



STATE UNIVERSITY
SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

Board of Governors, State University System of Florida

Specialized Admissions Status

Initial Approval Request Form

In Accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, Specialized Admissions

INSTITUTION: University of Florida

DEGREE PROGRAM: Bachelor of Arts in Digital Arts and Sciences

CIP CODE. 50.0102 **Effective Academic Year.** 2022-2023

1. Does this request for specialized admissions status apply to the whole degree program? If no, please specify which major(s) or track(s) are seeking the status.

Yes, for admission to the upper-level of the degree.

2. Which criteria for specialized admissions status does the program meet?

- Limited Resources (if approved, the status will last a maximum of four years)
- Minimal Skills (if approved, the status will last a maximum of five years)
- Accreditation Requirements (If checked, you must also select either limited resources or minimal skills)

3. Provide a rationale for why the program meets the criteria selected above.

- If the program is seeking specialized admissions status due to limited resources, provide details regarding which types of resources are limited and how the current demand for the program outpaces these resources.
- If seeking specialized admission status based on accrediting body requirements, please include the name of the accrediting body and a direct link to or copies of the specific standard(s) which require the requested status.

Students entering the upper levels of the BA Digital Arts and Sciences must demonstrate that they have the skill and talent to be successful in the curriculum. Because this is measured at the point where students are preparing to enter the upper division of the degree, we are also able to see how well they have taken advantage of opportunities provided to them in their first few years of study.

4. If the program is seeking specialized admissions status due to limited resources and/or is a Program of Strategic Emphasis, provide the institution's plan and timeline for increasing program resources. If the institution does not plan to increase capacity over the next few years, please provide a rationale. Not applicable.

We have recently increased our cohort size in this degree from 35 students to 70 students admitted to the upper division per year. This increase ensures that we have capacity at this time for all students who demonstrate the minimal skills necessary for success in the upper division of this program. We also offer this degree through UF Online, allowing increased

access for students seeking to pursue this degree from a distance. A minor in Digital Arts and Sciences is also available (both on-campus and online) for students who would like to supplement their major with our courses; no portfolio review is required for the minor. In offering the minor and major in both face-to-face and UF Online formats, we seek to make sure that we can accommodate all qualified students interested in this Program of Strategic Emphasis.

5. If approved for specialized admissions status, what will be the program's admissions requirements? Additionally, please indicate how these requirements and procedures ensure equal access for qualified Florida College System Associates in Arts graduates competing for available space in the program.

Since the program has always been Limited Access, no change to admissions is anticipated. The current process for admission to the upper level of the program is as follows: students submit an application that includes the student's academic record, letter of intent, and a portfolio of work. Faculty then review the application and assess whether the applicant has the necessary skills and potential for successful advanced study in Digital Arts and Sciences. This step is one that also introduces students to professional practices and better prepares them to graduate with a portfolio of work that will assist in making a successful transition either to the industry or to graduate school.

Transfer applicants with Florida College System Associate of Arts degrees apply and are considered at the same time with the same procedure.

6. What is the current race and gender profile of the program? Describe the potential impact on the race and gender profiles of the program. What strategies will be implemented to promote and maintain diversity in the program?

40.66% White

23.24% Hispanic/Latino

12.03% Black or African American

12.45% Asian

11.6% Other or unknown

0% American Indian or Alaskan Native

0% Pacific Islander

66.67% Female

33.33% Male

As this program has always been limited access, we do not anticipate the shift to specialized admissions to have an impact on the race and gender profile of the program. Currently, our specialized admission process reviews students' portfolio applications holistically, evaluating a student's aptitudes, talents, and skills while at the same time allowing students the opportunity to provide context as to who they are and from where they came. This comprehensive review enables faculty evaluators to consider factors other than GPA when making admission decisions to help to promote equity and diversity. Furthermore, the Institute hosts Portfolio Open House, a semesterly portfolio development event in which prospective students meet one-on-one with faculty to obtain valuable input on their portfolios. In the Institute's peer mentoring program, upper-division students who have already completed the portfolio review act as mentors, supporting lower-division students navigating the portfolio specialized admission process. These portfolio development activities are available to all prospective students but also aid in promoting and maintaining diversity by providing accessible support services designed to improve academic outcomes.

Required Signatures



Requestor/Initiator

7/13/2022

Date



Signature of College Dean

7/14/2022

Date

Signature of Campus EO Officer

Date

Signature of Provost

Date

Signature of Chair of the
Board of Trustees

Date

Date Approved by the Board of Trustees