

**KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
ACADEMIC & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**



June 8, 2026 – 10:00 AM ET

Virtual meeting via ZOOM webinar: <https://bit.ly/4scM6LS>

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

II. CPE President Update

III. Action Items

A. Approval of the Minutes.....	2
B. Proposed New Academic Programs	8
1. University of Kentucky – B.A. Applied Psychology (CIP 42.2813)	10
2. University of Kentucky – B.A. Music Industry (CIP 50.1003).....	18
3. Eastern Kentucky University – A.A.S. Air Traffic Management (CIP 49.0105)	25
C. Kentucky State University Response to SB 185 (2026)	32

IV. Staff Updates

A. KCTCS Programs approved between April-May 2026	56
---	----

V. Other Business

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting: September 9, 2026 @ 10am ET

MEETING MINUTES

To be reviewed and approved by the Committee on June 8, 2026

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee
Date: March 30, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

CALL TO ORDER

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Monday, March 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM webinar. Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presided.

ROLL CALL

There was a quorum of 5 voting Council members in attendance.

- Jai Bokey - attended
- Dr. Kellie Ellis – attended
- Dr. Meredith Figg – did not attend
- Sean Garber – did not attend
- Karyn Hoover – attended
- Dennis Repenning – attended
- LaDonna Rogers - did not attend
- Kevin Weaver – did not attend
- Michael Wheeler – attended

CPE President Aaron Thompson served as secretary of the board, per the CPE bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE program manager, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the January 26, 2026, committee meeting were approved as presented.

CPE PRESIDENT UPDATE

Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE President, provided a brief update to the Committee that focused on 2026 Legislative Session happenings and recent budget development discussions with legislators.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS – ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

Ms. Sheila Brothers, CPE's Senior Director of Academic Excellence, provided an overview of the new, closed, and reviewed academic programs during the 2024-25 academic year.

- A total of 30 new academic programs were approved during the 2023-24 academic year. Eleven of these were approved at KCTCS colleges and nineteen programs were approved at four-year universities: one associate's program, seven bachelor's degrees, seven master's degrees, and four doctoral degrees.
- Per Council policy, universities submitted their program review reports in July 2025. These reports included a summary of the institutional program review processes, programmatic decisions and plans for the upcoming year.
- During the 2024-25 academic year, Kentucky's public universities reviewed 293 academic programs and provided these recommendations:
 - 46 programs were recommended to grow;
 - 151 programs were recommended to sustain;
 - 46 programs were recommended to be improved; and
 - 50 programs were recommended to close.

No further action was needed by the Committee.

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Ms. Brothers introduced one new academic program 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 degrees, certificates or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions.

Council staff reviewed the proposed program and recommended approval.

Associate of Interdisciplinary Studies (CIP 24.0102)

Presented by: Jennifer Wies, Associate Provost and Professor of Anthropology

- The 60-credit hour program is intentionally structured to serve adult learners, returning students, and transfer students who have accumulated significant college credit—but stop out of higher education. Students can craft a curriculum tailored to the student's educational history and interests, fulfill graduation requirements, and focus on integrating multiple disciplines to research a specific problem or area. Learners can select up to two "areas of emphasis" in the areas of arts, business, science, education, social and behavioral science, health, humanities, and technology.

MOTION: Mr. Repenning moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed program from Eastern Kentucky University. Mr. Bokey seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Ms. Brothers introduced one new academic program from Murray State University for review and approval.

Bachelor of Science, Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102)

Presented by: Matthew Tennyson, Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems

- The 120-credit hour program will integrate computing, mathematics, and statistics with focused coursework in AI, machine learning, and deep learning. This will be complemented by applied electives in robotics, natural language processing, computer vision, bioinformatics, and financial technology.

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

VOTE: The motion passed.

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS – UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Ms. Brothers introduced two new academic programs from the University of Kentucky for review and approval.

Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Ecosystem Sciences (CIP 1.1102)

Presented by: David McNear, Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies for Agricultural Ecosystem Sciences

- The 120-credit hour program focuses on agricultural productivity and environmental quality, and formulating recommendations that consider economic, social, and environmental aspects. Students in the proposed program will select both a Technical Specialization as well as an Applied Specialization, and it would be the only program of its kind in the state.

Bachelor of Science, Mapping and GIScience (CIP 45.0702)

Presented by: Matthew Wilson, Professor and Geography Department Chair

- The 120-credit hour program focuses on instruction in spatial analysis and representation using industry standards in geospatial technology. It expands UK's current offerings of a minor in GIScience as well as a specific track in their 4-year Geography degree. To ensure quality, students will enroll in an internship that will provide a supervised professional experience in a public or private sector position, which will expose students to the skills and working environments of careers in mapping and geography.

MOTION: Dr. Ellis moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed programs from the University of Kentucky. Mr. Bokey seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Ms. Brothers introduced one new academic program from the University of Louisville for review and approval.

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Global Supply Chain Management (CIP 52.0203)

Presented by: Dr. Amy Henley, Dean, College of Business

- The 120-credit hour program will prepare graduates to manage supply chains across international borders including the flow of goods, data, and finances related to a product or service. It will also leverage an advisory board of regional supply chain leaders to include real-world case studies and community-based learning opportunities.

MOTION: Mr. Wheeler moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed program from the University of Louisville. Mr. Repenning seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS – WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Ms. Brothers introduced five new academic programs from Western Kentucky University for review and approval.

Master of Science, Applied Behavior Analysis (CIP 42.2814)

Presented by: Dr. Ellen Casale, BCBA, Assistant Professor, Special Education and Principal Preparation; and Dr. Corinne Murphy, BCBA-D, Dean, College of Education & Behavioral Sciences

- The 120-credit hour program prepares graduates for certification as Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA), to improve the lives of individuals needing behavioral support across their lifespan. The program will integrate coursework, supervised practica, and internships with a focus on early childhood, school-aged, and adult populations. Additionally, WKU will offer unique applied learning experiences through initiatives such as the Kelly Autism Program, the Clinical Education Complex, and community-based partnerships that provide students with hands-on BCBA training opportunities.

Bachelor of Science, Disaster Science (CIP 43.0302)

Presented by: Dr. Leslie North, Chair, Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences

- The 120-credit hour program will provide foundational knowledge in hazard identification, emergency management principles, disaster mitigation, response operations, and recovery planning, while building core competencies in communication, critical thinking, and applied field practices appropriate for entry-level or mid-level positions in public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Additionally, the proposed degree program will intentionally engage post-traditional learners, veterans, justice-involved individuals, and other non-traditional students by offering flexible course delivery and clear workforce-aligned pathways into high-demand careers.

Master of Science, Disaster Science (CIP 43.0302)

Presented by: Dr. Leslie North, Chair, Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences

- The 30-credit hour program will build upon the knowledge students gained at the bachelor's level by emphasizing advanced analytical skills, research methods, leadership, policy development, and strategic decision-making in complex disaster environments. Graduates can expect a wage premium when compared with those holding a bachelor's degree, largely because advanced degrees will lead to higher-level roles and leadership positions with greater responsibilities.

Bachelor of Science, Environmental, Earth, and Sustainability Sciences (CIP 03.0104)

Presented by: Dr. Leslie North, Chair, Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences

- The 120-credit hour program will provide graduates with the skills needed for occupations related to natural resources, water and waste management, geospatial analytics, sustainability planning, conservation, and geotechnical/engineering support. Additionally, the proposed program merges 2 existing degrees and will reduce duplication as well as modernize the curriculum, while preserving geology pathways that lead to licensure and clear workforce pipelines.

Bachelor of Arts, Integrated Advertising and Public Relations (CIP 09.0900)

Presented by: Dr. Angie Jerome, Assistant Director of the School of Media and Communication

- The 120-credit hour program focuses on modernized communication efforts in which students will develop skills in cross-platform content creation, integrated campaign analytics, and unified messaging. Many of the courses require research, are writing intensive, and contain capstone and case studies completion.

MOTION: Dr. Ellis moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval all five of the proposed programs from Western Kentucky University. Mr. Bokey seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

KCTCS PROGRAMS APPROVED BETWEEN JANUARY-MARCH 2026

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 one new program reviewed and approved by the Council between November 2025 and January 2026. No action was required from the Committee.

- Maysville Community and Technical College - Associate of Applied Science, Automotive Technology (47.0604)

ADJOURNMENT

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:45 a.m., ET.

