

The 40th Session of the Student Body Senate

Florida International University

Miami, Florida

S.R. 04 031

GEPCSA: Graduate Examination Preparatory Course Series Act

IN THE SENATE

Senate President Pro-Tempore Tiara Campbell, Dean Juan Espinosa, Senator Alexandra Barriga, Executive Administrator Natalie Martinez, and Senator Anish Sharma introduced the following resolution, which was presented on the Senate floor

A RESOLUTION

To advocate for the implementation of a Graduate Examination Preparatory Course Series at Florida International University (FIU) to equip undergraduate students with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in entrance exams for graduate school programs.

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University assembled,

Whereas, a comprehensive survey created by Senate President Pro-Tempore Tiara Campbell and Executive Administrator Natalie Martinez conducted among FIU students has indicated a strong desire for this resource within the university community,

Whereas, Senate President Pro-Tempore Tiara Campbell has had numerous meetings during the semesters of Fall 2023-Spring 2024 with Dr. Dwight Nimblett, the Director of the Center for Testing and Career Certification, Ms. Sophonie Morno, the Assistant Director of Administrative Services, and the Dean of the Honors College, Juan Carlos Espinosa to discuss the implementation of these courses,

Whereas, collaborative efforts between the Dean of the Honors College, Juan Carlos Espinosa, have resulted in the strategic planning for the gradual implementation of preparatory courses, beginning with the LSAT and extending to include other relevant exams,

Whereas, other esteemed state universities institutions within the state of Florida, such as the Florida Atlantic University, have already successfully implemented similar preparatory programs, indicating the necessity and feasibility of such initiatives at Florida International University,

Whereas, the implementation of a Graduate Examination Preparatory Course Series at Florida International University (FIU) will equip undergraduate students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in entrance exams for graduate school programs,

Whereas, 3.2 million students were enrolled postbaccalaureate level in degree-granting institutions across the United States, including FIU, underscoring the increasing demand for advanced education opportunities,

Whereas, statistics reveal that 17% of bachelor's degree students pursue graduate degrees, highlighting the significant portion of the student population that would benefit from comprehensive exam preparation resources,

Whereas, the targeted exams for preparation include the MCAT, LSAT, GRE, DAT, VCAT, and other standardized tests crucial for admission into various graduate programs,

Whereas, other exams can be implemented over time and if there is a need for it in the university,

Whereas, the accessibility of course registration through the university's existing platform, My.fiu.edu, streamlines the process for students to enroll in the Graduate Examination Preparatory Course Series, aligning with standard registration procedures,

Whereas, the flexibility of offering courses in both online and in-person formats ensures accessibility and accommodates diverse student preferences and needs,

Whereas, ongoing surveys and evaluations integrated into the course structure facilitate continuous improvement and adaptation to students' evolving needs and feedback,

Whereas, the commitment to recruiting instructors of esteemed reputation ensures the delivery of high-quality instruction and guidance to students enrolled in the preparatory courses,

Therefore, the Student Government Association advocates for the allocation of necessary funds from the university budget to support the development and implementation of the graduate examination preparatory course series,

Therefore, the appropriate academic department should be tasked with developing a robust curriculum for the graduate examination preparatory course series, ensuring alignment with the content and format of targeted graduate entrance exams,

Therefore, instructional designers and faculty members should design both online and in-person course delivery formats that cater to diverse student needs and preferences,

Therefore, a comprehensive marketing campaign should be launched to raise awareness of the Graduate Examination Preparatory Course Series among FIU undergraduate students, utilizing university communication channels and student organizations,

Therefore, clear and streamlined procedures should be developed for students to enroll in the Graduate Examination Preparatory Course Series through the university's registration system, ensuring ease of access and adherence to registration deadlines.

Therefore, a system for ongoing evaluation and feedback collection from students enrolled in the preparatory course should be implemented, with mechanisms for course improvement based on student input,

Therefore, a designated committee or task force shall be assigned to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the preparatory course implementation, with regular reporting to FIU leadership,



Therefore, partnerships shall be forged with external organizations, such as test prep companies or professional associations, to enhance the resources and support available to students enrolled in the preparatory course,

Therefore, the feasibility and demand for expanding the preparatory course offerings to include additional exams over time shall be assessed, based on student enrollment trends and feedback.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Senate strongly supports the implementation of the undergraduate graduate examination preparation course at Florida International University, recognizing its pivotal role in fostering academic excellence, facilitating student success, and advancing the university's mission of providing comprehensive educational opportunities.

Senate Resolution Transmission Form

This resolution is presented by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University. It is presented by the Senate President Pro-Tempore and affixed with the signature of the Senate President. Both the Senate President and the Senate President Pro-Tempore affirm that the information presented below is accurate and that the resolution has successfully passed in the Senate of the Student Body. The resolution is presented on this day and at this hour for signature or veto.

<i>SR 04 031</i>			
Date Introduced:	<i>04/15/2024</i>		
Committees Assigned:	(1) Graduate and Professional Student Committee (2) Rules and Administration		
Vote in Committee 1:	5 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote in Committee 2:	3 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote on the Senate Floor: <i>4/15/2024</i>	20 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
 <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> Signature of the Senate President	 <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> Signature of the Senate President Pro Tempore		

Presidential Signature of a Senate Resolution

On this day, at this time, and in this place, the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University does hereby present this resolution to the desk of the President of the Student Body for signature or veto. The Senate has passed this resolution and all its accompaniments, in accordance with the Constitution and Statutes of the Student Government Association at Florida International University. It is presented in good faith, whereas the officers of the Senate have affixed their signatures to affirm that the resolution has followed due procedure and is valid. The Senate will await your decision.

SR 04 031



Kaily LaChapelle, Senate President



Tiara Campbell, Senate President Pro-Tempore



Karina Hernandez, Senate Floor Leader



Alexander P. Sutton, Student Body President

