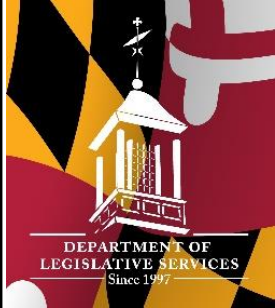

Program Approval Process

Presentation of the Program Approval Process Workgroup



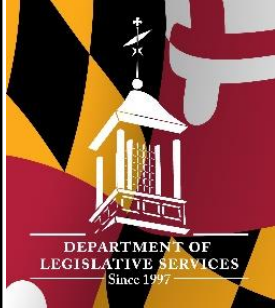
September 19, 2023



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.



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Maryland Higher Education Commission



INSTITUTIONAL MISSION STATEMENTS

Statutory Responsibilities

Institutional Statutory Distinctions



Mission Statements: Statutory Responsibilities

- Upon the direction of the governing board, the president shall update the mission statement every 4 years in the year immediately following the quadrennial review of the State Plan for Higher Education.
- Applies to public institutions and regional higher education centers

Mission Statements: Statutory Responsibilities

- The president of each public institution of higher education/regional higher education center is responsible for developing a mission statement.
- The president shall submit the mission statement to the institution's governing board.
- The governing body of each regional higher education center:
 - (i) Shall review the mission statement and may require the preparation of a revised mission statement;
 - (ii) May adopt the mission statement as submitted or with amendment; and
 - (iii) Shall submit the statement to the Commission.

Mission Statements: Statutory Responsibilities - USM

- ...the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland shall review the statement prior to its consideration by the Board of Regents and make recommendations.
- Before adopting the mission statements, the Board of Regents shall review the statements individually and on a systemwide basis to assure that:
 - 1. They are consistent with the Charter and the systemwide plan; and
 - 2. They will promote the efficient and effective use of the institution's and System's resources.



Mission Statements: Statutory Responsibilities - Commission

- The Commission shall review the mission statement to determine whether the mission statement is consistent with the State Plan for Higher Education (30 days).
- If the Commission finds that the statement is not consistent with the State Plan for Higher Education, the Commission shall return the statement together with its objections that include the specific areas of inconsistency with the State Plan for Higher Education to the governing board.
- The governing board and the institution president shall negotiate with the Commission and amend the statement or prepare a new statement.



Statutory Distinctions: Community Colleges

- The community colleges of the State shall provide a diverse range of education services, with particular emphasis on community centered programs and programs that afford open access to persons with a variety of educational backgrounds.
 - (b) The community colleges of the State shall:
 - (1) Provide a core curriculum of general education, including courses in the arts and sciences, that should be available to all students;
 - (2) Provide lower level undergraduate courses, in accordance with credit transfer guidelines set by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, for students who aspire to continue their education at a senior institution;
 - (3) Provide technical and career education programs;
 - (4) Provide training in skills and fields of study of importance to the region's business community;
 - (5) Provide a wide variety of continuing education programs to benefit citizens of the community;
 - (6) Provide developmental and remedial education for citizens with needs in these areas; and
 - (7) Provide public services to the community's citizens.



Statutory Distinctions: Morgan State University

- Is designated as the State's preeminent public urban research university with a mission of instruction, research, and service
- Emphasizes an education addressing urban concerns
- Has the responsibility, with other educational institutions, for providing higher education research and graduate study in the Baltimore area



Statutory Distinctions: St. Mary's College of Maryland

- There is a St. Mary's College of Maryland, a public honors college, located in St. Mary's County
- Overall plan that:
 - Enhances its role as a traditional liberal arts college;
 - Affirms the need for increased access for economically disadvantaged and minority students;
 - Ensures that access to the College by State residents is not diminished because of increases in tuition and other fees occasioned by the College's designation as a public honors college;
 - Encourages and supports high-quality undergraduate programs;
 - Stimulates outreach to the community and the State through close relationships with public elementary and secondary schools, business and industry, and governmental agencies.
- Historic St. Mary's City will benefit from a creative affiliation and more formal collaboration with its geographic neighbor, St. Mary's College of Maryland, itself designated in 1840 as a living monument to the legacy of Maryland's first colonial capital.

Education Article [§14-401.](#)

Education Article [§14-404.](#)

Education Article [§24-504.](#)

Statutory Distinctions: Towson University



- USM Overall Plan:
 - Support Towson University as the largest comprehensive institution

Statutory Distinctions: University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science



- ...the Board of Regents may authorize the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science to:
 - (1) Award graduate degrees in marine and environmental sciences jointly with another public senior higher education institution; and
 - (2) Award post baccalaureate certificates.