TOPIC/TITLE:	Proposed New Academic Programs
STAFF CONTACT:	Sheila Brothers, MPA Senior Director of Academic Excellence
TYPE/REQUEST:	☒ Action ☐ Information

SUMMARY OF ACTION REQUESTED

Council staff recommends the Committee endorse for Council approval the following proposed new academic programs:

1. University of Kentucky – B.A. Applied Psychology (CIP 42.2813)
2. University of Kentucky – B.A. Music Industry (CIP 50.1003)
3. Eastern Kentucky University – A.A.S. Air Traffic Management (CIP 49.0105)

PROGRAM APPROVAL PROCESS

One of the proposed programs (listed below) began the process before the implementation of the revised New Academic Program Approval Policy in September 2025.

1. University of Kentucky – B.A. Applied Psychology (CIP 42.2813)

The Notification of Intent (NOI) for this proposed program was sent before the statewide academic program approval policy was updated in September 2025. The NOI was discussed at a regular meeting of the public chief academic officers, who were encouraged to offer comments. UK then sent the proposal to CPE staff.

The other two programs were proposed after the implementation of the revised [New Academic Program Approval Policy](#) in September 2025 and underwent the approval process described below.

- Universities requested student and market demand information from Council staff and then submitted a Notification of Intent (NOI) to propose a new program.
- Council staff reviewed the NOIs and conducted unnecessary duplication analyses.
- Upon approval of the NOI by Council staff, the program was subject to a two-month program development period, when CAOs could review and offer comments.
- Universities submitted the program proposal for Council staff review.

- Universities received approval from their governing boards to offer the program.
- Programs vetted by Council staff were placed on an ASI Committee agenda.

APPLICABLE STATUTE(S), REGULATION(S), CPE POLICIES

- [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.
- [New Academic Program Approval Policy](#)

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution:	University of Kentucky
Program Name:	Applied Psychology
Degree Designation:	Bachelor of Arts
CIP Code:	42.2813
Credit Hours:	120
Implementation Date:	8/24/2026

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The proposed program is designed to prepare students to apply psychological knowledge in professional settings and address real-world challenges across a variety of fields. Unlike traditional psychology programs that primarily emphasize preparation for graduate study, this program focuses on developing workforce-ready skills through the practical application of psychological concepts. Students will gain competencies in areas such as communication, project management, ethical decision-making, cultural competence, and evidence-based problem solving—skills that are highly valued in health care, education, business, human services, and nonprofit organizations. Offered fully online, the program will be particularly attractive to students who require the flexibility of a fully online, asynchronous format. The program will prepare graduates for careers in fields such as human resources, marketing, health services, and education, while responding to employers' growing demand for professionals who can collaborate effectively, navigate diverse environments, and make informed decisions in complex situations.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Use scientific reasoning to evaluate findings from psychological research;
- Discuss how psychological principles apply can be used to solve everyday problems;
- Demonstrate effective communication skills in the context of applications of psychology; and
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical standards in academic contexts as well as in their careers.

Academic Quality

In their senior capstone course, students will integrate and apply their learning through a comprehensive project that addresses a real-world problem using psychological principles. This program is designed to equip students with practical, workforce-ready skills in communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving, and apply relevant psychological principles

Connection to Other Programs

This is a new offering and does not replace any existing program at UK. Psychology is one of the most popular undergraduate majors in Kentucky, but existing in-person programs often do

not sufficiently meet the needs of adult learners, working professionals, and students in rural areas who cannot attend campus. This program is designed to serve students who seek a flexible, online path to a degree that has clear, practical value in the workforce.

Student Demand

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 75

Year 2 – 138

Year 3 – 246

Year 4 – 357

Year 5 – 449

Employment Demand

Kentucky's Occupational Outlook projects continued growth in jobs requiring strong interpersonal, analytical, and communication skills. Workforce reports identify persistent demand for roles in behavioral health, education, and community services, all of which benefit from employees with applied psychology training.

Graduates of the proposed program will be able to find employment in a variety of careers, such as health education specialists, market research analysts, and sales representatives. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects growth of those careers by 10%, 19%, and 4%, respectively, and salaries at the state level are \$72,100 per year (health education specialists), \$58,000 per year (market research analysts), and \$75,100 per year (sales representatives).

Budget

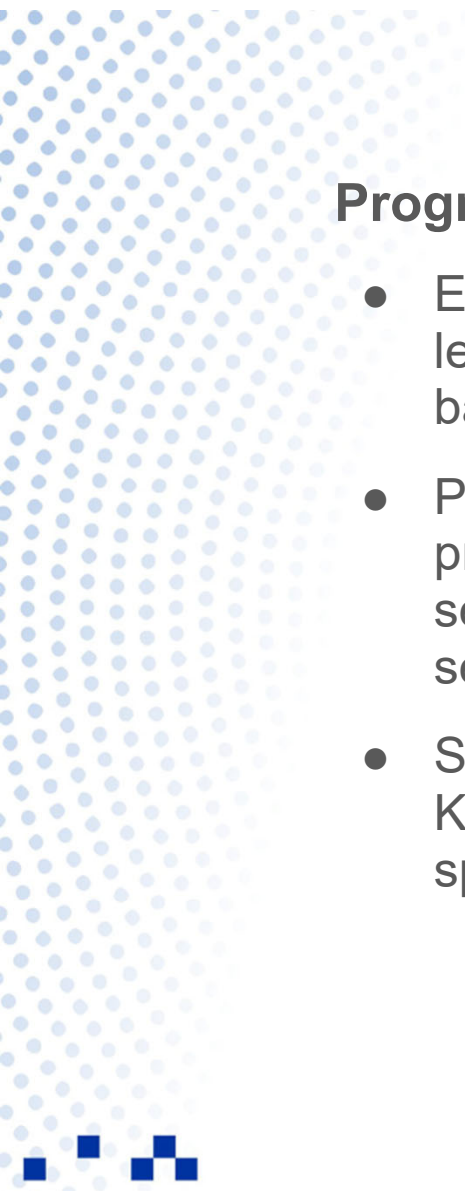
Because the program will be delivered fully online and asynchronously, it does not require new physical facilities, classroom space, or significant expansion of campus services. Course development will use existing faculty expertise, supplemented by modest investments in online course design, ensuring high-quality instruction with limited new recurring costs.

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$): \$ 1,750,000

Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$): \$ 92,900

BA Applied Psychology

Presented by
Christia Brown, PhD
Professor of Psychology
Associate Dean Student Engagement and Success



Program Purpose and Objectives:

- Expand access to a fully online psychology degree for adult learners, transfer students, working professionals, and students balancing family or geographic constraints.
- Provide an applied ("everyday use") psychology curriculum that prepares students to use psychological principles in real-world settings such as business, healthcare, education, and social services.
- Support workforce development and degree completion across Kentucky through a flexible, asynchronous program designed specifically for online learners.



Applied Psychology Curriculum Overview:

- Major Core (25 hrs)
- Guided Electives (12 hrs)
- Capstone (3 hrs)

Complements Existing UK Majors:

- Incorporates interdisciplinary electives from sociology, anthropology, human development, social work, health sciences, and marketing.
- Intentionally differentiated from UK's existing research-focused in-person BA and BS Psychology degrees.

Applied Psychology

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

1. Use scientific reasoning to evaluate findings from psychological research.
 **Critical & Creative Thinking**  **Knowledge Application**
2. Discuss how psychological principles can be used to solve simple, everyday problems
 **Adaptability & Leadership**  **Information Literacy**  **Civic Engagement**
3. Demonstrate effective communication skills in the context of applied psychology.
 **Quantitative Reasoning**  **Professionalism**  **Interpersonal Relations**
4. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical standards in academic contexts, as well as their careers.
 **Collaboration & Teamwork**  **Communication**

Market & Student Demand:

- Psychology remains one of the most popular undergraduate majors nationally and at the University of Kentucky.
- APS highlights a significant market opportunity among individuals with some college credit but no degree, particularly in Kentucky communities with limited geographic access to four-year institutions.
- The new major is distinguished by a fully asynchronous delivery, workforce and career-readiness focus, intentionally applied curriculum, and student-centered design for adult and transfer learners.
- Financially sustainable due to high national demand for psychology degrees and growing interest in online applied psychology programs.

