

TITLE: Proposed New Academic Programs for Review & Recommendation

DESCRIPTION: The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee recommends the Council approval proposed new academic programs from Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, the University of Kentucky and Western Kentucky University.

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COMMITTEE REVIEW & APPROVAL

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee reviewed and endorsed for final approval the below proposed new academic programs from Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, the University of Kentucky and Western Kentucky University at its April 14, 2025, meeting.

PROGRAMS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL

Council staff has reviewed the following proposed programs and recommends approval by the board. The university-submitted documentation has been included in your agenda packets for review.

Kentucky State University

- Master of Science, Biological and Agricultural Engineering (14.0301)
- Master of Science, Criminal Justice (43.0104)
- Master of Social Work, Social Work (44.0701)

Morehead State University

- Doctor of Engineering, Systems Engineering (14.2701)

Murray State University

- Associate of Science, Dental Hygiene (51.0602)

University of Kentucky

- Master of Accounting, Accountancy and Analytics (30.7104)
- Doctor of Audiology, Audiology (51.0202)

Western Kentucky University

- Bachelor of Science, User Experience (11.0105)

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council on Postsecondary Education 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.

Regarding the programs proposed by Morehead State University and Murray State University:

- KRS 164.2951 permits comprehensive universities to offer advanced practice doctoral programs, and 13 KAR 2:110 describes the criteria and conditions for the approval of advanced practice doctoral programs at comprehensive universities. A comprehensive university requesting approval for an advanced practice doctorate is obligated to provide additional details about the program beyond what is normally required. The institution also must describe how the doctorate will build upon an existing master's degree in the same field, detail any distinctive qualities of the existing master's program, demonstrate that the doctorate is required to advance in the field of study, explain the proposed program's impact on the institution's undergraduate education and provide evidence that the program will not impair funding for any existing programs at other public universities.
- KRS 164.295 permits comprehensive universities to offer associate programs. The CPE's "New Program Approval Policy" (approved in 2020) describes how KCTCS must be included in such proposals. Specifically, if a university intends to offer an associate program, the program will only move forward if KCTCS determines, within 30 days of notification, that a community and technical college(s) in the proposing institution's area of geographic responsibility: (1) does not have an interest in creating a similar program, and (2) does not have the ability to implement the program in a more cost-efficient and effective manner.