



Item: IX.

Monday, September 21, 2020

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIMITED ACCESS STATUS CIP 30.0101 – HARRIOT L. WILKES HONORS COLLEGE

PROPOSED Board ACTION

Approval of Limited Access Status for BA and BS programs (CIP 30.0101) in the Harriot L. Wilkes Honors College.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College (WHC) has offered an approved limited access degree program under a Liberal Arts CIP (24.0199) since its opening in 1999. A new BA and BS degree program (CIP 30.0101) was approved for addition to the SUS Academic Degree Program Inventory earlier in 2020. It offers a stronger STEM focused alternative for honors students with concentrations in Biology, Biological Chemistry, Environmental Science, Marine Biology, Mathematics, Neuroscience, and Physics. It is proposed that the entire degree program be offered as limited access. Offering this program as limited access is consistent with the instructional philosophy and strategic planning goals of the College. WHC is a selective college within FAU and the small class size and access to intense faculty mentoring in advanced research labs create the educational experience that honors students expect, and thus the size of the admitted class for all degree programs in the WHC should be limited to the size of the faculty as well as research space and other resources to maintain the integrity of an honors degree program.

In accordance with BOG Regulations 6.001 and 8.013, institutions are required to file a separate request to impose limited access status for admissions.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Limited Access is planned for Spring 2021. The implementation plan will be the same as the admission standards for all WHC students (4.0 weighted GPA, 1200 SAT, 25 ACT). Florida College System AA graduates with a minimum 3.5 GPA and successful completion of STEM prerequisites are granted admission to the program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Supporting Documentation: Limited Access Status for an Academic Program Request Form

Presented by: Dr. Bret Danilowicz, Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

Phone: 561.297.6350



**STATE UNIVERSITY
SYSTEM OF FLORIDA**

Board of Governors, State University System of Florida
Limited Access Status for an Academic Program Request Form
In Accordance with BOG Regulations
6.001 – General Admissions and 8.013 - Limited Access

INSTITUTION: Florida Atlantic University

PROGRAM NAME: B.A. and B.S. in Biological and Physical Sciences

CIP CODE:30.0101

1. Will the entire degree program be limited access or only a specific major or track?

The entire degree program will be offered as limited access. This new B.A. and B.S. degree program was approved for addition to the SUS Academic Degree Program Inventory earlier in 2020. It is housed in the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College offering a stronger STEM focused alternative for honors students with concentrations in Biology, Biological Chemistry, Environmental Science, Marine Biology, Mathematics, Neuroscience, and Physics.

2. If only one major or track is limited access, please specify the name of the major or track.

The entire degree program will be offered as limited access.

3. Please specify:

The total number of new students anticipated to enroll in the program each academic year:

Approximately 120 new students each year

The total number of students anticipated to enroll in the program each academic year:

Approximately 500 students each year

4. When do you propose to initiate limited access? (please specify the effective term and year)

Spring 2021

5. What is the justification for limiting access?

The Wilkes Honors College (WHC) has offered an approved limited access degree under a Liberal Arts CIP (24.0199) since its opening in 1999. We wish to operate the new degree program also as limited access, in order to be consistent with the instructional philosophy

and strategic planning goals of the College. The Wilkes Honors College is a selective college within FAU located in Jupiter, Florida on the same campus with the Scripps Research Institute, Max Planck Institute, the Florida Brain Institute, and the Jupiter Life Science Initiative, and its students take advantage of research opportunities with scientists at these entities. The Honors College offers an all-honors curriculum with a designated faculty and up to 120 credits are taken at the honors level. A senior honors thesis as well as an internship or study abroad experience is also required for graduation. Small class size and access to intense faculty mentoring in advanced research labs create the educational experience that honors students expect, and thus the size of the admitted class for all degree programs in the WHC should be limited to the size of the faculty (to create the proper student/faculty ratio) as well as research space and other resources to maintain the integrity of an honors degree program.

6. **By what means will access be limited? Please provide a description of the program's admissions requirements and procedures. Additionally, please indicate how these requirements and procedures ensure equal access for Florida College System Associate of Arts degree graduates in competing for available space in the program.**

The admissions standards for the Biological and Physical Sciences degree are the same as the admission standards for all Honors College students (4.0 weighted GPA, 1200 SAT, 25 ACT). Florida College System A.A. graduates with a minimum 3.5 GPA and successful completion of STEM prerequisites are granted admission to the program. There are two primary pathways to admission, both involving a holistic review of admissions files. The first pathway is direct application to the Wilkes Honors College through the Common App. The second pathway is through invitation to students who meet the criteria above in the general FAU application pool.

7. **Present the current race and gender profiles of the students in the program. Discuss the impact of the proposed action on the race and gender profiles and cite sources used to inform the discussion. What strategies, should they be necessary, will be used to promote diversity in the program?**

According to data from FAU's IEA office, during the Fall 2019 semester, 63.1% of students in WHC were female and 36.9% were male. WHC also has an impressively diverse student body, with 27.3% of students who identify as Hispanic, 9% Black (not of Hispanic origin) and with 60% of the students identifying as non-white. FAU as a whole is identified as a Hispanic Serving Institution. We do not expect these profiles to change. In particular, the Wilkes Honors College is distinguished in yield of a diverse student body when compared with peer Honors Colleges and Programs.

The Wilkes Honors College will continue to encourage applications from all qualified applicants as well as its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, and will work with the admissions and enrollment management offices at FAU to make sure that the WHC is represented at all diverse student recruiting opportunities. This plan has worked well for the College to this point, but of course we will monitor the student diversity pattern and adapt it needed.

8. **Are the graduates of the program in high demand? If so, and if the program is to be limited due to lack of adequate resources, provide a justification for limiting access to the program rather than reallocating resources from programs with low market demand.**

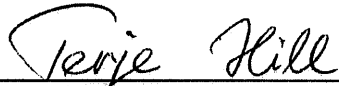
There is substantial employment growth in STEM fields and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics projects growth rates in STEM related jobs from 2014 to 2024 from 5 to 28% depending on the specific focus: <https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2017/science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-stem-occupations-past-present-and-future/home.htm>

Wilkes Honors College graduates in Biological and Physical Sciences will contribute to the local community and the state through their post baccalaureate accomplishments in graduate studies and careers, and provide a stream of talent for jobs in high-need areas. While enrolled as undergraduates, Honors College Biological and Physical Sciences students work in paid and unpaid internships at local and national research facilities supporting the research projects of principal investigators. Our strategic plan includes growing the college from the current student body of 500 students to more than 800 students by 2023. Of those, we anticipate that approximately 500 will be participants in this degree program.

9. Provide the institution's plan and timeline for phasing out limited access.


As the program will be housed in the Wilkes Honors College, we anticipate the need to keep the program as limited access for reasons discussed above. However, we plan to review the limited access admission requirement after 3 years into the program and will continue to examine the issue at every BOG-mandated program review in the 7-year cycle.

Required Signatures



Requestor/Initiator

8-27-2020
Date



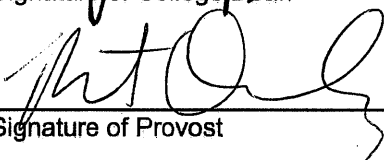
Signature of Campus EO Officer

8/27/2020
Date



Signature of College Dean

8-27-2020
Date



Signature of Provost

8/27/20
Date

Signature of Chair of the Board of Trustees

Date

Date Approved by the Board of Trustees