



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

March 27, 2025

Approval of New Technical Education Programs

The Utah Board of Higher Education reviews new technical education programs approved by institutional boards of trustees to ensure compliance with Board-established criteria, workforce alignment, and educational pathways. Institutional trustees have the authority to approve new programs under [Board Policy R401](#) and [Utah Code 53B-16-102](#), based on criteria established by the Board. Trustee-approved programs are placed on the Board's consent agenda for review. If a program is considered out of compliance with Board policy, the Board may request further review, require an interim evaluation, or override the approval.

Background and Review Process

New technical education programs are developed to address workforce needs and provide students with relevant skills for in-demand careers. Before implementation, each program must meet Board-established criteria and undergo a structured review process that includes:

- **Institutional Review and Trustee Approval:** Institutional boards of trustees evaluate programs to ensure alignment with the institution's role and mission, workforce demand in the designated service region, and institutional capacity. Institutions must also demonstrate the availability of qualified faculty, adequate facilities, and sustainable funding.
- **Peer Review:** Technical education chief instructional officers and faculty assess curriculum structure, workforce relevance, and potential duplication with existing programs.
- **Evaluation by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education:** The Commissioner's office ensures compliance with Board policies, assesses workforce alignment, and reviews institutional capacity. This evaluation also considers program duplication, statewide workforce priorities, and opportunities for collaboration with secondary and postsecondary institutions to enhance stackable credentials and educational pathways.

The attachment lists technical education programs approved by institutional boards of trustees.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the Board approve these new technical education programs as presented.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Bridgerland Technical College – Law Enforcement

Attachment 2 – Davis Technical College – Control Systems and Robotics

Attachment 3 – Dixie Technical College – Firefighter

Attachment 4 – Mountainland Technical College – Civil Construction I

Attachment 5 – Southwest Technical College – Master Esthetician