OVEVIEW - Approval of New Academic Programs

Statutory Authority

While numerous statutes and administrative regulations define the role of the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) as well as institutional authority in the area of academic programming, the two most fundamental to CPE's role include:

- KRS 164.020 (15) that empowers CPE to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions.
- KRS 164.020(19) that allows CPE to postpone the approval of any new program at a state postsecondary institution, unless the institution has met its equal educational opportunity goals as established by the Council.
  - In accordance with administrative regulations promulgated by the Council, those institutions not meeting the goals shall be able to obtain a temporary waiver, if the institution has made substantial progress toward meeting its equal educational opportunity goals.

Council Academic Program Approval Policy

Academic program approval policy has been updated several times since the creation of the Council in 1997. The program approval policy most recently updated in September 2020. Highlights of the policy include:

- An institution may not submit a proposal unless it has achieved automatic eligibility status or has obtained the appropriate waiver under 13 KAR 2:060.
- Certificate programs for KCTCS and universities are approved by CPE staff upon review of the New Diploma/Certificate Form. KCTCS Board of Regents must review certificates of a vocational/technical /occupational nature that are proposed by universities.
- For associate degree programs at KCTCS institutions, the KCTCS system office posts a proposal to the online program approval system. Institutions and Council staff have 30 days to respond to the proposal. If no issues are identified, the program will be approved by Council staff and reported as an information item at the next Academic and Strategic Initiatives (ASI) Committee meeting.
- For degree programs at universities, an institution posts to the online Notification of Intent (NOI) system. The notification will then be shared with the chief academic officers

at the other public universities at their next meeting. After the NOI process, the institution posts a proposal to the online program approval system. Institutions and Council staff have 30 days to respond to the proposal. If no issues are identified, the program will be reviewed by Council staff and the ASI Committee then sent to the full Council for approval.

- o KCTCS must review any proposed associate degree program proposed by a university.
- o Advanced practice doctorates require additional information.

More details can be found at http://cpe.ky.gov/policies/academicprograms.html.

Program Approval Policy: Kentucky Academic Program Approval - New Academic Programs