Applied Psychology online degree at UK:

- **Expands** access to a fully online psychology degree
- **Purpose-built** for applied, career-oriented psychology
- **Emphasizes** career readiness and workforce skills
- **Prepares** graduates for immediate career advancement or entry into applied master's programs
- **Answers** a significant market opportunity

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution:	University of Kentucky
Program Name:	Music Industry
Degree Designation:	Bachelor of Arts
CIP Code:	50.1003
Credit Hours:	120
Implementation Date:	8/24/2026

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The proposed program will equip students with the analytical, managerial, and creative skills necessary for successful employment in the constantly evolving music industry, including careers in music production, performance support, management, marketing, and entrepreneurship. The program will emphasize music industry ecosystems, business operations, and creative enterprise rather than performance. To ensure broad accessibility, the program will not include audition or performance requirements.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Effectively communicate music-industry ideas, strategies, and creative content in writing, orally, and through professional media to stakeholders who will include artists, managers, audiences, and collaborators;
- Critically analyze changes in the music industry and creatively integrate, adapt, and develop new business models and creative solutions for industry issues;
- Demonstrate professionalism, adaptability, effective teamwork, and managerial competency within multiple and varied roles in the music industry; and
- Apply quantitative and qualitative data to make informed industry decisions and engage ethically and civically with music's role in society.

Academic Quality

In addition to focusing on Kentucky's [Graduate Profile](#) framework, the program will incorporate high-impact practices, such as:

- Undergraduate research;
- Writing-intensive courses;
- Collaborative assignments and projects;
- Service-learning and community-based learning;
- A capstone course; and
- An ePortfolio.

Connection to Other Programs

Similar programs exist at Kentucky State University and Murray State University, but both include musical performance requirements.

The proposed program integrates existing coursework from departments offering content in arts administration, music, media arts and studies, arts emergency management, and creative social entrepreneurship.

Student Demand

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 11

Year 2 – 21

Year 3 – 32

Year 4 – 46

Year 5 – 52

Employment Demand

Kentucky has positioned itself as an attractive destination for film and audio production through introduction of a tax incentive program. Graduates of the proposed program will be well suited for a variety of careers in this burgeoning industry, such as advertising and promotions managers and agents and business managers for artists and performers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects growth of 5% and 8% in those fields, respectively. Average annual salaries are roughly similar for both fields: \$86,070 for advertising and promotions managers and \$70,501 for agents and business managers.

Budget

One new faculty member will be hired. The shared usage of courses among multiple units minimizes duplication of effort, resulting in lower overall program costs.

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$): \$ 2,140,690

Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$): \$ 456,671

BA

Music Industry

Proposed Fall 2026 launch

Dr. Rachel Shane, Chair
Department of Arts Administration
University of Kentucky
College of Fine Arts

 **College of
Fine Arts**
Department of Arts Administration

A workforce-ready degree for Kentucky's music and creative economy

This interdisciplinary BA prepares students for professional roles across the commercial and nonprofit music ecosystem: live events, artist management, recording and publishing, promotion, production support, cultural organizations, and entrepreneurship.

**No audition
barrier**

**Industry-facing
curriculum**

**Experiential
learning**



music + management + media + fieldwork

Why this degree, why now?

Workforce development through applied music business preparation

Kentucky needs graduates who can translate musical, cultural, and entrepreneurial talent into sustainable work.



Artist and talent management

contract literacy, tour support, stakeholder communication



Live music and events

production coordination, budgeting, logistics, safety



Recording, publishing, rights

industry structures, revenue streams, data-informed decisions



Promotion and audience development

media strategy, branding, community engagement



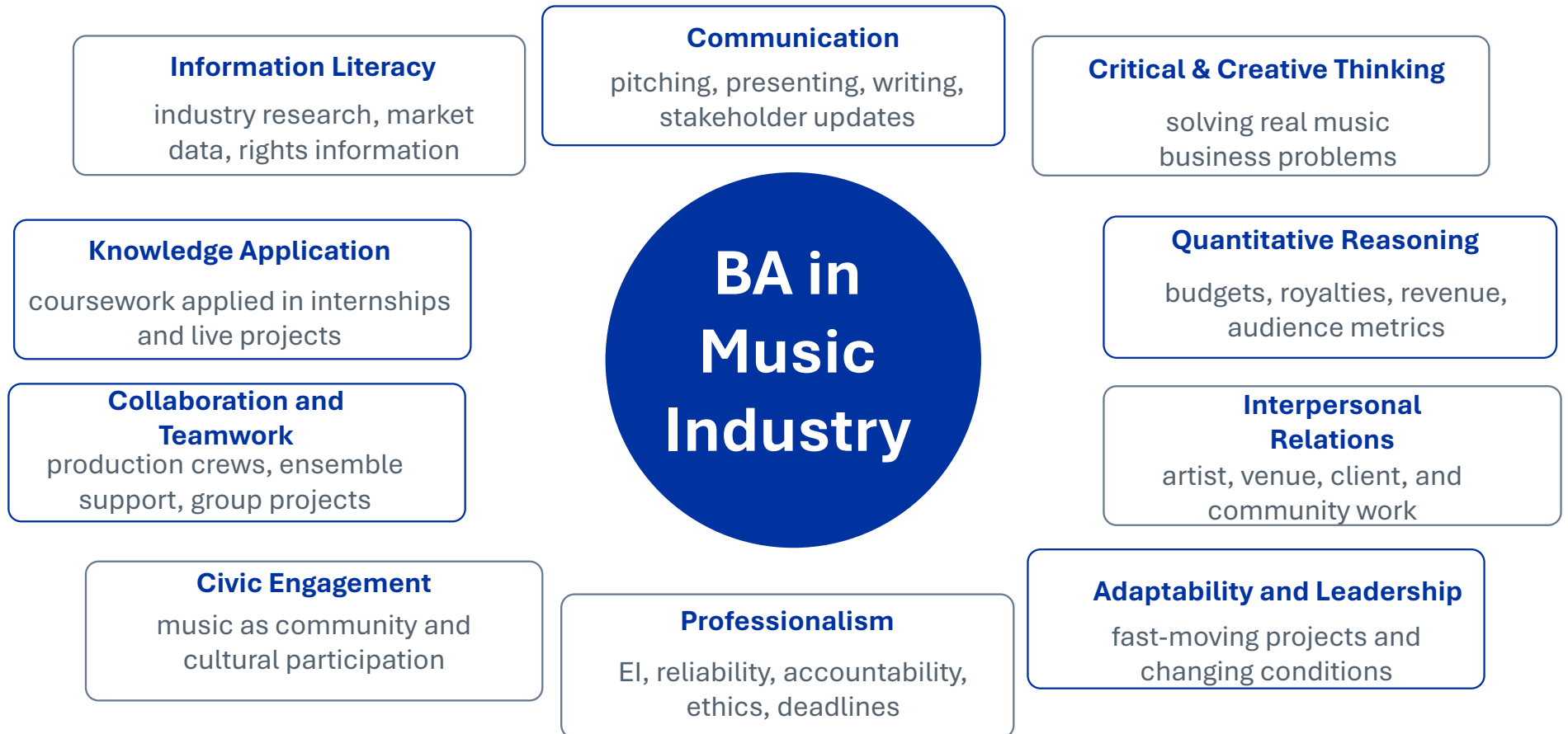
Creative entrepreneurship

business models, project planning, professional networks

The program is designed for workforce entry and career mobility, not performance preparation alone.

Built around the Kentucky 10 Essential Skills

The degree makes employability skills visible, teachable, and assessable



Experiential learning creates the workforce bridge

Students practice professional expectations before graduation



Portfolio evidence at graduation: event and production work, internship performance, budgets, professional communication, capstone experience, and applied industry skills.

Approval advances Kentucky's talent pipeline

A focused, accessible, and workforce-aligned degree

CPE approval enables a Fall 2026 launch

The program expands access
to music industry careers
without requiring an audition
or performance track.



Workforce-ready graduates

Prepares students for management, operations, promotion, production, and entrepreneurial roles.



KY 10 Essential Skills

Makes employability competencies explicit in curriculum, fieldwork, and assessment.



Interdisciplinary strength

Draws from Arts Administration, Music, media, business, and creative entrepreneurship.



Applied learning pathway

Uses production work, live projects, and internship experience to bridge classroom and career.

