



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

November 21, 2024

Board Policy R404, Technical Education Program Alignment and Initiative Update

The Office of the Commissioner proposes Board Policy R404, Technical Education Program Alignment, to implement requirements outlined in [Utah Code 53B-16-105](#). This policy establishes clear standards for aligning technical education programs across Utah System of Higher Education institutions with a technical college role. By setting consistent program expectations statewide, Board Policy R404 supports clear, transferable pathways for students and prepares them for employment in well-defined occupational fields.

Aligned programs support the Board's goals by equipping students with comprehensive industry-relevant skills and providing employers with confidence in the consistency of graduates' abilities. By enhancing transferability across institutions, this policy creates seamless pathways for students, fostering smooth transitions into the workforce and unlocking educational and career advancement opportunities.

The proposed policy includes:

- **Consistent Standards Across Institutions:** Board Policy R404 requires standardized program names, CIP codes, foundational course structures, and objectives at each technical college. Consistent coursework and program structure help students understand their training options, improve transferability, and ensure employers recognize graduates' skills across institutions.
- **Local Adaptability:** Institutions can add courses beyond the foundational requirements, allowing programs to be tailored to specific regional industry needs. This adaptability extends program length when necessary while maintaining a clear, cohesive structure.
- **Annual Review Process:** The policy establishes an annual review by alignment committees of faculty subject matter from each institution that offers the program. This review ensures that programs stay current with industry standards and evolving workforce needs.

This policy exemplifies the Board's commitment to creating cohesive, industry-relevant technical education across Utah.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the Board approve Board Policy R404, Technical Education Program Alignment.

Attachment

Attachment 1 – Board Policy R404, Technical Education Program Alignment