

TITLE: KCTCS Academic Program Review

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Committee approve the proposed process for reviewing academic programs at Kentucky Community and Technical College institutions, and recommended approval by the full Council at its January 27, 2023 meeting.

PRESENTERS: Melissa Bell, Vice President of Academic Excellence and Student Success

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

KRS 164.020 (16) outlines four criteria for statewide academic program review to determine:

- 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.
- Efforts to create cooperative programs with other institutions through traditional means, or by use of distance learning technology and electronic resources, to achieve effective and efficient program delivery.

OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW

The academic program review process is a key responsibility of state coordinating boards like the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). The process ensures that academic programs are consistent with state priorities and that public resources are used efficiently for the greater good of the Commonwealth.

Purpose of Program Review

There are two types of program review – institutional and statewide. The statewide process is designed to complement and enhance, not supplant, institutional-level program reviews.

Institutional program reviews serve several purposes. They are undertaken to promote continuous improvement. Because there are limited resources, programs must fit with the institution's mission and strategic direction and must be economically viable. Institutional program reviews also focus on academic quality issues, specifically attainment of student learning outcomes as well as distinction of faculty research. And institutional program reviews must meet all the requirements of both institutional and programmatic accreditation.

There is some overlap in purpose between institutional and statewide review. Both focus on continuous improvement and alignment with mission and strategic direction. While institutional review focuses on the viability of individual programs, statewide review looks at efficiency from a broader perspective.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW - UNIVERSITIES

In 2019, CPE contracted with Gray Associates to work with universities to review all baccalaureate programs. Through an intensive process that included extensive data analysis and intra-institutional conversations, institutional teams evaluated all undergraduate programs and identified programs to Start, Sunset, Fix/Grow or Sustain.

Upon completion of this process, in June 2021 CPE approved a statewide academic program review policy for universities that consists of consists of three major components: 1) Annual reports summarizing institutional review efforts; 2) Statewide data analysis focused on efficiency criteria; and 3) Efforts to scale up implementation of the statewide postsecondary education strategic agenda.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW - KCTCS

Since funding was not available for KCTCS programs to undertake the same baseline process that the universities underwent, CPE worked with KCTCS leaders to develop a statewide program review process focused on the following elements: 1) centrality to institutional mission and statewide goals, 2) academic quality, 3) student success, 4) program outcomes and impact.

The proposed process incorporates elements of the statewide process used for universities without using a vendor and outlines the role of the KCTCS System Office in program review.