



Tab 20
2019 Comprehensive Review Process
Coordinating Board for Higher Education
December 12, 2018

BACKGROUND

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education has statutory responsibility to approve all new academic programs proposed to be offered by public colleges and universities (§173.005 and §173.030 RSMo). The Higher Education System Review Task Force, in its 2016 report to the Coordinating Board, recommended streamlining the process for reviewing new academic program proposals so that institutions have the flexibility to meet workforce and student needs while also maintaining fidelity to their core missions. The CBHE approved a three-tiered framework for the review of new academic program proposals, through either Staff, Routine, or Comprehensive review. This agenda item reports the timeline for submitting and processing Comprehensive review for the 2019-2020 academic year.

CURRENT STATUS

Comprehensive reviews are designed for proposed programs that are outside an institution's CBHE-approved mission, are outside the institution's CBHE-approved service region, require substantial costs to launch and sustain, degrees at the baccalaureate level or higher that fall within the CIP code of 14 (Engineering), or are doctoral degrees as further described in paragraph (9) (C)3 of CSR 10-4.010 or education specialist degree.

MDHE staff has developed a timeline for submitting proposals for consideration under the comprehensive review umbrella for the 2019-2020 review cycle. Prior to formally submitting a proposal, however, MDHE staff strongly encourages institutions to consult with the Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs to assess informally the appropriateness of the institution's request and its capacity to comply with the requirements and expectations of the comprehensive review. This informal consultation will allow institutions to evaluate fully the parameters of the of comprehensive review, while also allowing MDHE staff to estimate prior to the submission deadline the number of proposals that might be submitted for review.

TIMELINE FOR 2019-2020 COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW CYCLE

January-May 2019 MDHE strongly encourages institutions to consult with the Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs prior to submitting a preliminary proposal for comprehensive review to assess informally the appropriateness of the institution's request and its capacity to comply with the requirements and expectations of the comprehensive review.

July 1, 2019 Preliminary proposals for new academic programs requiring comprehensive review are due to the MDHE. The preliminary proposal is a statement of the institution's intent and provides MDHE staff an opportunity to assess which programs—if any—should undergo a full review. The CBHE, in its sole discretion and in consultation with MDHE staff, will determine by its September meeting which of the preliminary proposals to evaluate through a full comprehensive review. Proposals selected for a full comprehensive review will submit the additional elements to submit a complete proposal for comprehensive review.

July-September 2019 Preliminary proposals will be posted for public comment for 20 working days during this period. MDHE staff will evaluate the proposals and determine which of those received will be undergo comprehensive review. There is no limit on the number of programs that may be reviewed during the 2019-2020 cycle, but because of limited staff capacity MDHE staff may limit the number of proposals it will consider for comprehensive review.

- September 11, 2019** Programs selected for the 2019-2020 comprehensive review cycle will be formally announced at the September 2019 CBHE meeting.
- Sept. 2019–Feb. 2020** MDHE staff will work with each institution with a proposal undergoing comprehensive review to ensure the proposal is complete and the CBHE has all the information and data necessary to approve or disapprove the proposed program. Complete proposals will be posted for public comment for 20 working days during this period.
- March 6, 2020** The Coordinating Board for Higher Education will take action on the proposals considered through comprehensive review at its March meeting, and institutions will be notified of the decision in writing following the meeting.

The elements of a comprehensive review are found in 6 CSR 10-4.010, and the June 2018 Coordinating Board for Higher Education Board Book Agenda, Tab 12, or by contacting Missouri Department of Higher Education Academic Affairs staff.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

NO ATTACHMENTS