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution:	Eastern Kentucky University
Program Name:	Air Traffic Management
Degree Designation:	Associate of Applied Science
CIP Code:	49.0105
Credit Hours:	60
Implementation Date:	1/1/2027

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The proposed program will combine traditional air traffic controller training with emerging airspace management technologies and interdisciplinary learning. The program will utilize a “cross-domain” approach, connecting classical Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) tower and en-route operations with next-generation concepts such as advanced air mobility (AAM) integration, data-driven traffic flow management, and intermodal safety systems. This two-pronged design aligns with the FAA’s “NextGen” modernization initiative, as well as with industry needs for a workforce skilled in both legacy and emerging airspace realms.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Explain the structure and basic operating principles of the National Airspace System;
- Describe air traffic management procedures and regulations applicable to tower, terminal, and enroute environments;
- Apply safety practices and standard operating procedures to air traffic management scenarios;
- Demonstrate effective professional communication using aviation terminology; and
- Exhibit professionalism, situational awareness, and ethical decision-making appropriate for safety-sensitive aviation roles.

The proposed program is a direct result of the work of Kentucky’s Air Mobility and Aviation Economic Development Task Force and the 2025 Kentucky General Assembly’s Senate Bill 87, and it aligns with recent efforts to expand the Commonwealth’s aviation workforce. The Air Mobility and Aviation Economic Development Task Force identified aviation innovation and workforce development as key areas of focus, and Senate Bill 87 specifically directed the CPE to advance the establishment of FAA-recognized air traffic control and air traffic safety programs at Kentucky public institutions. The proposed program directly supports these statewide priorities by preparing graduates for careers in a high-demand field that is critical to the continued growth of Kentucky’s aviation sector.

Connection to Other Programs

This will be the only program in air traffic management in the state. EKU currently offers a baccalaureate program in aviation science.

Academic Quality

Although not a specialized accrediting organization such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the program will be subject to FAA review, approval, and ongoing oversight to ensure continued alignment with federal air traffic training standards and operational expectations. ECU will also adhere to FAA Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative requirements. Compliance includes alignment of curriculum with FAA training expectations, use of appropriate instructional facilities and simulation resources, qualified instructional staffing, and required reporting and review processes.

The program will include some of [Kentucky Graduate Profile's 10 Essential Skills](#).

Student Demand

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 10

Year 2 – 15

Year 3 – 25

Year 4 – 37

Year 5 – 50

Employment Demand

Kentucky's workforce development strategy, coordinated through the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) and the Education and Labor Cabinet, emphasizes high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand occupations that advance the Commonwealth's economic competitiveness. There is a state and national shortage of air traffic controllers, with about 2,200 openings nationally, annually. The average salary for air traffic controllers in Kentucky is \$121,970. At the national level, salaries average \$170,000.

Budget

In addition to revenue from student tuition, ECU will rely on an initial legislative appropriation of \$5 million and subsequent annual appropriations of \$1,500,000 to offer the program.

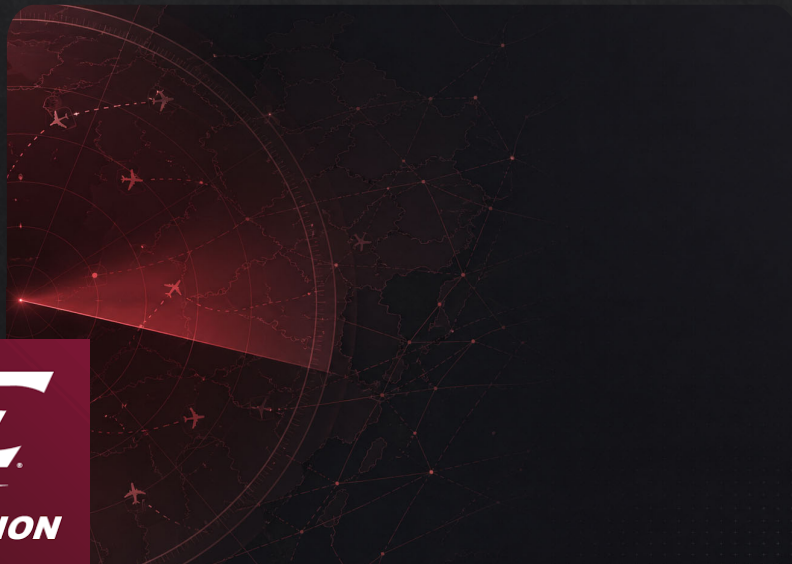
Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$): \$ 11,820,250

Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$): \$ 8,046,630



AAS in Air Traffic Management (ATM) Program

- ◆ Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) fundamentals-based program
 - ◆ Progression towards Enhanced Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI) certification
- ◆ Prepares Air Traffic Control (ATC) professionals for Kentucky & the National Air Space (NAS)
- ◆ Designed for immediate workforce entry
- ◆ Start date: Spring 2027



Curriculum Structure and Faculty Expertise

- ❖ Applied operational competencies through Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) aligned coursework
- ❖ Advanced performance-based simulation training
- ❖ Capstone with Control Tower Operator (CTO) preparation plus Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Flight Scenario
- ❖ Embedded Safety Management Systems (SMS), Human Factors, & Aeronautical Decision Making (ADM) Skill Development
- ❖ Faculty: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Military controllers & Aviation Certified Experts



Programmatic Complements and Supplements

- ◇ Program supported by the proposed degree:
 - ◇ Professional flight discipline is closely tied to co-curricular integration
 - ◇ Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and Airspace integration

Kentucky Graduate Profile

- ◆ Aligned with Kentucky Graduate Profile Essential Skills
 - ◆ Skill integration within the proposed courses
 - ◆ Assessment via the ECU Essential Education program and the program-level assessment

Financial Sustainability

- ◆ Self-sustaining at ~45–50 students
 - ◆ Named a Commonwealth mandated program with \$1.5M in annual support and start-up capital support of \$5M

Student and Market Demand

- ◊ No competing Air Traffic Control (ATC) program in Kentucky or neighboring states.
- ◊ 4,000 Controllers are currently in need nationally, 350 in the Commonwealth.
- ◊ Driven by anticipated retirements within the national air traffic controller workforce
- ◊ Strong student and workforce demand
 - ◊ Enrollment growth: 15 → 35 → 50 (scalable)

TOPIC/TITLE:	Kentucky State University's Response to SB 185 (2026)
STAFF CONTACTS:	Travis Powell, Executive Vice President & General Counsel Greg Rush, Assistant Vice President, Finance Policy and Programs
TYPE/REQUEST:	☒ Action ☐ Information

SUMMARY OF ACTION REQUESTED

Council staff recommends the Committee endorse for Council approval the proposed six areas of study for Kentucky State University as well as the proposed list of 28 academic programs to continue and 4 academic programs to close. These recommendations were reviewed and approved by the KSU Board of Regents at their meeting on May 28, 2026.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In Kentucky [SB 185](#) (RS 26), the General Assembly declared a state of financial exigency at Kentucky State University (KSU) for five years. The legislation modified KSU's mission to be one of a polytechnic university, and directed KSU to focus on highly technical, industry-based applied learning and offer liberal studies and polytechnic programs that are aligned with the workforce needs of the Commonwealth.

To accomplish this new directive, SB 185 required that KSU conduct a thorough review of all academic programs for long-term viability, financial stability and alignment with the university's mission as a polytechnic institution.

After completing this review, KSU was required to develop and submit a comprehensive academic transformation plan to the Council. The plan must detail how KSU would realign its academic portfolio with a revised polytechnic mission, including the consolidation and elimination of academic programs that did not fit within the approved structure and the organization of remaining offerings into a limited number of defined academic areas of study. For those programs proposed to be eliminated, teach out plans must be provided as they would need to be submitted to KSU's accreditor, SACSCOC.

SB 185 requires that the Council review the program list and teach out plans and may amend any portion before KSU submits to SACSCOC for review and approval July 1, 2026.

REVIEW PROCESS

KSU carried out a multi-phase process to review its academic programs. First, deans and department chairs created one-page overview of each academic program. Then, a group of faculty, students, and administrators were provided with these overviews, as well as program enrollment, marketability, academic outcomes, and overall program contribution based on costs and revenue, and used rubrics to score each academic program. Council staff were invited to participate in these meetings.

KSU provided all information to its academic leadership and President Koffi Akakpo made the final recommendations to be presented to the board. On May 28, 2026, KSU's Board of Regents approved the series of programmatic recommendations, which met the SB 185 deadline of June 1, 2026.