Statutory Distinctions: University of Maryland Eastern Shore

- USM Overall Plan:
 - Enhance the historically African American institutions and recognize the role of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore as the State's 1890 land grant institution



Statutory Distinctions: University of Maryland Global Campus

- It is the intent of the General Assembly that the University of Maryland Global Campus:
 - (1) Operate as Maryland's open university serving nontraditional students who reside in Maryland, the United States, and throughout the world;
 - (2) Provide the citizens of Maryland with affordable, open access higher education; and
 - (3) Continue as a leader in distributed higher education.
- USM plan:
 - incorporate the following priorities: Recognize and promote the unique potential of the University of Maryland Global Campus to be a national and global leader in the new international marketplace of electronic and continuing education

Statutory Distinctions: University of Maryland Baltimore

- There is a University of Maryland, which is a strategic partnership between the following two distinct campuses within the University System of Maryland:
 - (i) The University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus; and
 - (ii) The University of Maryland, College Park Campus
- USM overall plan:
 - incorporate the following priorities: Maintain and enhance an academic health center and a coordinated Higher Education Center for Research and Graduate and Professional Study in the Baltimore area, comprised of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus and the University of Maryland Baltimore County, with a focus on science and technology



Statutory Distinctions: University of Maryland, Baltimore County

- USM Overall Plan:
 - incorporate the following priorities: Maintain and enhance an academic health center and a coordinated Higher Education Center for Research and Graduate and Professional Study in the Baltimore area, comprised of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus and the University of Maryland Baltimore County, with a focus on science and technology; §12–106.

Statutory Distinctions: University of Maryland, College Park

- USM Overall Plan:
 - Enhance the mission of the University of Maryland, College Park Campus as the State's flagship campus with programs and faculty nationally and internationally recognized for excellence in research and the advancement of knowledge
- The Agreement between Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and the University of Maryland, College Park Campus for a regional program in veterinary medical education, dated September 27, 1989
- Provide the University of Maryland, College Park Campus with the level of operating funding and facilities necessary to place it among the upper echelon of its peer institutions

Mission Statements

Program Approval Process Workgroup



September 19, 2023

National Center for Higher Education Management Recommendation:

The Maryland Higher Education Commission's (MHEC's) authority to approve missions needs to be clarified.

A more coherent, strategic approach would be for MHEC to approval ***operational missions***.



NCHEMS recommends Operational Mission Statements

Purpose

Gives voice to the strategic roles an institution plays in a complex postsecondary ecosystem.

Expresses roles clearly based on:

- an institution's array of programs;
- audiences served;
- other services;
- other special features, such as status as an historically black institution; and

Provide impact and meaning in MHEC's design and implementation of its program review and approval functions.

MHEC Role: (Recommended)

- (1) Develop tight and measurable operational mission statements for all public institutions that:
 - increase diversity at the HBIs and include equity gap reductions; and
 - can be used to assess appropriateness of new programs.
- (2) Review of proposed programs should start with a determination of adherence to the institution's operational mission (OM). If within the OM, approval should be automatic.
- (3) Invite private institutions to use the same mission statement template adopted by public institution of higher educations (IHEs).
- (4) Require three-year plans from institutions and review those on an on-going basis.

Note: The language used to advertise an institution's mission should be up to that institution as long as it is not inconsistent with the approved operational mission.

Mission Statements: State Comparisons

Approval

- 9 States require approval by the higher education coordinating agency (AR, LA, MA, MN, MS, MO, OH, SC, VA).
- 2 states require legislative approval after coordinating agency approval (LA, VA).
- 3 states require no agency approval (DE, NC, WA).
- 5 states view mission development as within IHE's autonomy; no approval requirement (NJ, PA).

Standards

- 3 states have the most detailed requirements (*i.e.* intended role of institution, academic and research goals, audiences served, geographic areas) (AR, LA, MO).
- 1 state requires submission of report with the mission statement on IHE's collaboration with other IHEs (OH).
- Most states require compliance with State Plan for higher education.

Timeline

- No common practice, include undefined, annually, and every 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 years.

Draft Recommendations for Discussion

- The legislature should make a statutory change to require mission statements to include minimum standards.
- For example, mission statements must comply with the State plan, include details on audiences served, array of programs and services offered, and special features of the institution (research emphasis, land-grant status, minority serving institutions).
- *These mission statements are different from “mission statements” on an institution’s website, for which an institution has complete discretion if the mission statement doesn’t conflict with the MHEC approved mission statement.*
- The legislature should make statutory changes to require MHEC to approve whether mission statements meet minimum standards.
 - MHEC may not have the authority to approve or disapprove of missions outside of whether the mission meets the “minimum standards.”
- The legislature should require approval of mission statements every two years.
- Mission statements should include potential programs the institution is considering in the next two-year cycle to facilitate discussion between institutions.
- Mission statements approved by MHEC will be used MHEC:
 - when making program approval determinations; and
 - monitoring trends and implementation of the State plan.