

PREEMINENT PROGRAM OR EMERGING PREEMINENT PROGRAM Application Guidelines for Designation

Introduction

One of the goals of the FIU *BeyondPossible2020* Strategic Plan is identifying and supporting the University's preeminent programs. Preeminent and Emerging Preeminent Programs are defined as follows:

- **A Preeminent Program** is a collaborative endeavor that demonstrates extraordinary success in providing unique learning opportunities, pioneering research and engagement while expanding FIU's financial base. Designation as a preeminent program is recognition for outstanding contributions to advancing FIU's *BeyondPossible2020* strategic plan and enhancing the University's reputation at the national and international level.
- **An Emerging Preeminent Program** is a collaborative endeavor with high potential to be designated preeminent (as described above). With strategic support, an emerging preeminent program could potentially build upon its distinctive merits, strengths, and successes to earn the preeminent program designation.

FIU *BeyondPossible2020* Strategic Plan posits that FIU already has programs with prominence and impact that enhance the prestige of the University. These programs have attained extraordinary success in attracting top students and faculty, advancing research and creative scholarship, and expanding capacity by securing financial support from external sources. Other FIU programs are very close to achieving these levels of success and recognition. Identifying and supporting preeminent and emerging preeminent programs will strengthen and further FIU's mission as a leading public research university in the 21st century. Designation as a Preeminent Program or an Emerging Preeminent Program will provide the program with specific support as outlined in Appendix 1. Please note that support will not be one-size-fits-all; each program will have different needs, thus not all programs will necessarily need to utilize all available services.

How to Apply

All applicant programs are required to complete a Self-Evaluation Instrument (SEI—Appendix 2) and proposal application (described below), to be reviewed by the Preeminent Programs Selection Committee, which will provide feedback and guidance to applicant programs.

1. **Proposals:** The proposal should expound on the applicant's self-evaluation on the iREAL SEI¹ as well as demonstrate the applicant program's success and vision for future impact in the four categories featured on the SEI (1. alignment with University priorities; 2. research/creative activities; 3. education outcomes; and 4. costs-to-benefits).

¹ The iREAL Self-Evaluation Instrument (SEI) is designed to be an objective, concise, clear, reliable, valid, transparent and useful set of criteria for the self-evaluation of preeminence. The iREAL SEI addresses four domains: 1) University priorities; 2) research/creative activities; 3) education outcomes; and 4) costs-to-benefits. The iREAL SEI is the preliminary self-evaluation component of the preeminence program application, review and selection process.

Proposal guidelines:

- A maximum of 5 pages, using standard paper size (8 ½” x 11”) and a minimum of one-half inch margins (top, bottom, sides). Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per inch. Type may be no more than six lines per inch. A minimum of 11 point-sized font in Times New Roman or Calibri should be used.
- Avoid overly technical language and jargon as much as possible to effectively communicate to a cross-discipline selection committee.
- Provide a brief history of the applicant program.
- Address accomplishments of the applicant program in areas relevant to FIU’s mission and strategic plan, including student involvement in education, research, and engagement.
- Identify the broader impacts of the applicant program – to teaching/training, diversity, science, society, workforce, etc.
- Communicate future plans for the applicant program, including sustainability, and potential impact on students/research and scholarship/engagement at the local, national, and/or international levels.
- Describe the collaborative and/or interdisciplinary nature of the program.

2. **Review and Recommendation:** The SEI and the proposal will be reviewed by the Preeminent Program Selection Committee, which will submit a report with the committee’s recommendations to FIU’s President and Provost.

- The President and Provost will make the final decisions regarding which programs are designated as Preeminent Programs or Emerging Preeminent Programs.
- For applicant programs that do not earn designation as Preeminent or Emerging Preeminent, feedback and guidance will be provided by the Committee to prepare applicant programs for subsequent opportunities for designation.

[Appendix 1: Support Services Options](#)

[Appendix 2: iREAL Self-Evaluation Instrument](#)

[Appendix 3: Preeminent Program Selection Committee](#)

[Appendix 4: Preeminent/Emerging Preeminent Application Form](#)

PREEMINENT AND EMERGING PREEMINENT PROGRAMS

Appendix 1

Support Services Options

1. Cluster hire priority
2. Marketing (development of materials, writing articles for electronic, social, and print media)
3. Media Relations training and support
4. Enhancing national and international recognition (rankings, awards, designations, etc.)
5. Fundraising priority, training and support
6. Travel funds
7. Grant proposal support
8. Governmental Relations assessment and priority
9. Space / infrastructure priority consideration
10. Student support priority
11. Bridge funding priority (i.e., funding between grant awards)

PREEMINENT AND EMERGING PREEMINENT PROGRAMS

Appendix 2—Evaluation Matrix

iREAL Self-Evaluation Instrument for Applying for Preeminent Programs Designation

