

**TITLE:** Academic Programs Report - Academic Year 2021-22

**DESCRIPTION:** Staff will provide an overview of the new, closed, and reviewed academic programs during the 2021-2022 academic year.

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## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The Council is the approving body for academic programs at Kentucky's public institutions. KRS 164.020(15) empowers the Council to define and approve the offering of all technical, certificate, diploma, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree at public postsecondary institutions. It also mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature. This statutory duty is operationalized through the Council's New Academic Program Approval Policy, which was last updated in September 2020.

The Council also has the authority to review programs after they are implemented. Under KRS 164.020 (16), the Council has the authority to eliminate or modify existing programs using the criteria of consistency with institutional mission, alignment with the statewide strategy agenda, elimination of unnecessary duplication, and the creation of collaborative programs. This statutory duty is operationalized through two Council policies – the Statewide Academic Program Review Policy, which was last revised in June 2021 and the Statewide Academic Review for KCTCS, which was approved in January 2023.

## **NEW PROGRAM APPROVALS IN 2021-22**

A total of 127 new academic programs were approved during the 2021-2022 academic year. Of these, 109 are undergraduate certificates and three are postbaccalaureate certificates, which require only staff review.

CPE staff approved eight associates degrees at KCTCS institutions:

- Big Sandy Community & Technical – Associate of Applied Science in Nursing
- Hopkinsville Community – Associate of Applied Science in Computerized Manufacturing & Machining
- Jefferson Community & Technical – Associate of Applied Science in Nursing
- Maysville Community & Technical – Associate of Applied Science in Human Services, Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Maintenance Technology, and Associate of Applied Science Education
- Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical – Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician.

The Council approved one bachelor's degree, five master's degrees, and one education specialist degree:

- Northern Kentucky University – Master of Science in Cardiovascular Perfusion
- University of Kentucky – Master of Science in Heritage Resource Administration
- University of Louisville – Bachelor of Science in General Studies, Master of Science in Health Professions Education, Master of Science in Accountancy and Analytics, and an Educational Specialist in Curriculum and Instructions
- Western Kentucky University – Master of Science in Cybersecurity Data Analytics.

## **REVIEW OF EXISTING PROGRAMS IN 2021-22**

Per Council policy, universities submitted their program review reports in July 2022. These reports included a summary of the institutional program review processes, programmatic decisions, and plans for the upcoming year.

### Overview of Institutional Program Review Processes

#### Eastern Kentucky University

- At EKU, each academic college creates a committee to evaluate and provide recommendations for each program. The program chairs begin the review cycle before developing a college review committee that provide recommendations. Then, the Provost, the Associate Provost for Academic Programs, the Vice President of Student Success, and the Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness & Research and Financial Aid review the reports and recommendations.

#### Kentucky State University

- KSU uses the program review process to determine the effectiveness of each program in carrying out the university's mission, goals, objectives, and strategic plan and to promote continuous program improvement. Program reviews focus specifically on the components of instruction, research, and public service, with primary emphasis on providing quality education. The review process generates diagnostic information for program and personnel improvement and resource allocation.

#### Morehead State University

- At Morehead, the Deans Council distributes a set of prompts to program faculty in the spring to guide the review process. Deans lead the program review process with each academic department. The deans, chairs and associate deans, and former program leads for the Gray Associates review process serve as the departmental leads for discussing and interpreting the data with program faculty. Then program faculty provide an overall recommendation to the chair and associate dean. The chairs and associate deans complete a similar independent review before all reviews are sent to Office of the Provost.

#### Murray State University

- At Murray, academic deans and the provost rank their programs based on a weighted average of five metrics provided by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness: headcount, velocity, demand, persistence, and degree productions. Each program decision was discussed internally at the college level. Department chairs and faculty were involved with the decisions. Discussions were limited to staff in the dean's office, and department chairs impacted by any change, for programs housed in the college.

#### Northern Kentucky University

- NKU's annual program review process consists of regular meetings with the deans overseeing the programs going for a review. These meetings aim to clarify the process, data needs, and timelines and address questions. The college deans then distributed the program review templates to the programs due for review. These programs are provided with a template that includes different data points (see the section below on data collection). Regular follow-ups are sent to the deans to request progress updates and provide guidance or help address questions as programs work their way through the process. Subsequent meetings are scheduled at the deans or academic departments' request. Once programs address the template's data, the program review report is sent to the

deans for review and approval before final submission to the Office of the Provost.

#### University of Kentucky

- UK's academic program review process is conducted at the department level. Each academic unit is encouraged to facilitate a collaborative self-study process that involves faculty, staff, and other constituents. Following the self-study, an external review committee is developed by each academic dean. This committee is charged by the dean to review and summarize the self-study and then to make at least 5 recommendations for improvements to each academic unit. Finally, the department has a conversation with the dean to create an implementation plan that will guide the department's continuous improvement activities.

#### University of Louisville

- To begin the annual review process, the Office of Academic Planning and Accountability held three separate unit-level Program Review orientation meetings on Microsoft Teams in September 2021. Each academic program being reviewed were directed to submit their reports by January 2022. Next the Academic Program Review Committee reviewed all reports submitted. Members of the committee are appointed by the Provost to oversee the university's academic program review process. The role of committee members is to review program reports and identify areas of commendation, needs, and/or areas for improvement in alignment with university mission, goals, and initiatives. After each committee meeting, the Program Review Coordinator sent a revision request to the reviewed academic programs that summarized the committee's concerns and questions. Programs were given four weeks to submit a revised report. After a program submitted its revised report, the revised report was forwarded for additional review by the Academic Program Review Committee. Committee members then voted on whether to recommend a fix, sunset, sustain, or grow programmatic decision for each program to the Provost.

#### Western Kentucky University

- WKU uses two processes to review academic programs – the Program Sustainability Check-up (PSC) and Academic Program Review (APR). The Program Sustainability Check-up is meant to quickly and efficiently identify programs that may need help to improve their long-term viability. The aim to is for the review committee to proactively identify key metrics, monitor the program, and work with the department to develop an improvement plan.

## Results of Institutional Program Review Processes

During the 2021-2022 academic year, Kentucky's public universities reviewed 188 academic programs and provided recommendations:

- 55 programs were recommended to grow;
- 81 programs were recommended to sustain;
- 16 programs were recommended to be improved; and
- 22 programs were recommended to close.

Of the 22 programs that are set to close, the majority of are undergraduate certificates (5) and postbaccalaureate (9) certificates. Other programs set to sunset include:

- Morehead State University
  - Bachelor of Science in Engineering Management - Merged into the Technology Management program to become a 2+2 complete online program.
- Murray State University
  - Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts - The program had low enrollment and low student demand.
- University of Kentucky - Each of these programs were set to sunset based on reported low enrollment and low student demand.
  - Master of Arts in Elementary Education
  - Master of Engineering
  - Education-Counseling Psychology (EdS)
  - Education and Counseling Psychology (EdD) – Students were choosing to pursue the PhD instead
  - Gerontology (PhD)