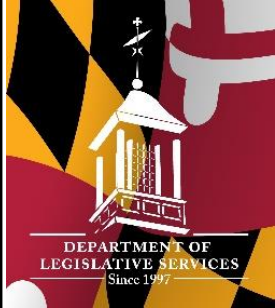

Program Approval Process

Presentation of the Program Approval Process Workgroup



October 24, 2023



Workgroup Charge

The report shall include recommendations regarding whether the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) shall:

- (1) develop operational missions to differentiate each institution's roles in meeting the State's goals;
- (2) develop three-year institutional plans to help facilitate efficient coordination of academic degree program offerings;
- (3) develop mechanisms to ensure that objective data demonstrates that proposed programs support State workforce needs and the economic competitiveness of the State and that MHEC has sufficient data analytics staff to evaluate these objectives;
- (4) develop measurable criteria to determine when a proposed new program is considered unreasonable/unnecessary duplicative;
- (5) make any revisions to the objection process, including any recommended statutory changes;
- (6) make any revisions of the criteria that trigger a full program review;
- (7) given projected enrollment declines, make any revisions to the program approval process to encourage collaboration among institutions to ensure viable programs; and
- (8) make any revisions to ensure that the program approval process has the primary goal of meeting the needs of the students and the State while ensuring full compliance with all applicable laws and legal precedents regarding program approval with respect to the historically black colleges and universities.

Maryland Higher Education Commission



Presentation to the Program Approval Process Workgroup

State Plan for Higher Education and Workforce Need

Last Revised: Oct 23, 2023



State Plan for Higher Education: Legislative Requirements

In consultation with the governing boards and agencies concerned with postsecondary education in the State, the Commission shall develop and periodically update an overall plan consistent with the Charter, known as the State Plan for Higher Education, that shall identify:

1. The present and future needs for postsecondary education and research throughout the State;
2. The present and future capabilities of the different institutions and segments of postsecondary education in the State; and
3. The long-range and short-range objectives and priorities for postsecondary education and methods and guidelines for achieving and maintaining them.

2022 State Plan for Higher Education

Goals

Ensure equitable access to affordable and quality postsecondary education for all Maryland residents.

Promote and implement practices and policies that will ensure student success.

Foster innovation in all aspects of Maryland higher education to improve access and student success.

Priorities

1. Study affordability
2. Financial literacy
3. Academic readiness
4. Student populations

5. High-quality postsecondary education
6. Improve systems for timely completion
7. Ongoing lifelong learning

8. Promote a culture of risk taking

State Plan and Academic Program Review

2022 Maryland State Plan for Higher Education

Promote and implement practices and policies that will ensure student success.

Priority 5: Maintain the commitment to high-quality postsecondary education in Maryland.

ACTION ITEMS

Priority 5: Maintain the commitment to high-quality postsecondary education in Maryland.

- Support all institutions, each with a unique mission.
- Identify innovative fields of study.
- Evaluate equity gaps in undergraduate to graduate pipelines for academic careers to ensure a diverse higher education faculty, administration, and staff.
- Consider specializing as opposed to expanding academic programs.
- Expand faculty development and training in pedagogy, including graduate student training in pedagogy.
- Evaluate assessment strategies for purpose, including assessing a student for real-world application and capstone projects as representative of experience.
- Increase paid real-world experiences (such as internships, externships, work-study opportunities) as a part of new curricula.
- Evaluate the quality of remote education.
- Leverage RHECs to offer relevant and accessible academic programs to address education deserts in Maryland, reducing costs associated with student relocation, and meeting local workforce needs.



State Plan and Academic Program Review

By regulation, campuses should demonstrate a critical and compelling regional or statewide need (present and future) before requesting a new academic program or proposing substantive changes to an existing program. There are several types of need:

1. The need for the advancement and evolution of knowledge.
2. Societal needs, including expanding educational opportunities and choices for minority and educationally disadvantaged students at institutions of higher education.
3. Occupational and professional needs relative to upgrading vocational/technical skills or meeting job market requirements.
4. The need to strengthen and expand the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to provide high-quality and unique educational programs.



State Plan and Academic Program Review

Market demand is different from need. Market demand can be operationalized as the availability of openings in the job market to be served by the new program. Data regarding market demand may include workforce and employment projections prepared by:

- The Maryland Department of Labor,
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics,
- Census Data,
- the Maryland Department of Commerce,
- accrediting organizations,
- licensing boards, and
- professional and trade associations.



State Plan and Academic Program Review

Maryland Department of Commerce

2022 Key Industries

Aerospace and defense;
Advanced manufacturing;

Agribusiness;
Life sciences;
Cybersecurity and IT;
Distribution and logistics;
Energy and sustainability;

Financial services;
Military and federal; and
Tourism.

2023 Key Industries

Aerospace & Aviation;
Advanced Manufacturing/Industry 4.0;
Quantum Computing;
Food & Agribusiness;
Life Sciences;
Cybersecurity & IT;
Distribution, Warehouse & Logistics;
Cleantech & Renewable Energy;
Data Centers;
Financial Services;
Military, Federal & Defense; and
Tourism

Strategic Plans for Higher Education



Education Commission of the States
10/24/2023



EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES

| ecs.org

Trends in State Strategic Plans

- Plan Development
- Plan Goals
- Workforce Data



Plan Development

Planning Entities

- Higher Education Agencies
- Boards and Commissions
- Other

Update Cadence

- 2-12 years



Plan Goals

- State Attainment Goals
- Aligned Indicators
- Regional/Institutional Goals



Workforce Data

Reporting Agencies

- Labor Departments
- Workforce Councils/Boards

Components

- Vacancies/Projections
- Wage Data
- Education/Training





**EDUCATION
COMMISSION**
OF THE STATES

Your education policy team.

THANK YOU

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