KSU'S RECOMMENDATIONS OF ACTION

KSU's Board of Regents took the following actions at their May 28 meeting, and recommend the Council accept the following with no amendments:

1. Approved six areas of study as: Applied Sciences, Engineering, Health Sciences, Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Technology.
2. Approved the following 28 academic programs to continue. KSU's rationale is that these programs combine workforce demand, scalable delivery, and strong or improving financial contribution. They also serve as enrollment engines supporting KSU's areas of study and overall academic portfolio.
 - Agriculture, Food, and Environment (baccalaureate)
 - Aquaculture (baccalaureate and master's)
 - Biological and Agricultural Engineering (bachelor's and master's)
 - Biology (baccalaureate)
 - Business Administration (baccalaureate and master's)
 - Criminal Justice (baccalaureate)
 - Chemistry (baccalaureate)
 - Computer Science – Cybersecurity (baccalaureate)
 - Elementary Education (baccalaureate)
 - Environmental Science and Technology (master's)
 - Exercise Science (baccalaureate)
 - Interdisciplinary Studies (associate's and baccalaureate)
 - Manufacturing and Agricultural Engineering (baccalaureate)
 - Mathematics (baccalaureate)
 - Music and Industry (baccalaureate)
 - Mass Communication (associate's)
 - Nursing (associate's and baccalaureate)

- Nursing Practice (doctoral)
 - Psychology (baccalaureate and master's)
 - Social Work (baccalaureate and master's)
 - Special Education (master's)
3. Approved the following 4 academic programs to close. KSU's rationale for closing these programs is that they exhibit limited enrollment scalability and market differentiation.
- Bachelor of Music Education (1 student enrolled)
 - Bachelor of Music Performance (1 student enrolled)
 - Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (13 students enrolled)
 - Bachelor of Arts in Child Development and Family Studies (17 students enrolled)

NEXT STEPS

Upon final approval by the Council, CPE staff will report the actions taken to KSU leadership, who will then submit the necessary documentation to SASCOC by July 1, 2026.



KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS

DATE: May 28, 2026
SUBJECT: Proposed Programs for Continuing and Discontinuing with Teachout Planning
FROM: Academic Affairs
ACTION ITEM: Yes

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to Senate Bill 185 (SB 185) signed into law on April 13, 2026, by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The submission of the results of a comprehensive academic program viability is enclosed herein for review and necessary action.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES: Program Analysis Summary

The Kentucky State University Academic portfolio shows strong alignment between high-growth, high-revenue programs (Environmental Sciences and Technology, Elementary Education, Nursing - *AS & BA*, Business - BA, Psychology, Social Work, Computer Science) and mission-critical but lower-margin programs (Agriculture, Aquaculture-MS, Special Education, Chemistry, Political Science, Mass Communication). The programs through careful analysis are considered contribution negative in their current form. Some of these programs require adjustments, while others will be recommended for closure (DNP, Computer Science – MS, Psychology-MS, Math, Music, Music Education/Performance, and Child Development). Strategic growth should prioritize online expansion, workforce-aligned redesigns, STEM, and Health related areas.

In Phases One and Two of the implementation plan, Deans, Chairs, Faculty, and Students review academic programs using a rubric, the Gray Decision Intelligence process including individual scorecards. The process involved a focus on program enrollment, marketability, academic outcomes, and overall program contribution based on costs and revenue.

The scorecard-based approach implemented in 2023 supports ongoing institutional effectiveness and provides clear evidence of compliance with SACSCOC expectations for systematic evaluation, improvement, and planning. Since 2023, Kentucky State University has created 12 new programs, with approximately eight of them in STEM related fields. The University also discontinued or sunset five academic programs and five certificates based on a comprehensive academic program review.

The academic program review demonstrates that the institution effectively uses data-informed analysis to evaluate program performance and drive continuous improvement. The academic portfolio is strategically aligned with workforce demand, fiscally sustainable, while also preserving disciplines aligned with the polytechnic vision and critical to Kentucky State University's HBCU and Land Grant Mission. The programs identified as continuing are aligned under six areas of study.

RECOMMENDATION:

President Koffi C. Akakpo recommends that the Board of Regents approve the proposed academic programs to continue as well as those programs we recommend discontinuing with teach out planning.

MOTION:

To approve the recommendation as stated.

Kentucky State University
Academic Program Review Process and Methodology
Submitted to the Kentucky State University Board of Regents
Submitted to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

I. Purpose and Legislative Context

Kentucky State University (KSU), pursuant to Senate Bill 185 (SB 185) and in partnership with the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), conducted a comprehensive Academic Program Review to ensure academic offerings are mission aligned, financially sustainable, workforce-relevant, and positioned to support the University's emerging polytechnic vision as a public HBCU and 1890 land-grant institution.

This review builds upon a data driven program evaluation process KSU has conducted annually since Spring 2023. The University expanded the process to include all academic programs in response to SB 185. The comprehensive academic program review provided Kentucky State University the opportunity to engage deans, chairs, faculty, staff and students as contributing stakeholders to assess academic programs to determine program viability. The process emphasizes data over advocacy, institutional transparency, shared governance, and compliance with accreditation and legislative requirements.

II. Academic Program Review Process

The Academic Program Review followed a methodology articulated in the *Academic Program Review Implementation Plan* and reinforced during formal collaboration session with the Council on Post-Secondary Education Leadership (CPE).

Phase 1: Program-Level Analysis (Deans and Chairs)

Establish a shared, factual baseline for evaluation before any decisions regarding continuation, modification, or discontinuation.

Key Elements:

- Deans and department chairs reviewed the Gray & Associates (GrayDI) Program Economics data for each academic program in their area.
- Programs were evaluated using standardized templates to ensure consistency and comparability.
- Analyses addressed:
 - Enrollment trends (residential & online)
 - Graduation and retention rates
 - Program market demand and workforce alignment
 - Instructional cost structures
 - Net revenue and contribution margins
 - Alignment with the University's polytechnic framework (STEM + Health)

Phase 2: Committee Work Session and Decision Framework

Purpose: Move from analysis to decision-making using a committee approach.

Committee Composition:

- Faculty representatives (*three selected by each college dean*)
- Student representatives (*selected by students*)
- Deans and department chairs (*advisory role in Phase 1 only*)
- Academic Affairs and University leadership (*facilitation and subject matter expertise*)

Decision Criteria:

- Enrollment viability
- Financial sustainability (program cost vs. net revenue)
- Workforce relevance and market demand
- Contribution to institutional mission, identity, and SB 185 Areas of Study
- Long-term strategic fit within a polytechnic model

All recommendations were explicitly tied to GrayDI data, ensuring decisions were evidence-based and defensible. This effort also reemphasized the guiding principle of decision making through data and not advocacy. The committees reviewed the academic programs using the provided rubric. Using the decision criteria, guiding questions were provided to guide the review and scoring process and provide recommendations for continuing, changing, or discontinuing programs with a planned teach out.

Phase 3: Program Continuation, Modification, or Teach-Out

Using a Plus/Delta approach, Academic Affairs Leadership reviewed the committee's work session results and identified the “plus” indicator as continuing, “delta” indicator as needed change, modification, or alignment, and a “minus” indicator for recommended discontinuance and planned teach out.

- Programs to Continue (with possible polytechnic-aligned modifications)
- Programs to Continue with Adjustments (curricular redesign, delivery modality changes, or integration into broader areas of study)
- Programs to Discontinue with formal teach out plans, meeting SACSCOC and CPE requirements

Teachout planning prioritized:

- Student progression and degree completion
- Clear communication timelines
- Accreditation compliance

Phase 4: Alignment to Legislatively Required Areas of Study

In collaboration with CPE, KSU aligned all programs to the following Areas of Study, consistent with SB 185:

- Applied Sciences
- Engineering
- Health Sciences
- Humanities
- Natural Sciences
- Technology

The proposed academic programs for continuance or modification were aligned to the identified areas for study. As reference in SB 185 the University can have no more than 10 Areas of Study. Kentucky State University has identified six areas, knowing that over the next five years these areas may expand as the polytechnic vision is implemented ensuring a focused academic approach while supporting integrated, applied learning pathways.

Proposed Academic Program Recommendations

CONTINUE AND GROW (Action Item)

The academic programs demonstrate clear capacity for expansion and should be prioritized for investment (faculty lines, marketing, potential modality expansion, alignment to polytechnic vision). Additionally, the programs combine workforce demand, scalable delivery, and strong or improving financial contribution. They also serve as enrollment engines supporting the university's areas of study and academic portfolio.

