



Item: AS:A-1

## COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DEGREE TERMINATIONS: PHD IN COMPLEX SYSTEMS AND BRAIN SCIENCES**

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### PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Request approval to terminate the PhD in Complex systems and Brain Sciences (42.2706).

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This program is requested to be terminated as it will be merged with the new PhD in Neuroscience at FAU as part of the "Computational and Theoretical Neuroscience" track within the new PhD degree program. For several years the program in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences has experienced low enrollment and low graduation rates falling below BOG graduation criteria in some years for PhD graduation.

### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

The termination of the PhD in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences will be effective Fall 2022. Students will be notified of a teach-out plan and expected to finish by December 2026.


### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Program faculty are members of the new PhD in Neuroscience program as well as programs in their home academic department. Faculty have been actively involved in planning the new Neuroscience PhD program, so the impact on resources will be minimal.

**Supporting Documentation:** Program Termination Form, Program CIP Change Form

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

**Phone:** 561-297-6350

 <b>FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST</b> <b>Graduate Programs</b>	UGPC Approval _____ UFS Approval _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	<b>Department</b> Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences  <b>College</b> Science	
<b>Program Name</b> PhD in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New Program</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Change Program</b>	<b>Effective Date</b> (TERM & YEAR)  Fall 2022
<b>Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment</b>  <p>This program is requested to be terminated as it will be merged with the new PhD in Neuroscience at FAU as part of the "Computational and Theoretical Neuroscience" track within the new PhD degree program. For several years the program in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences has experienced low enrollment and low graduation rates falling below BOG graduation criteria in some years for PhD graduation.</p> <p>For current students, a teach-out plan will allow them to graduate with the PhD in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences over the next several years. The remaining 10 students have completed their core degree requirements and have only dissertation and/or electives course to complete. These elective courses will be available as they are offered as part of other programs, including the new PhD in Neuroscience. Some students may want to transfer into the new Neuroscience PhD program.</p> <p>Attached is the BoG Academic Degree Program Termination form. A teach-out plan will be submitted to SACSCOC.</p>		
<b>Faculty Contact/Email/Phone</b> Dr. Gary Perry / perryg@fau.edu / 7-4310	<b>Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation</b>	
<b>Approved by</b> Department Chair _____ <i>Gary W Perry</i> College Curriculum Chair _____ <i>Christopher Beetle</i> <small>Digitally signed by Christopher Beetle Date: 2021.09.27 08:35:08 -04'00'</small> College Dean _____ <i>William David Kulis</i> UGPC Chair _____ <i>Christopher Beetle</i> UGC Chair _____ <i>Paul R. Fisher</i> Graduate College Dean _____ <i>Robert W. Johnson</i> UFS President _____ Provost _____	<b>Date</b> _____ _____ <b>09/27/21</b> _____ _____ <b>Oct 22, 2021</b> _____ _____ <b>Oct 22, 2021</b> _____ _____ <b>Oct 22, 2021</b> _____ _____ _____	

Email this form and attachments to [UGPC@fau.edu](mailto:UGPC@fau.edu) one week before the UGPC meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UGPC website prior to the meeting.



Board of Governors, State University System of Florida  
**ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM TERMINATION FORM**  
In Accordance with BOG Regulation 8.012

**INSTITUTION:** Florida Atlantic University

**PROGRAM NAME:** Complex Systems and Brain Sciences

**DEGREE LEVEL(S):** PhD **CIP CODE:** 42.2706  
(B., M., Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.) (Classification of Instructional Programs)

**ANTICIPATED TERMINATION TERM:** Fall, 2022  
(First term when no new students will be accepted into the program)

**ANTICIPATED PHASE-OUT TERM:** Fall, 2026  
(First term when no student data will be reported for this program)

*Please use this form for academic program termination. The form should be approved by the University Board of Trustees (UBOT) prior to submission to the Board of Governors, State University System of Florida for consideration. Please fill out this form completely for each program to be terminated in order for your request to be processed as quickly as possible. Attach additional pages as necessary to provide a complete response. In the case of baccalaureate or master's degree programs, the UBOT may approve termination in accordance with BOG Regulation 8.012, and submit this form to the Board of Governors, Office of Academic and Student Affairs. For doctoral level programs, please submit this form with all appropriate signatures for Board of Governor's consideration. The issues outlined below should be examined by the UBOT when approving program terminations.*

**1. Provide a narrative rationale for the request to terminate the program.**

The program will be merged with the new PhD in Neuroscience at FAU to provide the "Computational and Theoretical Neuroscience" track within the new PhD degree program. For several years the program in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences has experienced low enrollment and low graduation rates falling below BOG graduation criteria in some years for PhD graduation.

- 2. 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 program is offered primarily on the Boca Raton campus. The impact on graduate enrollment and enrollment planning will be minimal since students who would have been admitted to the program can follow a similar curriculum through the new PhD in Neuroscience. Resources committed in the program are primarily stipends and tuition waivers to support graduate students in teaching assistantships

- 3. Explain how the university intends to accommodate any students or faculty who are 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.**

For current students, a teach-out plan will allow them to graduate with the PhD in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences over the next several years. Some students may want to transfer into the new Neuroscience PhD program. Program faculty are members of the new Neuroscience PhD program as well as programs in their home academic department. Faculty have been actively involved in planning the new Neuroscience PhD program. Students have been informed of the teach-out plan for them to graduate with the PhD in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences.

- 4. Please provide the date when the teach-out plan was submitted to SACSCOC. Include a copy of the notification letter with your submission.**

The Provost's Office will submit the teach out plan to SACSCOC September 2021. All currently enrolled students will be given the opportunity to complete the program by the end of Fall 2026.

- 5. Provide data (and cite sources) on the gender and racial distribution of students in and faculty affiliated with the program. For faculty, also list the rank and tenure status of all affected individuals.**

Students: Self-reported: 5M/5F — 6W,not Hispanic, 1W,Hispanic, 2Asian, 1Ind  
Faculty: W. Alexander, Asst Prof, not tenured (W/M); G. Anzures, Asst Prof, not tenured (W/F); E. Barenholtz, Assoc Prof, tenured (W/M); E. Engeberg, Prof, tenured (W/M); B. Ghoraani, Assoc Prof, tenured, (W/F); W. Hahn, Asst Prof, not tenured (W/M); H. Hock, Research Prof, not tenured, (W/M); S. Hong, Assoc Prof, tenured, (W/M); S. Kelso, Prof, tenured, (W/M); A. Peah, Aff Prof, not tenured, (W/M); G. Perry, Prof, tenured, (W/M); H. Prentice, Prof, tenured, (W/M); W. Shen, Assoc Prof, tenured, (W/F); S. Sheremata, Asst Prof, not tenured, (W/F); R. Stackman, Prof, tenured, (W/M); E. Tognoli, Research Prof, not tenured, (W/F); C. Varela, Asst Prof, not tenured, (H/F); R. Vertes, Prof, tenured, (W/M); J. Wu, Prof, tenured, (W/M).

**6. Identify any potential negative impact of the proposed action on the current representation of females, minorities, faculty, and students in the program.**

No impact is expected as the current students will finish their degrees over the next several years and faculty will remain in the program until it is terminated.

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

The proposed degree termination is for a PhD level degree program.

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Gary W Perry  
Requestor/Initiator

09/14/21  
Date

[Signature]  
Signature of Campus EO Officer

10-4-21  
Date

Teresa Wilcox  
Signature of College Dean

10-01-2021  
Date

[Signature]  
Signature of President or Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

10/1/21  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Chair of the  
Board of Trustees

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved by the Board of Trustees