

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### AGENDA ITEM

Statewide Review of Existing Academic Programs  
Coordinating Board for Higher Education  
September 14, 2017

### DESCRIPTION

In February 2017, pursuant to Sections 173.005(1), 173.005(8), 173.030(1), and 173.030(2), RSMo, the MDHE began a statewide review of all academic programs (except those approved provisionally) for Missouri's public two- and four-year institutions. This board item provides information on the progress of this review.

### Background

In February 2017, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education directed MDHE staff to review all academic programs (except those provisionally approved) at each of the two-year and four-year public institutions, similar to the one conducted in 2010. As with the 2010 review, MDHE staff analyzed completions from the Enhanced Missouri Student Achievement Study (EMSAS) for all academic programs and flagged for further review those programs that did not meet certain completions thresholds.

In the first phase of the review, MDHE analyzed all academic programs (excluding provisionally approved programs) at all degree levels at each public institution using graduation data reported through EMSAS. The 6-digit Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code assigned to each program as listed in the state's official academic program inventory and the degree level served as the identifying data for each program.

Once MDHE compiled a list of each institution's programs and completions, the department sent the list to each public institution, which reviewed the list to verify the accuracy of the data. MDHE staff worked with the institutions to reconcile the data to obtain an accurate list of programs and completions.

After the program list was reconciled and the accuracy of the data was affirmed, MDHE staff sent each institution an official list of "flagged" programs that fall below the CBHE-recommended completions threshold and that require further review by the institution. Following CBHE policy for program productivity, the completion thresholds, based on three-year averages, were designated as follows:

- At least ten graduates for undergraduate certificates and degrees (associate and baccalaureate), with certificates belonging to a parent associate degree counted with that associate degree;
- At least five graduates for master's degrees and graduate certificates; and
- At least three graduates at the doctoral degree level.

Each institution reviewed, or is in the process of reviewing, the programs on its list and will report to the MDHE the results of its review, including any action the institution intends to take and the justifications for that action.

### Current Status

MDHE staff are currently reviewing all programs justifications submitted by the institutions. Of approximately 1,830 non-provisional programs, 910 programs (about 50 percent) across all public institutions fell below the productivity thresholds and were flagged for further review.

To date, MDHE have received feedback and justifications for 677 programs (roughly 74 percent of all programs flagged for review), from 13 two-year colleges and eight four-year universities. Because a large portion of the justification process occurred during the summer, several institutions requested additional time to confer with faculty when they return for the fall semester about specific programs.

Additionally, the University of Missouri—Columbia, Missouri University of Science & Technology, Southeast Missouri State University, and the University of Central Missouri have requested to undertake their own, more in-depth comprehensive review of all programs, regardless of approval status or productivity. MDHE staff reviewed the institutions' methodology to ensure that it is no less rigorous, identifies at a minimum the same number of programs, and generally follows the same timeline as the MDHE review. This will permit MDHE staff to report to the CBHE at the December board meeting.

For those programs for which MDHE have received feedback and justifications, 195 will voluntarily be terminated. This is approximately 29 percent of all programs for which we have received feedback, and nearly 21 percent of all low-completing programs.

### **Next Steps**

After MDHE staff have reviewed and assessed the institutions' justifications and actions for the intended programs, the department will provide a preliminary report of the initial review of each institution's proposed action, along with departmental recommendations of the programs. The institutions will have an opportunity to respond to this report and, if requested, provide additional data, documentation, and information to the MDHE for review.

MDHE staff will prepare a draft report and send it to the chief academic officer at each public institution for review and comment. Based on this feedback, the draft will be revised as needed and as is appropriate. MDHE staff will present the final report to the Coordinating Board at its December meeting.

### **Conclusion**

MDHE staff will continue working with the institutions to complete the statewide academic review of all programs, and make recommendations for low-performing programs. A full report will be presented to the CBHE at the December 14, 2017, meeting.

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES**

Section 173.005(1), RSMo – CBHE statutory authority to approve proposed new degree programs to be offered by the state institutions of higher education.

Section 173.005(8), RSMo – CBHE statutory authority to collect the necessary information and develop comparable data for all institutions of higher education in the state . . .

Section 173.030(1), RSMo – CBHE statutory authority to request the governing boards of all state-supported institutions of higher education and of major private institutions to submit . . . proposed policy changes . . . and make pertinent recommendations relating thereto . . .

Section 173.030(2), RSMo – CBHE statutory authority to recommend to the governing board of any institution of higher education in the state the development, consolidation or elimination of programs, degree offerings, physical facilities or policy changes where that action is deemed . . . in the best interests of the institutions . . .

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

This is an information item only.

### **ATTACHEMENT**

None