- Nursing (AS, BS– Residential & Online)
- Computer Science – Cybersecurity (BS Online; MS potential)
- MS Environmental Science and Technology (Residential)
- Social Work (BS – Residential & MSW - Online)
- Interdisciplinary Studies (BS & AS, STEM+, General Education, Dual Credit, PEP)
- Psychology (BS; MA Counseling, Forensic, School)
- Special Education (MA – Online, Redesigned in 2025 - Protected)
- Exercise Science (BS – New CIP)
- Aquaculture (MS, BS Aquatic Sciences – Fall 2026)
- Criminal Justice (BS – Residential & Online)
- Biology (BS – Residential)
- Manufacturing and Agricultural Engineering – Introduced in 2025
- MS in Biological and Agricultural Engineering – Introduced in 2025

These programs require curricular redesign, delivery modification, or repositioning to remain viable.

- Agriculture, Food, and Environment (BS – Residential) – change to include specification such as animal science, plant science, etc.
- Business Administration (BS – reduce complexity & MBA – Residential & Online)
- DNP – (Online – Cost analysis for revenue adjustment)
- Elementary Education (BA – HB 250 Redesign ongoing)
- Mathematics (BS – Reopened 2025)
- Music & Industry (Curriculum Redesign – Marketability)
- Mass Communication – (Curriculum Redesign – Technology Integration & Digital Media)
- Chemistry (BS – Reopened to Support Engineering)
- Psychology (MA – Curriculum alignment with workforce and clinical practice)

Rationale: These programs combine workforce demand, scalable delivery, and strong or improving financial contribution. They also serve as enrollment engines supporting the university's areas of study and academic portfolio.

DISCONTINUE – TEACHOUT (Action Item)

Programs to Discontinue with teach-out effective July 1

- Bachelor of Music Education (1 student enrolled)
- Bachelor of Music Performance (1 student enrolled)
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (13 students enrolled, 5 seniors)
- Bachelor of Arts in Child Development & Family Studies (17 students enrolled, 5 seniors)

Rationale: These programs exhibit limited enrollment scalability and market differentiation. Continuation or reinstatement will be contingent upon demonstrable redesign outcomes, alignment with the polytechnic vision, external partnerships, or enrollment recovery. SACSCOC limits the reinstatement window to three years. The Council on Post-Secondary Education limits the reinstatement to five years.

Proposed New Program Development Over the Next Five Years (Information Item Only)

- BS in Health Sciences (submitted NOI prior to 4/28 deadline)
- MS Cybersecurity
- Ph.D. Aquatic Sciences
- BS/MS Applied Engineering
- BS/MS Mechanical Engineering
- BS/MS Electrical Engineering
- BS/MS Biomedical Engineering
- MA Public Policy
- PsyD Counseling Psychology
- DBA Organizational Management
- DCJE Criminal Justice
- Graduate Certificate Nursing Education

Rationale: The proposed academic programs at Kentucky State University supports vision for polytechnic alignment, workforce development, and expansion in STEM fields. We recognize additional opportunities may be presented, further positioning the University to meet the needs of the Commonwealth and beyond.



KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

Academic Program Review Presentation to the ASI Committee
6.8.26

Kentucky State UNIVERSITY

Remains Kentucky's only public HBCU and 1890 Land Grant Institution - Advancing the Commonwealth through applied learning, innovation, partnerships, and purpose.



1

SPRING 2023

STOP, START, & GROW

- Comprehensive academic program review
- Sunset five academic programs and five certificate programs



2

FALL 2023

- Board approved general education review
- Academic Affairs reorganization
 - Three colleges formed
 - New academic programs proposed
 - Eight of eleven program focused on STEM and Health Sciences



3

SPRING 2024

REDUCED ACADEMIC DEGREE PATHWAY COMPLEXITY

- Restructured advising model
- DegreeWorks implementation
- Implemented multi-year catalog



4

FALL 2024

- Adopted and implemented the Graduate Profile - Ten Essential Skills
- Fall 2024 embedded certificates in degree pathways
- KYSA Global launch
 - Growth - from 72 to 650 students - 16 months
 - 67 students graduated in Spring 2026



5

SPRING 2026

SB 185 SIGNED

- Continued comprehensive Academic Program Review
- Proposed Areas of Study in collaboration with CPE
- Proposed programs to: continue, discontinue with teachout, or change
- Alignment with polytechnic vision



Grounded in the Humanities and interdisciplinary studies, Liberal Arts continue to serve as a foundational pillar of Kentucky State University. This commitment is reflected in the University's development of areas of study, which connects the Humanities with Applied Sciences, Engineering, Technology, Natural Sciences, and Health Sciences. By integrating Liberal Arts throughout the curriculum, Kentucky State University helps students build essential skills such as critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, professionalism, and adaptability. This approach prepares graduates to lead, innovate, and make meaningful contributions to the Commonwealth and beyond.



Thorobreds Leading for Impact

Highlights

- Since 2023, closed 10 academic programs
- Proposed meta-major BS in STEM (Chemistry/Mathematics) under consideration
- Since 2023 to 2026, reduced faculty from 112 to 77 - \$1,271,529 savings due to separation
- Payroll Change from FY25 to FY26 decreased by \$4,000,000
- Policy Changes
 - Pending faculty workload unit of measurement change from credit hours taught to student credit hour production (assists with teach-outs and new programs that are/may be low enrolled)
 - Higher bounds for pro-rated adjunct/overload pay increased (full pay of \$2700 per 3 credit hour course or 360-540 SCH)
 - Approximate \$1 Million in tuition revenue is predicted for May, Summer, and Global terms with the updated monitoring of course enrollments



Academic Programs under Areas of Study

Applied Sciences

- Business
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Psychology
- Sports Analytics
- Social Work

Engineering

- Agricultural & Biological Engineering
- Manufacturing Engineering Technology
- Mathematics

Health Sciences

- Exercise Science
- Health Science
- Nursing
- *Psychology*
- Public Health
- *Social Work*

Academic Programs under Areas of Study

Humanities

- Child Development (non-teaching – teach-out)
- Interdisciplinary Studies (formerly Liberal Studies/Project Graduate)
- Mass Communications & Journalism (includes Digital Media)
- Music and Industry
- Music Education (teach-out)
- Public Policy
- Political Science (teach-out)

Natural Science

- Agriculture
- Aquaculture/Aquatic Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science and Technology

