

USF Board of Trustees Regulations

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION REPEAL

DATE; APRIL 17, 2007

REGULATION TITLE & NUMBER:	USF 3-012-External Degree Program, Bachelor of Independent Studies (BIS)
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SUMMARY: The Regulation, USF3-012-External Degree Program-Bachelor of Independent Studies (BIS), is obsolete. The BIS program has been discontinued for over 3 years and is no longer listed as a BOG-approved degree program. There are no active students in the program. New students will not be admitted to the program and should former students who did not complete the degree return, they would need to apply to another program. The Academic Affairs Council and Undergraduate Studies agree that this regulation is no longer necessary and should be repealed. The full text of the Regulation follows this notice or you may contact Dee Brown at [USFLEGAL@ADMIN.USF.EDU](mailto:USFLEGAL@ADMIN.USF.EDU)

AUTHORITY TO ADOPT/AMEND/REPEAL: *1001.74(4), Article IX, Fla. Const. and Resolutions issued by the Florida Board of Governors.*

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL INITIATING ADOPTION/AMENDMENT/REPEAL: Dr. W. Robert Sullins, Dean Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Renu Khator, Provost & Sr. V.P., Academic Affairs.

WRITTEN COMMENTS CONCERNING THIS PROPOSED REGULATION MAY BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER THE POSTING DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO:

Dee Brown, Agency Clerk  
Office of the General Counsel  
University of South Florida System  
4202 East Fowler Avenue, Suite ADM 250  
Tampa, FL 33620-6250  
Phone: (813) 974-7150; FAX: 813-974-5236; E-MAIL: [USFLEGAL@ADMIN.USF.EDU](mailto:USFLEGAL@ADMIN.USF.EDU).



## Proposed Repeal

### USF3-012 External Degree Program, Bachelor of Independent Studies.

(1) Bachelor of Independent Studies (BIS) is an undergraduate degree program based on a curriculum of Interdisciplinary Studies. It is offered statewide on a predominantly external basis for adults whose life style is incompatible with residential study. The adult oriented curriculum and learning format based on tutorials and seminars represent a unique approach to completing a college degree.

(a) BIS Program Budget. The statewide Program operates on a base budget authorized and assigned to the University of South Florida by the Board of Regents in 1986.

(b) Program Administration. The BIS Faculty Committee, which is advisory to the Provost for Academic Affairs, initiates and monitors program policy and operation. The Committee, for example, oversees curriculum changes, student admissions and faculty selection. The statewide Program includes all State Universities with faculty representatives teaching in the Program. The central administrative office for the BIS Program is located at the University of South Florida in Tampa. The special degree program reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

(c) Faculty. BIS mentors and seminar faculty are appointed for the statewide Program from the faculty of participating universities which currently include the University of South Florida, Florida State University, the University of Florida and the University of North Florida. Approvals for faculty assignments and payment require signatures from the faculty member, from the department chair, the college dean, the person responsible for certifying overload and the Director of the BIS Program.

(d) Admission Requirements. BIS applicants must meet the same requirements for admission to the University as any other degree-seeking student. Admission to the BIS Program is determined by the BIS Faculty Committee. A student cannot be concurrently enrolled as a degree-seeking candidate in a traditional degree Program at the University of South Florida while enrolled as a degree-seeking candidate in the BIS Program.

(e) Academic Requirements. The student with a four area curriculum contract completes four areas of study – Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Tutorial Studies as illustrated below:

HUM 4909 BIS Humanities, Independent Study	15
HUM 4939 BIS Humanities, Seminar	15
ISS 4909 BIS Social Sciences, Independent Study	15
ISS 4939 BIS Social Sciences, Seminar	15
ISC 4909 BIS Natural Sciences, Independent Study	15

ISC 4939 BIS Natural Sciences, Seminar	15
IDS 4990 BIS Inter-Area Studies	30

Students must earn a grade of "Satisfactory" for the guided independent study and resident seminar units associated with each of the first three study areas. Completion of guided independent study is achieved through demonstrated proficiency via an area comprehensive examination. Seminar performance is evaluated by the seminar faculty. Fourth Area study culminates with the satisfactory defense of the inter-area thesis. The student with a two area curriculum contract – community college graduate with an A.A. or an A.S. in selected health related fields – completes two rather than four study areas – more explicitly, two units of independent study and two seminars.

(f) Credit Hours and Grades. Credit hours are awarded when a student earns a rating of satisfactory in a tutorial, seminar or thesis requirement. The grading system for the BIS student is as follows:

1. S – Satisfactory. Student has completed unit of study.
2. PWD – Passed with deficiency. Changes to an "S" after the student has satisfied the deficiency.
3. U – Unsatisfactory. Student continues reading program and is eventually scheduled for a retest.

(g) Undergraduate Profile Exam. The taking of the Undergraduate Profile in Social Sciences, Humanities, and Natural Sciences is a requirement for graduation.

*Specific Authority 120.53(1)(a) FS. Law Implemented 120.53(1)(a), 240.227 FS. History–New 7-3-79, Formerly 6C4-3.12, Amended 5-7-90.*