



Framework for USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus Teach-Out Plan

What Florida State Law says:

- (a) A University of South Florida student who was admitted to the university before July 1, 2026, and who remains continuously enrolled must receive the highest priority for the use of space for classroom instruction and associated educational needs in any transferred property or facility until the student has been provided the opportunity to graduate from the University of South Florida within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 4 full academic years after the date of the student's initial enrollment, as determined by the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida.
- (b) The Board of Trustees of New College of Florida must enter into a facility use agreement with the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida which makes available, free of any charge to the University of South Florida, sufficient academic and student support space in the transferred properties or facilities so that a University of South Florida student who was admitted to the university before July 1, 2026, has the reasonable opportunity to complete his or her University of South Florida degree programs on his or her local campus and to ensure that New College of Florida students, faculty, and staff have access to the educational and administrative space, when feasible, during and throughout the University of South Florida teach-out process.
- (c) The University of South Florida may not allow a newly enrolled student whose initial offer of admission to the university came after July 1, 2026, to designate the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee campus as the student's home campus of the University of South Florida.
- (d) This subsection does not prohibit the University of South Florida and New College of Florida from jointly entering into any other mutual agreement to share or use space in any of the transferred properties or facilities when it is in the best interest of both institutions or the students thereof.

Ref: HB5601 2026 and Section 1004.342 Florida Statutes

Guiding Principles:

- Focus on student success with clear pathways to degree progression, graduation, and placement
- Transparency of communication
- Compliance with state law
- Compliance with accreditation standards and principles
- Continuous quality assurance in instructional delivery and student support
- Optimize institutional efficiencies

The USF SM Teach-Out Task Force:

Members:

Cindy DeLuca, Vice President, USF Student Success, Co-Chair
Kaushik Dutta, Vice Provost, USF Office of the Provost, Co-Chair
Christopher Combie, USF Office of Institutional Effectiveness, SACSCOC Liaison
Jess Grosholz, Chair, USF SM Faculty Council
Brett Kemker, USF SM Interim Regional Chancellor and Vice Provost
Casey Welch, USF SM Regional Vice Chancellor, External Affairs and Government Relations
Dean or designated Assistant/Associate Dean, USF Undergraduate Studies
Dean or designated Assistant/Associate Dean, USF Graduate Studies
Dean or designated Assistant/Associate Dean (academics and student success), USF College of Arts and Sciences
Dean or designated Assistant/Associate Dean (academics and student success), USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences
Dean or designated Assistant/Associate Dean (academics and student success), USF Muma College of Business
Dean or designated Assistant/Associate Dean (academics and student success), USF College of Education
Dean or designated Assistant/Associate Dean (academics and student success), USF College of Nursing
Dean or designated Assistant/Associate Dean (academics and student success), USF Libraries
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer or designee from Business and Finance (instructional and student support budget needs)
Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer or designee (instructional and student support space needs)

The Process:

1. It is likely that we will be required to submit a Substantive Change request along with a Teach-Out Plan to SACSCOC as soon as possible and no later than July 1, 2026.

This will address the phase out/termination of the USF SM campus as an instructional site within a singularly accredited university (USF) and provide assurance of adequacy of continuing instructional and student success support.

2. Developing and executing the USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus Teach-Out Plan.

The Teach-Out Plan:

A **4-year teach-out plan** for undergraduate (FTICs and Transfers) **and** graduate students who (a) **have been admitted to and declared USF SM as their “home campus” prior to July 1, 2026** (b) **ensures that continually enrolled students can complete their degrees locally no later than Spring 2030**. While there is no differentiation between UG (FTICs and Transfers) and GR students **or** mention of students seeking certificate completion **or** dual-enrollment students, the Task Force would do well to pay attention to **ALL** students admitted to USF SM prior to July 1, 2026.