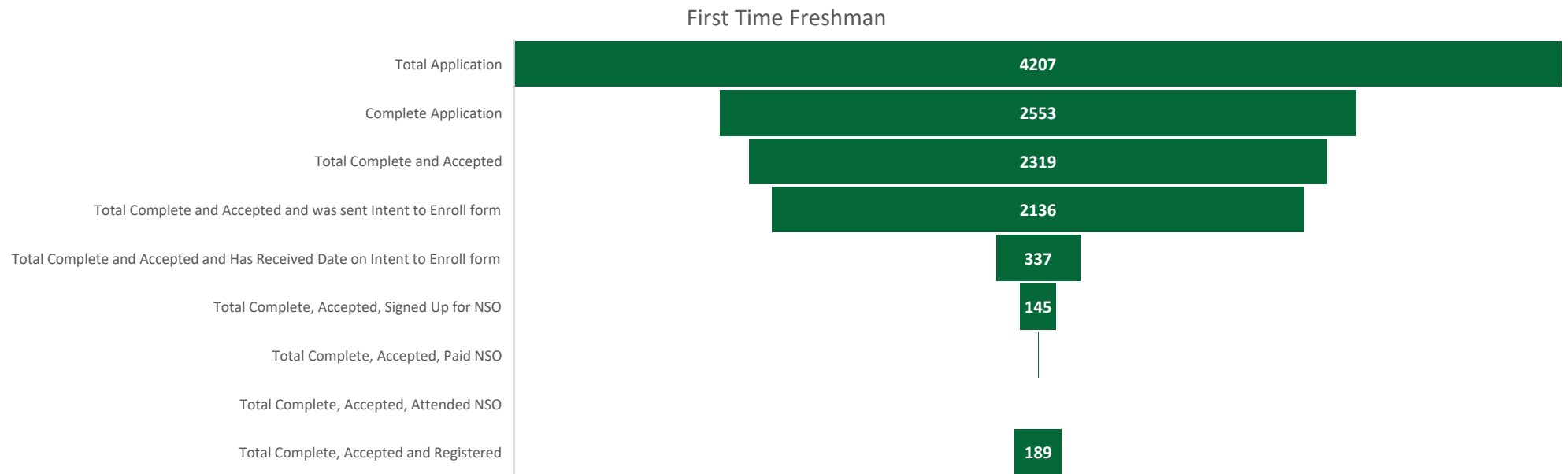
Technology

- Computer Science
- Cybersecurity

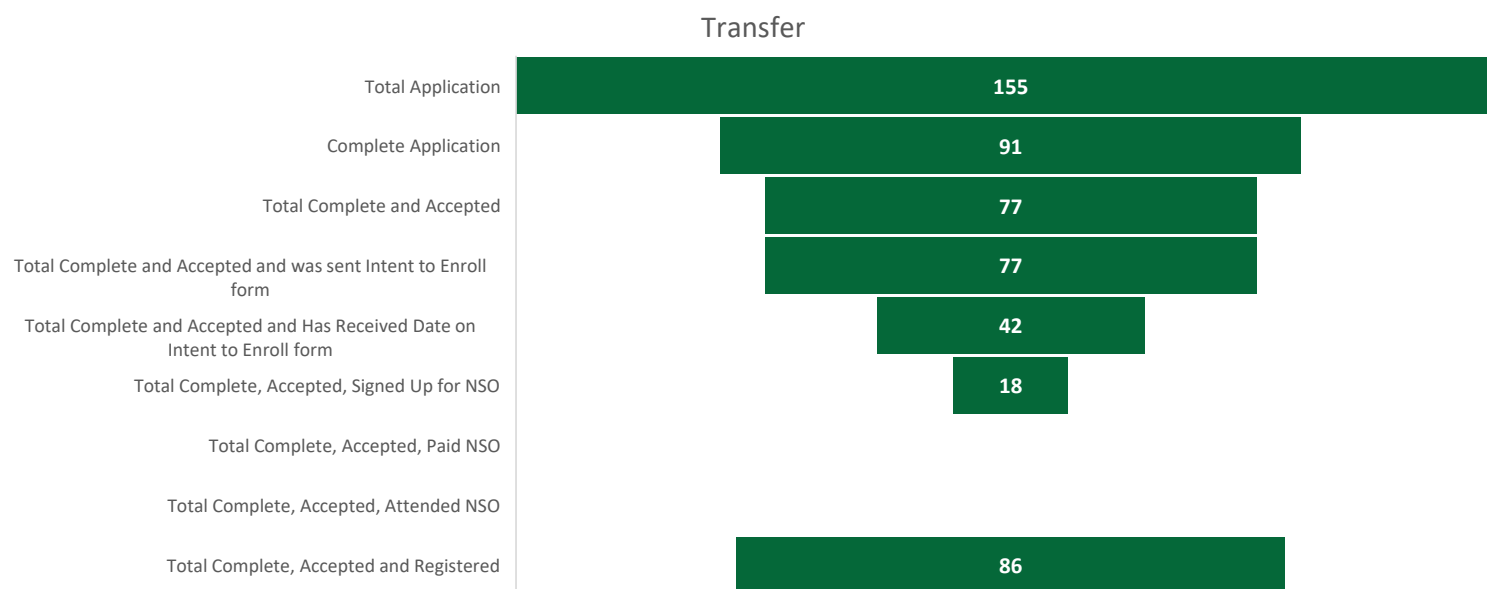


KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY

First Time Freshman Enrollment Funnel



Transfer Student Enrollment Funnel



Fall 2026 Enrollment Projection

Spring 2026 =	2,873	
Spring to Fall 56% =	1,609	
+ New UG	300	(377 Last Year)
+ Grad and TR	157	
+ New Dual Credit	<u>504</u>	Total 1,000
= Total Fall 2026 =	2,570	

Fall 2025 to Fall 2026 Change (268) (9%)

Spring 2026 to Fall 2026 Change (303) (11%)



Term to Term Persistence

Transition	Fall Enrollment	Returned in Spring	Return Rate
Fall 2023 → Spring 2024	1,689	1,442	85%
Fall 2024 → Spring 2025	2,163	1,730	80%
Fall 2025 → Spring 2026	2,838	2,095	74%
Average			80%

Transition	Spring Enrollment	Returned in Fall	Return Rate
Spring 2023 → Fall 2023	1,723	993	58%
Spring 2024 → Fall 2024	1,790	1,047	58%
Spring 2025 → Fall 2025	2,274	1,215	53%
Average	1,929	1,085	56%



Spring 2027 Enrollment Projection

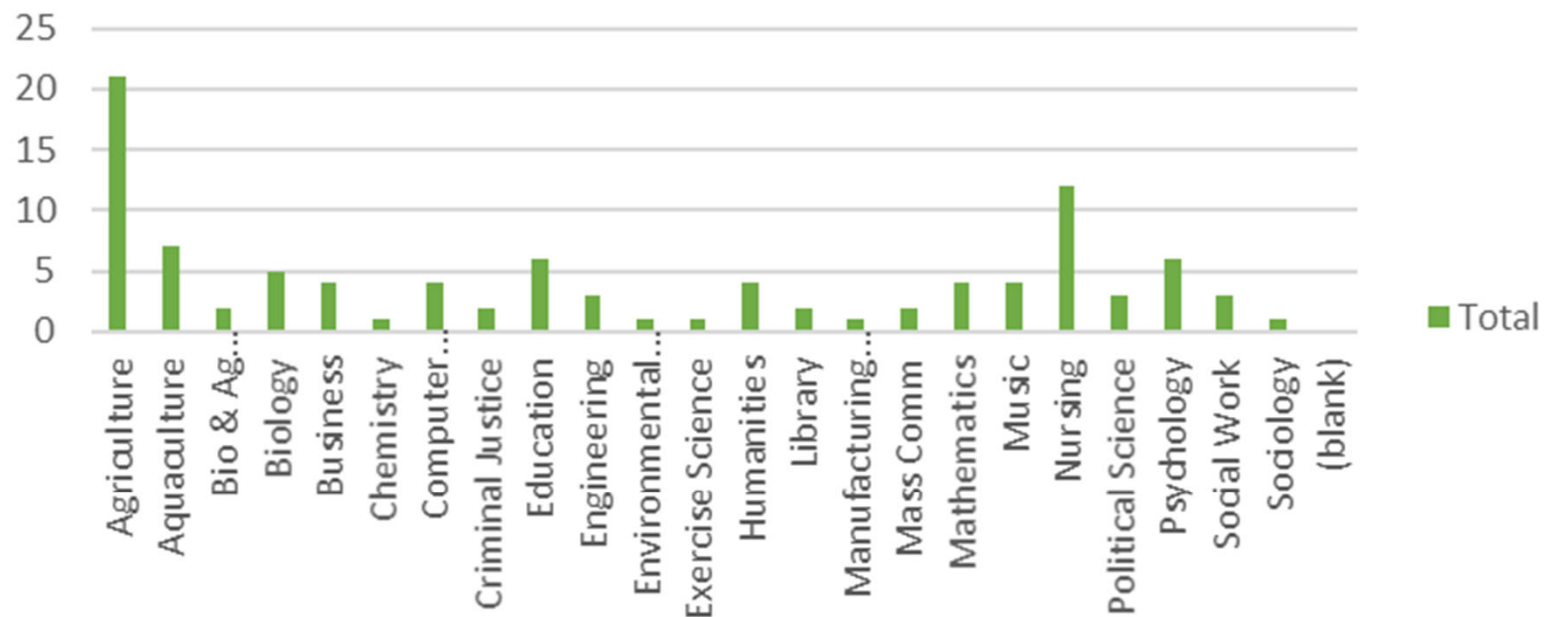
Fall 2026 =	2,570
80% Average =	2,056
+ New and TR	<u>229</u>
= Total Spring 2027	2,285

Spring 2026 to Spring 2027 Change (588) (20%)



