



OVERVIEW - Academic Program Review Policy

Statutory Authority

KRS 164.020(16) grants the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) the authority to conduct statewide program reviews with a focus on consistency with the institution's mission; alignment with the state's strategic postsecondary agenda and implementation plan; elimination of unnecessary duplication of programs within and among institutions; and efforts to create cooperative to achieve effective and efficient program delivery.

Council Review of Academic Program Policy

Statewide program review has taken several forms since the inception of CPE, but each process has focused on continuous improvement as well as the operationalization of statutory criteria. CPE's policy was updated in July 2021 for university programs and in January 2023 for KCTCS programs.

Annual Reports

Universities submit reports that:

- summarize the institutional program review process for the previous academic year;
- highlight the programmatic decisions made during the previous academic year; and
- discuss plans for institutional program review for the upcoming year.

The KCTCS System Office submits a report that:

- provides recommendations for each reviewed program;
- describes the strengths and/or opportunities of each program compared to similar KCTCS;
- describes the weakness and/or threats of each program compared to similar KCTCS programs;
- describes the variations across institutions offering each program; and
- summarizes any program improvement plans.

Reports are due annually on July 15th.

Statewide Data Analysis

Statewide data analysis assists in the continuous improvement and efficiency of Kentucky's academic portfolio.

CPE staff analyze data across universities to determine if any programs meet all of the following criteria:

- multiple programs in the same CIP code;
- low and declining enrollment;
- low new student demand;
- low market demand; and
- low or negative contribution margins.

For KCTCS programs undergoing the program review process, CPE analyzes enrollment trends, degree/credential production trends, and market data to identify any programs with:

- low enrollment;
- declining enrollment for the previous four years;
- declining number of degrees or credentials conferred for the previous four years;
- low regional student demand; or
- low regional market demand.

Programs meeting these criteria must submit program improvement plans.

Statewide Strategic Agenda

When relevant at the academic program level, CPE staff facilitate statewide discussion and initiatives to:

- understand existing policies and practices at institutions related to the priority;
- identify obstacles to full implementation of initiatives related to the priority;
- provide professional development opportunities related to the priority; and
- evaluate campus plans to create, implement, or expand initiatives related to the priority.

More details can be found at [Academic Program Review - Ky. Council on Postsecondary Education](#)

University Program Review Policy: [Kentucky Academic Program Review Policy](#)

KCTCS Program Review Policy: [KCTCS Academic Program Review Policy \(ky.gov\)](#)