A comprehensive teach-out plan – the kind most likely required by SACSCOC – typically includes:

1. Academic Completion Pathways should include:

- An audit of all undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs affected
- A semester-by-semester schedule showing how remaining courses will be offered over the teach-out period (including mode of delivery and, in the case of online delivery, the USF campus from which the course/section is delivered)
- Plans for maintaining academic quality and accreditation throughout the teach-out

2. Student Transfer Options should include:

- Any changes in USF policy and practice pertaining to declaration of “home campus,” especially for USF SM students wanting to change their “home campus” to USF SP or USF Tampa (and prohibition of other students seeking a change to USF SM as a their “home campus” after July 1, 2026)
- Service agreements with other campuses (USF SP and USF T), or colleges/universities (“teach-out partners”), if relevant/necessary
- Information on how credits will transfer, if relevant
- Guarantees regarding acceptance of students into comparable programs where relevant
- Advising support for students who choose to transfer out or change majors rather than remain in the teach-out

3. Faculty and Staffing Plans should include:

- Retention of sufficient number of qualified faculty to teach required courses with re-assignment of other faculty addressed by the USF SM → USF SM Transition Advisory Working Group, in consultation with the Provost
- Plans for replacing instructional faculty who choose to leave USF SM before the teach-out ends
- Continued availability of advisors, financial aid personnel, and student support staff with re-assignment addressed by the USF SM → USF SM Transition Advisory Working Group, in consultation with the Provost

4. Financial Resources – USF will allocate sufficient funds to meet the Teach-Out needs (instructional and student success support) for USF SM students through Spring 2030 as necessary, which includes:

- Evidence that the institution has adequate funding to operate through the teach-out period
- Budget projections covering instruction, student services, facilities, and administrative functions
- Contingency and efficiency optimization plans if enrollment declines faster than expected, which was the case at USF Lakeland

5. Student Services should include:

Assurance of continued student access to:

- Academic advising
- Financial aid counseling
- Disability services
- Library resources
- Career services
- Technology and learning management systems
- Student Government
- Student Health and Wellness services
- Veterans' services

6. Records and Transcript Management – USF Office of the Registrar should include:

- Plans for maintaining academic records after transfer of campus
- Identification of the entity that will hold transcripts permanently
- Instructions for future transcript requests

7. Facilities and Operations – USF SM Instructional and Student Success needs by semester should include:

- Information on which campus facilities will remain open and accessible to USF SM students
- Plans for housing, laboratories, clinical placements, internships, and other program-specific requirements
- Timeline for phased transfer of campus facilities

8. Communication Plan should include:

- Regular updates to USF SM students, faculty, staff, USF Board of Trustees, Florida Board of Governors and accreditors
- Designated contacts for questions and complaints
- Clear timelines and milestones

9. Regulatory and Accreditation Compliance should include:

- Approval by the institution's accreditor

- Compliance with state law, Florida Board of Governors, USF and US Department of Education regulations
- Reporting requirements during the teach-out period

An example of a 4-Year teach-out timeline follows:

Year 1

- Announce cessation of admitting new students to USF SM
- Direct communication with students, faculty and staff regarding course offerings by semester and the requirement for continuing enrollment
- Begin phased course offerings – including, where appropriate, USF SM priority enrollment for online delivery from USFSP and USF Tampa

Year 2

- Most upper-level courses continue
- Students with fewer remaining credits are encouraged to finish

Year 3

- Enrollment anticipated to decline
- Some specialized courses offered in compressed or alternative formats

Year 4

- Final graduating cohorts complete programs
- Any remaining students will transfer their “home campus” to USF SP or USF Tampa or to other colleges/universities under teach-out agreements.

What can be learned from the USF Lakeland teach-out plan?

The USF Lakeland teach-out plan dates back to the creation of what became Florida Polytechnic University. In 2012, the Florida Legislature separated the former USF Polytechnic from the University of South Florida and established Florida Polytechnic as an independent university. As part of that transition, USF and Polk State College agreed to a **five-year teach-out period** for students and programs located at the Lakeland campus (a shared instructional site). During the teach-out, USF continued operating on the Lakeland campus while currently enrolled students were given time to complete their degrees.

Key elements of the teach-out included:

- No disruption for students already enrolled in USF Polytechnic degree programs
- Continued course offerings so students could finish their degrees under USF
- Retention of faculty and academic support sufficient to deliver remaining programs
- A multi-year transition rather than an immediate closure

- Eventual transfer of campus space and operations away from USF once enrolled students had graduated or otherwise completed their programs

In this case the teach-out was **five years**, not four. The purpose was to ensure that students who started at USF Polytechnic/Lakeland were not forced to transfer unexpectedly when the campus ceased operating as a USF site.