Count of Area

Number FTE by Area



Area ▼

Academic Program Areas of Study

MAJOR	PROJECTED FALL 2026 HEADCOUNT	PROJECTED SPRING 2027 ENROLLMENT	TOTAL NET REVENUE	FT FACULTY	ADJUNCT	NET
Agriculture, Food and Environment**	53	43.4	\$262,342.96	\$428,217.67		(\$165,874.71)
Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences**	15	18	\$89,806.20	\$96,318.00		(\$6,511.80)
Biology	38	31.4	\$188,865.16	\$407,890.20		(\$219,025.04)
Business Administration	354	366.2	\$1,959,952.28	\$501,675.38		\$1,458,276.90
Chemistry*	6	4.8	\$29,391.12	\$78,000.26		(\$48,609.14)
Child Development & Family Relations	42	34.6	\$208,459.24	\$118,300.00		\$90,159.24
Computer Science	72	95.6	\$456,106.64	\$527,104.99		(\$70,998.35)
Criminal Justice	88	76.4	\$447,398.16	\$237,837.76		\$209,560.40
Cybersecurity	8	7.4	\$41,909.56			\$41,909.56
Elementary Education & Teaching	26	20.8	\$127,361.52	\$607,604.59		(\$480,243.07)
English Language & Literature (Humanities)	0	0	\$0.00	\$442,407.77		(\$442,407.77)
Entrepreneurship Cert	1	0.8	\$4,898.52			\$4,898.52
Exercise Science	66	53.8	\$326,023.72	\$88,527.85		\$237,495.87

Academic Program Areas of Study

MAJOR	PROJECTED FALL 2026 HEADCOUNT	PROJECTED SPRING 2027 ENROLLMENT	TOTAL NET REVENUE	FT FACULTY	ADJUNCT	NET
Fine/Studio Arts*	0	0	\$0.00			\$0.00
Interdisciplinary Studies (Liberal Studies/Project Grad)	81	64.8	\$396,780.12		0	\$396,780.12
Manufacturing Engineering Technology**	25	21	\$125,184.40	\$370,999.63		(\$245,815.23)
Mass Communications & Journalism	15	13	\$76,199.20	\$233,227.22		(\$157,028.02)
Mathematics*	2	1.6	\$9,797.04	\$288,410.88		(\$278,613.84)
Music and Industry	6	4.8	\$29,391.12	\$188,500.57		(\$159,109.45)
Music Education*	2	1.6	\$9,797.04			\$9,797.04
Nursing AAS	322	264.6	\$1,596,373.24	\$950,313.44		\$646,059.80
Political Science*	12	9.6	\$58,782.24	\$237,634.31		(\$178,852.07)
Psychology	117	112.6	\$624,833.44	\$558,569.09		\$66,264.35
Social Sciences*	0	0	\$0.00	\$91,000.08		(\$91,000.08)
Social Work	88	84.4	\$469,169.36	\$166,182.89		\$302,986.47

Academic Program Areas of Study

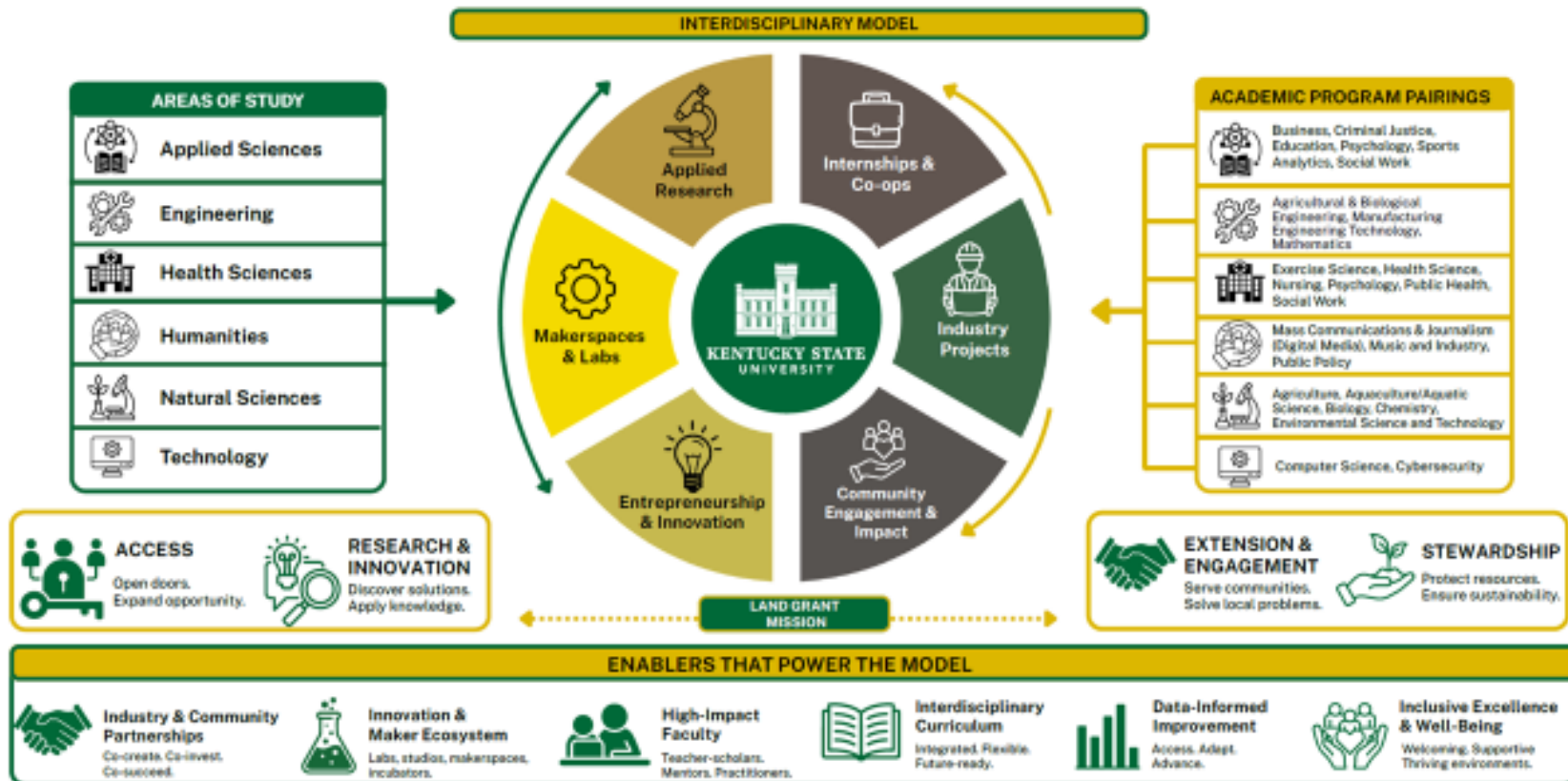
MAJOR	PROJECTED FALL 2026 HEADCOUNT	PROJECTED SPRING 2027 ENROLLMENT	TOTAL NET REVENUE	FT FACULTY	ADJUNCT	NET
Undeclared Major	31	24.8	\$151,854.12			\$151,854.12
Non-Degree (Dual Credit)	1000	800	\$733,320.00	\$169,000.00		\$564,320.00
Environmental Science and Technology	45	58	\$280,304.20	\$21,493.79		\$258,810.41
Behavioral Sciences	1	0.8	\$4,898.52	0		\$4,898.52
DNP	40	50	\$244,926.00			\$244,926.00
Biology and Agricultural Engineering	6	9.8	\$42,998.12	0		\$42,998.12
Special Education with Learning and Behavior Disorders	8	10.4	\$50,073.76			\$50,073.76
Total Enrollment	2570	2285				\$0.00
Adjuncts					\$1,000,000	(\$1,00,000)
Total			\$9,047,197.00	\$6,809,216.37	\$1,000,000	\$1,237,980.63



KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

MISSION STATEMENT : Provide transformative educational experiences to prepare graduates for making meaningful contributions to society. Kentucky State University is a public, research-comprehensive, historically black, 1890 land grant institution.

VISION STATEMENT: Foster Innovation and Inspire Leaders to Advance the Commonwealth and the World.



ONE UNIVERSITY • MANY PARTNERS • LIMITLESS IMPACT

Thank you

- Questions?
- Feedback
- Clarification



TOPIC/TITLE:	KCTCS Programs approved between Mar. 2026 – June 2026
STAFF CONTACT:	Sheila Brothers, MPA Senior Director of Academic Excellence
TYPE/REQUEST:	☐ Action ☒ Information

SUMMARY OF TOPIC

Council staff has reviewed and approved the following programs. No further action is needed.

Ashland Community and Technical College - Associate of Applied Science, Automotive Technology (47.0604)

The program prepares graduates for entry-level service technician jobs in the auto repair industry and was developed at the suggestion of the program's advisory committee. Ashland offers several certificates and a diploma that can be stacked and lead to completion of this program. The program will be accredited by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence.

Ashland Community and Technical College - