic Planning, Performance and Accountability



Instructions:

Please use the table below to report the new academic degree program proposals the university plans to submit to the Board of Governors' office in the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Your institution's board of trustees must have reviewed this list prior to submission to the Board office. Please submit the completed table via the Information Request System by **June 30, 2025**.

*If a program was on a previous list that was submitted to the board of trustees, but the program proposal was not submitted to the Board office, please include the program on this list and indicate the appropriate date it was submitted to the board of trustees.

Anticipated New Academic Programs for the 2025-26 Academic Year

CIP Code	Name	Level	Other SUS Institutions that Offer the Program	Projected Student Enrollment for Year 1	Date Submitted to the University Board of Trustees
04.0201	Architecture	B	UCF, UF	300	June 4, 2024
11.0102	Artificial Intelligence	B	None	25	June 3, 2025
11.0102	Artificial Intelligence	M	FAU, UCF, UF	25	June 3, 2025
26.0406	Cell and Molecular Biology	M	None	15	June 3, 2025
30.7104	Fintech	B	None	50	June 4, 2024

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Signature of Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

4/29/2025 | 10:05 EDT

Date