Applicant Name:							
Date:							
Categories	Score	1	2*	3	4**	5	Score
University Priorities							
Advance FIU's Strategic Themes	No relevance to FIU's strategic themes		Limited relevance to FIU's strategic themes		Direct and positive relation to FIU's strategic themes		
Support FIU's Mission	No relevance to FIU's mission		Limited relevance to FIU's mission		Direct and positive relation to FIU's mission		
Produce Auxiliary Revenue	Total Revenue: < \$50,000		Total Revenue > \$100,000		Total Revenue > \$200,000		
Produce Philanthropic Revenue	Total Fundraising < \$100,000		Total Fundraising > \$500,000		Total Fundraising > \$1,000,000		
National Ranking Criteria	No Formal Ranking/Not Ranked		Ranked but Low		Highly Ranked		
Research/Creative Activities							
Increase Post-doctoral Fellows	No potential to increase Post-Docs		Limited potential to increase Post-Docs		High potential to increase Post-Docs		
Increase Doctoral Students	No potential to increase doctoral students		Limited potential to increase doctoral students		High potential to increase doctoral students		
Recruit/Retain Preeminent Faculty	No impact on the university's ability to recruit top faculty		Limited impact on the university's ability to recruit top faculty		Significant impact on the university's ability to recruit top faculty		
Increase Grant Awards	Total Grants < \$100,000		Total Grants > \$500,000		Total Grants > \$1,000,000		
Diversify Grant Portfolio	No impact on grant sources		Increases sources by 1-3		Increases sources by > 3		

Applicant Name:							
Date:							
Categories	Score	1	2*	3	4**	5	Score
Expand potential for patents/spin-off		No patents/spin-off potential		Limited patents/spin-off potential		High patents/spin-off potential	
Education Outcomes							
Undergraduate, Professional and Graduate Students		< BOG & BOT criteria		At BOG & BOT Criteria		Employable, retention/graduation, National Merit Scholars	
Costs to Benefits							
Existing Infrastructure		>75%		26-75%		<25%	
Existing Faculty/Sustainability		< 3 faculty		4-9 faculty		>10 faculty	
Existing E&G Support		>75%		26-75%		<25%	
Existing O&M Support		>75%		26-75%		<25%	
Time to Maturation		> 3 years		2-3 years		< 1 year	
Perception Liability		Lowers perception of FIU		Does not affect perception of FIU		Enhances perception of FIU	
TOTAL SCORE = 0							
* Exhibits most characteristics of '1' and some of '3'							
** Exhibits most characteristics of '3' and some of '5'							

PREEMINENT AND EMERGING PREEMINENT PROGRAMS

Appendix 3

Preeminent Programs Selection Committee

The Preeminent Program Selection Committee will be charged with reviewing the Self-Evaluation Instrument (SEI) and applications, making recommendations for designation to the President and Provost, and providing feedback to applicants.

- The Committee will consist of five to nine faculty and active administrators identified by the Provost and Vice President for Research and Economic Development (VPR).
- The Committee chair will be appointed by the Provost and VPR.
- Tenured faculty members will comprise the majority of the Committee membership.
- Faculty members will be selected from a variety of departments and colleges.
- One of the faculty members will be the chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on Research, Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Engagement, or other qualified Senator as recommended by the Chair of the Faculty Senate and accepted by the Provost and VPR.
- To avoid conflicts of interest, applicants may not serve on the Committee.
- Faculty or administrators affiliated with the program may serve on the Committee but must disclose potential conflict. The chair will determine whether this conflict precludes the member from voting.

PREEMINENT PROGRAM OR EMERGING PREEMINENT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Appendix 4

Please answer all questions. A maximum of 5 pages, using standard paper size (8 ½" x 11") and a minimum of one-half inch margins (top, bottom, sides). Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per inch. Type may be no more than six lines per inch. A minimum of 11 point-sized font in Times New Roman or Calibri should be used. Avoid overly technical language and jargon as much as possible to effectively communicate to a cross-discipline selection committee. There are no minimum or maximum word count for each category but applications may not exceed five pages as outlined above and in the guidelines.

Application Type (select one): _____ **Preeminent Program** _____ **Emerging Preeminent Program**

Applicant Name and Contact Information: _____

Program Name: _____

1. Brief History of Applicant Program:

2. Accomplishments of Applicant Program related to [FIU's mission](#) and [BeyondPossible2020 Strategic Plan](#), including but not limited to student involvement (undergraduate, graduate and professional students) in education, research and engagement (e.g. graduation rate, post-graduate positions and scholarly/creative activities and productivity).

3. Broader Impact of Applicant Program in areas such as Teaching/Training, Diversity, Science, Society, Workforce and/or other areas.

4. Future Plans for the Applicant Program, including its sustainability, potential impact on students/research productivity, potential impact on scholarship/engagement at local, national and/or international levels.

5. Describe Collaborative and/or Interdisciplinary Nature of Applicant Program: