

# Idaho State Board of Education

## GOVERNING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### SECTION: III. POSTSECONDARY AFFAIRS

#### SUBSECTION: G. Postsecondary Program Approval and Discontinuance October 2015

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The Board is responsible for the establishment, maintenance, and general supervision of policies and procedures governing the academic and program affairs of the institutions. This subsection shall apply to the University of Idaho, Idaho State University, Boise State University, Lewis-Clark State College, Eastern Idaho Technical College, North Idaho College, the College of Southern Idaho, and the College of Western Idaho.

Program planning shall be a collaborative process which includes the Board, Board staff, the institutions, faculty, external advisory groups, regional and specialized accreditation bodies, and other stakeholders pursuant to Board Policy Section III.Z.

#### 1. Classifications and Definitions

- a. Instructional Unit(s) shall mean departments, institutes, centers, divisions, schools, colleges, campuses, branch campuses, and research units (e.g. extension centers) that are responsible for academic programs or career technical programs.
- b. Administrative Unit(s) shall mean offices, centers, bureaus, or institutes that are responsible for carrying out administrative functions, research, or public service as their primary purpose, and are not responsible for academic or career technical programs.
- c. Academic Program(s) shall mean a systematic, usually sequential, grouping of courses forming a considerable part, or all, of the requirements (i.e., curricula) that provides the student with the knowledge and competencies required in a specialized field (i.e., major) for an academic certificate, an associate's, baccalaureate, master's, specialist, or doctoral degree as defined in Board Policy Section III.E. A course or series of courses leading to an Academic Certificate of Completion is not considered an academic program for approval purposes.
- d. Major(s) shall mean a principal field of academic specialization that usually accounts for 25 to 50 percent of the total degree requirements. The concentration of coursework in a subject-matter major serves to distinguish one program from others leading to the same or a similar degree.
- e. Academic Program Components shall include options, minors, emphases, tracks, concentrations, specializations, and cognates as defined by each institution.
- f. Career Technical Program(s) shall mean a sequence or aggregation of competencies that are derived from industry-endorsed outcome standards and directly related to preparation for employment in occupations requiring career technical certificates or an associate of applied science degree as defined in Board Policy Section III.E. These programs must include competency-based applied learning that contributes to an individual's technical skills, academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning, and problem-solving skills. A course or

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series of courses leading to a technical certificate of completion is not considered a program for approval purposes.

- g. Career Technical Program Components shall include option(s); which shall mean alternative instructional paths to fields of specialized employment, consisting of more than one specialized course, and may have a separate advisory committee.
- h. Financial Impact shall mean the total financial resources, regardless of funding source, needed to support personnel costs, operating expenditures, capital outlay, capital facilities construction or major renovation, and indirect costs that are incurred as a direct result of the new instructional program or modification to an existing program.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- a. Institutions shall establish internal program review processes and procedures. Institutions shall follow their internal review processes and procedures pursuant to Board Policy Section III.H. prior to forwarding proposals to the Board.
- b. Program proposals shall be reviewed by the Council on Academic Affairs and Programs (CAAP). CAAP shall make recommendations to the Instruction, Research, and Student Affairs (IRSA) committee on instructional programmatic matters and related policy issues.
- c. The Idaho Division of Career Technical Education shall review and make recommendations as appropriate to the IRSA Committee and/or the Board on instructional programmatic matters and policy issues related to their roles and responsibilities.
- d. The Professional Standards Commission shall review and make recommendations as appropriate to the Board on teacher education, and teaching standards.

3. Academic Program Proposal Submission and Approval Procedures

Subsequent to institutional review and consistent with institutional policies, all requests requiring Board or Executive Director approval will be submitted by the institution to Board staff as a proposal in accordance with a template developed by the Board's Chief Academic Officer. Each proposal shall be reviewed by CAAP within 30 days from receipt of said proposal.

- a. Branch Campuses - The establishment of a new branch campus or change in location geographically apart from the main campus where the institution offers at least 50% of an education program shall require Board approval regardless of fiscal impact. This subsection of policy excludes community colleges.

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- b. Learning Outcomes - All postsecondary program approvals will include identifiable learning outcomes and competency measurements for graduates of their programs as defined in Board Policy III.X.
  
