

Update on 90-credit applied bachelor's degree programs / March 2025

This is the second in a series of updates being shared with the trustees at Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) Committee meetings and at full Board meetings (the first was shared at the February 10 ASA meeting).

I. Programs in the pilot cohort. The programs identified for the pilot are:

- Business Management, UMFK
- Public Administration, UMA
- Bachelor of College Studies, UMM
- Psychology, UMPI (Your Pace)
- Bachelor of Liberal Studies, UMPI (Your Pace)

* Consistent with NECHE expectations, we will use the prefix "Applied" to distinguish our 90-credit offerings from our 120-credit offerings. In addition to clear advising, marketing, and catalog descriptions of these programs, we will take additional steps to differentiate them in cases where the term "Applied" is also associated with a 120-credit program.

II. Resource page. We have created a resource page that will go live at the end of February. It contains links to NECHE information, our established curricular development policies and processes, and articles about 90-credit programs published in the Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, and other outlets over the past two years. Following the same approach taken during our 2022 NECHE self study, we will periodically update the UMS community on our progress via email and post those updates to the resource page.

III. Campus engagement. Chancellor Malloy will speak with faculty, staff, and students on this subject during his spring 2025 visits to our universities and Maine Law. Vice Chancellor St. John is sharing regular updates with the UMS Faculty Governance Council, the provosts, the enrollment managers, the registrars, and other groups, and will offer an update and answer questions at each of his spring 2025 visits with our faculty senates and assemblies.

IV. Status of the programs. Trustees can expect detailed updates about where the pilot programs stand in the curricular development and approval process at the April 28 ASA meeting and at the May Board meeting.

