

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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Statewide Review of Existing Academic Programs
Coordinating Board for Higher Education
April 6, 2017

DESCRIPTION

Beginning February 2017, and pursuant to Sections 173.005(1), 173.005(8), 173.030(1), and 173.030(2), RSMo, the MDHE began a statewide review of all academic programs for Missouri's public two- and four-year institutions. This board item provides information on the progress of this review.

Background

In September of 2010, with the approval of the Coordinating Board of Higher Education, the MDHE undertook a statewide review of all academic programs at each of the two-year and four-year public institutions. In February 2017, Commissioner Zora Mulligan requested that MDHE begin a similar process to review all academic programs not currently under provisional review.

As with the 2010 review, MDHE staff will analyze completions from the Enhanced Missouri Student Achievement Study (EMSAS) for all academic programs and flag those programs which do not meet certain completions thresholds for further review. Following CBHE policy for program productivity, the three-year average for completion thresholds are as follows:

- At least 10 graduates for undergraduate certificates and degrees (associate and baccalaureate); certificates belonging to a parent associate degree will be counted with that associate degree
- At least 5 graduates for master's degrees and graduate certificates
- At least 3 graduates at the doctoral degree level

Methodology

In the first phase of the review, MDHE will analyze all academic programs, at all degree levels, at each public institution using graduation data reported by the institution to the department through EMSAS. The 6-digit Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code assigned to each program as listed in the state's official academic program inventory and the degree level will be the identifying data for each program.

Once MDHE has compiled a list of each institution's programs and completions, the department will send the list to each public institution, which will then review the list to verify the accuracy of the data. MDHE staff will work with the institutions to reconcile the data to obtain an accurate list of programs and completions.

After the program list has been reconciled and the accuracy of the data is affirmed, MDHE staff will send each institution an official list of "flagged" programs that fall below the CBHE-recommended completions threshold and that require further review by the institution. Each

institution will review the programs on its list and report to the MDHE the results of its review, including any action the institution intends to take and the justifications for that action.

MDHE staff will review and assess the institutions' justifications of the intended actions and will analyze the institutions' responses for maintaining a program based on data and documentation provided by the institutions and qualitative measures contained in existing CBHE policy.

The MDHE will provide to each institution a preliminary report of the department's initial review of each institution's proposed action. The institutions will have an opportunity to respond to this report and, if requested, provide additional data, documentation, and information to the MDHE for review.

MDHE staff will prepare a draft report and send it to the chief academic officer at each public institution for review and comment. Based on this feedback, the draft will be revised as needed and as is appropriate. MDHE staff will present the final report to the Coordinating Board at its December meeting.

Timeline

The timetable for the review process:

- Week of February 13: Proposed methodology sent to CAOs at all public IHEs
- February 23, 2017 (1:00-3:00): MDHE webinar on program review
- March 3, 2017: List of programs and completions sent to institutions sent for review and reconciliation
- By March 31, 2017: Reconciliation of preliminary list completed; official list of flagged programs sent to institutions
- By June 30, 2017: Institutional responses returned to MDHE
- By August 30, 2017: MDHE review of proposed action; preliminary report sent to IHEs
- By September 31, 2017: IHEs response to MDHE preliminary report due
- By October 31, 2017: Draft report sent to IHEs for review
- December 14, 2017: Final report presented to CBHE

Current Status

The MDHE has finished compiling the initial list of all programs and completions and sent them to each of the institutions for review and reconciliation. Each public two- and four-year institution is in the process of reconciling MDHE's data with that of their own institutional data; many of the IR staff and academic officers have been in contact with MDHE staff in order to reconcile the data and have the data ready to submit to MDHE no later than March 31, 2017.

Conclusion

MDHE staff are working with the institutions to complete the statewide academic review of all programs. A full report will be present to the CBHE at the December 14, 2017, meeting.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Section 173.005(1), RSMo – CBHE statutory authority to approve proposed new degree programs to be offered by the state institutions of higher education.

Section 173.005(8), RSMo – CBHE statutory authority to collect the necessary information and develop comparable data for all institutions of higher education in the state . . .

Section 173.030(1), RSMo – CBHE statutory authority to request the governing boards of all state-supported institutions of higher education and of major private institutions to submit . . . proposed policy changes . . . and make pertinent recommendations relating thereto . . .

Section 173.030(2), RSMo – CBHE statutory authority to recommend to the governing board of any institution of higher education in the state the development, consolidation or elimination of programs, degree offerings, physical facilities or policy changes where that action is deemed . . . in the best interests of the institutions . . .

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is an information item only.

ATTACHEMENT

None