- c. Academic Programs
  - i. All new, modification of, and/or discontinuation of academic program majors shall require completion of the program proposal prior to implementation. This includes certificates of 30 credits or more; associates, bachelors, masters, specialist, and doctoral degrees; instructional and administrative units. Proposals requiring new state appropriations shall be included in the annual budget request of the institution for Board approval.
    - 1) Prior to implementation, an institution shall obtain Board approval of any new, modification of, and/or discontinuation of academic or career technical programs, with a financial impact of \$250,000 or more per fiscal year.
    - 2) Prior to implementation, an institution shall obtain Executive Director approval of any new, modification of, and/or discontinuation of academic or career technical programs, with a financial impact of less than \$250,000 per fiscal year.
    - 3) Prior to implementation, an institution shall obtain Board approval of any new, modification, and/or discontinuation of all graduate academic programs leading to a master's, specialist, or doctoral degree regardless of fiscal impact.
    - 4) The Executive Director may refer any proposal to the Board or subcommittee of the Board for review and action.
    - 5) Modifications to existing programs shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
      - a) Expanding of an existing program outside a designated service region.
      - b) Converting one program option into a stand-alone program.
      - c) Consolidating an existing program to create one or more new programs.
      - d) Adding a degree program not already approved by the Board.
      - e) Adding courses that represent a significant departure from existing program offerings or method of delivery from those already evaluated and approved by the Board.
      - f) Transitioning of existing programs to an on-line format.
      - g) Changes from clock hours to credit hours or vice-versa, or substantial increase or decrease in the length of a program or number of clock or credit hours awarded for successful completion of program.

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- ii. All doctoral program proposals shall require an external peer review. The external peer-review panel shall consist of at least two (2) members and will be selected by the Board's Chief Academic Officer and the requesting institution's Provost. External reviewers shall not be affiliated with a public Idaho institution. The review shall consist of a paper and on-site peer review, followed by the issuance of a report and recommendations by the panel. Each institution shall provide the panel with a template developed by the Board's Chief Academic Officer. The peer reviewer's report and recommendations will be a significant factor of the Board's evaluation of the program.
- iii. New educator preparation programs require concurrent submission of the program proposal to the Board office and the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) prior to implementation. The PSC ensures programs meet the Idaho standards for certification. The Board office ensures the program proposal is consistent with the program approval process and meets the standards approved by the Board and established in rule. The PSC makes recommendations to the Board for approval of programs as vehicles for meeting the state certification requirements.

#### d. Academic Program Components

New, modification, and/or discontinuation of academic program components, and academic certificates of thirty (30) credits or less may require a proposal. For academic program components requiring a proposal, subsection 3.c.i. of this policy applies.

- i. New, modification, and/or discontinuation of academic program components; academic certificates of thirty (30) credits or less; program name or title changes to degrees, departments, divisions, colleges, or centers; or changes to Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes require a formal letter notifying the Office of the State Board of Education prior to implementation of such changes.
- ii. If the change is judged to be consistent with academic program components as provided in this section, Board staff will notify the institution in writing that they may proceed with said changes. If the change is determined to be inconsistent with academic program components or the CIP code change represents a significant departure from existing offerings, Board staff will notify the institution in writing and they will be required to complete a program proposal.
- iii. Changes to program names or degree titles related to Statewide Program Responsibilities as provided in Board Policy III.Z., require a proposal as specified in subsection 3.b.i of this policy, and shall be reviewed and approved by the Board.

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- iv. Minor curriculum changes, minor curriculum changes; minor credit changes in a program; descriptions of individual courses; other routine catalog changes do not require notification or approval.

4. Career Technical Programs

All career technical program requests requiring Board or Executive Director approval will be submitted by the institution to the Division of Career Technical Education as a proposal in accordance with a template developed by Board staff. Each proposal shall be reviewed within 30 days from receipt of said proposal. Requests requiring new state appropriations shall be included in the annual budget request of the State Division of Career Technical Education for Board approval.

a. Learning Outcomes

All postsecondary program approvals will include identifiable learning outcomes and competency measurements for graduates of their programs as defined in Board Policy Section III.X.

b. Career Technical Programs

- i. All new, modification, and/or discontinuation of career technical programs, shall require completion of the program proposal prior to implementation. This includes instructional and administrative units. Career technical program proposals shall be forwarded to the State Administrator of the Division of Career Technical Education for review and recommendation. The State Administrator shall forward the request to CAAP for its review and recommendation. Once CAAP and/or State Administrator recommends approval, the proposal shall be forwarded, along with recommendations, to the Board for action.
  - 1) Prior to implementation, an institution shall obtain Board approval of any new, modification, and/or discontinuation of career technical programs with a financial impact of \$250,000 or more per fiscal year.
  - 2) Prior to implementation, an institution shall obtain Executive Director approval of any new, modification, and/or discontinuation of career technical programs with a financial impact of less than \$250,000 per fiscal year.
  - 3) The Executive Director may refer any proposal to the Board or subcommittee of the Board for review and action.
  - 4) Modifications to existing programs shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
    - a) Expanding an existing program outside a designated service region.
    - b) Converting one program option into a stand-alone program.

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- c) Consolidating an existing program to create one or more new programs.
- d) Adding a certificate or degree program not already approved by the Board.
- e) Adding courses that represent a significant departure from existing program offerings or method of delivery from those already evaluated and approved by the Board.
- f) Transitioning of existing programs to an on-line format.
- g) Changes from clock hours to credit hours or vice-versa, or substantial increase or decrease in the length of a program or number of clock or credit hours awarded for successful completion of program.

c. Career Technical Programs Components

New, modification of, and/or discontinuation of existing career technical program components may require a proposal. For career technical program components requiring a proposal, subsection 4.a.i of this policy applies.

- i. New, modification of, and/or discontinuation of career technical options for existing programs; changes to a program's status to inactive, changes to CIP codes, or name title changes (e.g., programs, degrees, certificates, departments, divisions, colleges, or centers) require a formal letter notifying the State Administrator prior to implementation of such changes.
- ii. If the change is judged to be consistent with program components as provided in this section, the State Administrator will notify the institution in writing that they may proceed with said changes. If the change is determined to be inconsistent with definition of program components, the State Administrator will notify the institution in writing and they will be required to complete the program proposal.
- iii. Minor changes to courses within a current program (e.g., course number, title, description, addition, deletion, and/or credit hours) must be submitted to the State Division of Career Technical Education.

c. Career Technical Program Inactivation

- i. The purpose of a career technical program inactivation is to respond to rapid changes in industry demand, allowing time for program assessment and inactivation. If industry demand for the program does not resume within three years following the inactivation, the program shall be discontinued pursuant to IDAPA 55.01.02.
- ii. Program inactivation requires a formal letter notifying the State Administrator requesting inactivation. The letter will include:
  - 1) Description and rationale for the modification

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- 2) Implementation date
  - 3) Arrangement for enrolled students to complete the program in a timely manner
  - 4) Impact of accreditation, if any
  - 5) Impact to current employees of the program
  - 6) Impact on current budget
- iii. The State Administrator will make a recommendation in writing to the Board office. The Board office will send notification to the institution.
  - iv. Program re-activation requires a formal letter notifying the State Administrator requesting re-activation.

5. Sunset Clause for Program Approval

Academic and career technical education programs approved by the Board or Executive Director must be implemented within five years. A program not implemented within five years from the approval date requires submission for approval of an updated proposal.

6. Academic and Career Technical Program Proposal Denial Procedures

- a. The Executive Director shall act on any request within thirty (30) days.
- b. If the Executive Director denies the proposal he/she shall provide specific reasons in writing. The institution shall have thirty (30) days in which to address the issue(s) for denial of the proposal. The Executive Director has ten (10) working days after the receipt of the institution's response to re-consider the denial. If the Executive Director denies the request after re-consideration, the institution may send its request and the supporting documents related to the denial to the Board for final reconsideration.

7. Program Discontinuance

The primary considerations for instructional program discontinuance are whether the instructional program is an effective use of the institution's resources, no longer serves student or industry needs, or when programs no longer have sufficient students to warrant its allocation. This policy does not apply to instructional programs that are discontinued as a result of financial exigency as defined in Board Policy Section II.N.

For career technical program discontinuance, institutions shall adhere to criteria and procedures as provided in IDAPA 55.01.02.

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- a. Students - Institutions shall develop policies, in accordance with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities Accreditation Handbook, which requires institutions to make appropriate arrangements for enrolled students to complete affected programs in a timely manner with minimum interruptions.
- b. Employees - Any faculty or staff members whose employment the institution seeks to terminate due to the discontinuance of a program based upon Board Policy Section III.G. shall be entitled to the following procedures:
  - i. Non-classified contract employees, including non-tenured faculty, may be dismissed or have their contracts terminated or non-renewed in accordance with Board and institutional policies.
  - ii. State of Idaho classified employees shall be subject to layoff as provided in the rules of the Division of Human Resources. Classified employees of the University of Idaho shall be subject to layoff as provided in the policies of the University of Idaho.
  - iii. Tenured faculty will be notified in writing that the institution intends to dismiss them as a result of program discontinuance. This notice shall be given at least twelve (12) months prior to the effective date of termination.
  - iv. An employee who receives a notice of termination as a result of program discontinuance is entitled to use the internal grievance procedures of the institution. The sole basis to contest a dismissal following a program closure is in compliance with these policies.

#### 8. Reporting

- a. The Office of the State Board of Education shall report quarterly to the State Board of Education all program approvals and discontinuations approved by the Executive Director.
- b. All graduate level programs approved by the State Board of Education require a report on the program's progress in accordance with a timeframe and template developed by the Board's Chief Academic Officer.
- c. Institutions shall notify the Board office in writing when an approved program has been officially implemented.