

TITLE: New Academic Programs Approved at KCTCS

DESCRIPTION: Staff have approved two AAS program proposals from KCTCS institutions between February and April 2025 in accordance with the program approval process. No additional action is necessary from the Council.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council to define and approve the offering of all technical, certificate, diploma, associate, baccalaureate, graduate and professional degree at public postsecondary institutions. It also mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature.

PROGRAM APPROVAL PROCESS FOR KCTCS INSTITUTIONS

Associate degree programs of a vocational-technical-occupational nature (i.e. AAS) undergo the following process for approval:

- KCTCS posts a proposal to the program approval system. Institutions and Council staff have 30 days to respond.
- If no issues are identified, the program is approved by Council staff and reported as an information item to the Council.
- If issues are identified, the institution addresses those through the program approval system, and the review period is extended. Once the issues are resolved, the program is approved by Council staff and reported as an information item at the next Council meeting.

APPROVED PROGRAMS AT KCTCS

Council staff have reviewed and approved the following programs. No further action is needed.

Henderson Community College

- Associate of Applied Science, Education (CIP 13.1501) – The program will offer students the training required to begin careers in education. Several schools in the region report an insufficient supply of teachers. Graduates will be prepared to enter the classroom as primary and secondary school teacher's aides. In addition, Murray State University has a

regional campus on Henderson Community College's campus and will partner on a "2 + 2" program, meaning interested students will be able to complete the associate program and coursework for a bachelor's degree from the Henderson Community College campus.

Somerset Community College

- Associate of Applied Science, Human and Social Services (44.0000) – The program will prepare individuals for entry-level positions in agencies and institutions that provide social, community, educational and mental health services. The program was created (in part) in response to a joint meeting between representatives of CPE's Healthcare Workforce Initiatives and academic leadership from Somerset Community College. Attendees discussed the lack of programs to address mental health needs in the region, with all parties noting a shortage of available, qualified well-trained employees. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be prepared to seek employment in various areas, which may include mental health settings, chemical dependency settings, hospitals, educational institutions, correctional facilities, geriatric settings, child and youth centers, childcare facilities and social service agencies.