

MEETING MINUTES

Reviewed and approved by the Committee on June 9, 2025

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee
Date: April 14, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

CALL TO ORDER

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Monday, April 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM webinar. Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presided.

ROLL CALL

Committee members who attended the meeting: Dr. Kellie Ellis, Dr. Meredith Figg, Karyn Hoover, LaDonna Rogers, Macy Waddle, and Kevin Weaver. Sean Garber was unable to attend.

CPE Program Manager, Heather Faesy, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the January 27, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.

CPE PRESIDENT UPDATE

Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE President, provided a brief update to the Committee that include comments regarding the outcomes of the 2025 legislative session and upcoming speaking and workforce-related engagements.

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Ms. Sheila Brothers, CPE's Senior Director of Academic Excellence, introduced eight new academic programs for review and approval. KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council on Postsecondary Education to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate and professional degree, certificate or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions.

Council staff reviewed the proposed programs and recommended approval.

1. Kentucky State University – Master of Science, Criminal Justice (43.0104)

Presented by: Dr. Frederick Williams, Chair of the School of Criminal Justice

- The 30-credit hour program will prepare students for mid-level positions in the field of criminal justice and will be particularly attractive to individuals already employed in the criminal justice field seeking management and other leadership positions. There will be two concentrations: cybersecurity and professional.

2. Kentucky State University – Master of Science, Biological and Agricultural Engineering (14.0301)

Presented by: Dr. Jyotica Batra, Chair of the School of Engineering

- The 36-credit hour program will prepare students to apply mathematical and scientific principles to the design, development and operational evaluation of equipment and facilities to produce, process, store, handle and distribute food, feed and fibers. In addition to typical agricultural applications, the program also will promote applications to aquaculture and forestry.

3. Kentucky State University – Master of Social Work, Social Work (44.0701)

Presented by: Dr. Angela Williams, Interim Chair, School of Social Work

- The 60-credit hour program will offer intentional engagement in urban areas and provide graduates with professional experiences through interactions with clients, agencies and policy makers, allowing graduates to promote social work theories for a variety of populations.

MOTION: Mr. Weaver moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the three proposed programs from Kentucky State University. Dr. Figg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

4. Morehead State University – Doctor of Engineering, Systems Engineering (CIP 14.2701)

Presented by: Dr. Ben Malphrus, Executive Director, Space Science Center

- The 60-credit hour program will focus on process and product design for the aerospace, defense and manufacturing industries, with a strong emphasis on space systems. Students will choose from one of two specializations: space systems engineering or integrated systems engineering.

MOTION: Ms. Rogers moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed program from Morehead State University. Dr. Ellis seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

5. Murray State University – Associate of Science, Dental Hygiene (CIP 51.0602)

Presented by: Dr. Dina Byers, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions

- The 76-credit hour program will prepare students to pass the National Board Exam for Dental Hygiene and the clinical board exams that are required for licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist.

MOTION: Dr. Ellis moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed program from Murray University. Ms. Rogers seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

6. University of Kentucky – Doctor of Audiology, Audiology (51.0202)

Presented by: Anne Olson, PhD, CCC/A, Professor and Department Chair, Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Health Sciences

- The 104-credit hour program will provide the necessary academic and clinical experiences for students to enter audiologic practice upon graduation. The format of the degree, including the externship, is consistent with the structure of existing audiology degree programs across the country and will meet audiology state licensure and national certification requirements, as well as programmatic accreditation standards.

7. University of Kentucky – Master of Accounting, Accountancy and Analytics (30.7104)

Presented by: Brian Bratten, Director of the Von Allmen School of Accountancy

- The 36-credit hour program will prepare students with technical, analytical and professional skills required for success in diverse professional accounting roles and address the growing demand for professionals.

MOTION: Ms. Rogers moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the two proposed programs from the University of Kentucky. Ms. Waddle seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed. Dr. Figg abstained from the vote.

8. Western Kentucky University – Bachelor of Science, User Experience (CIP 11.0105)

Presented by: Kristina Arnold, Professor and Department Chair of Art and Design; and Dr. Beth Laves, Assistant Provost for Accreditation and Director of Academic Programs

- The 120-credit hour program will provide students with design-thinking processes and agile methodologies applied to the design of digital products, such as websites, dashboards, mobile apps, games and more. Integrating human insights into the process of designing, researching and creating technological interfaces, the user experience program will combine insights and knowledge from a variety of perspectives, including human-computer interaction, learning, neuroscience, perception, product design, user-centered design and usability.

MOTION: Dr. Ellis moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed program from Western Kentucky University. Dr. Figg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

KCTCS PROGRAMS APPROVED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY 2025

KRS 164.020 (15) mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature. Ms. Brothers presented the two new programs reviewed and approved by the Council between February and April 2025. No action was required from the Committee.

- Henderson Community College - Associate of Applied Science, Education (CIP 13.1501)
- Somerset Community College - Associate of Applied Science, Human and Social Services (CIP 44.0000)

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION CONTINUUM UPDATE

Dr. Amanda Ellis, Vice President of K-12 Policies and Programs, and Robin Hebert, Senior Fellow, provided annual update on the work and initiatives of the Commonwealth Education Continuum (CEC). The CEC is a collaborative effort of CPE, the Kentucky Department of Education and the Governor's office to help Kentucky meet its 60x30 educational attainment goal by strengthening the state's education pipeline. Established in 2021, the Continuum consists of members whose expertise ranges from early childhood to the workforce, and over the last four years, the advisory group has used stakeholder input and data to address barriers and identify ways to increase transitions to postsecondary education.

The staff update included a review of the data affected by the work of the CEC and a review of their workgroups, which have focused on a number of issues including K-16 Competency Skills Collaboration, Postsecondary Advising, Access to Dual Credit, and Educator Workforce Strategies. Some key outcomes of the group led to the development of several CPE initiatives including the Kentucky Advising Academy, the Futuriti website, and an improved focus on meaningful dual credit opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:25 a.m., ET.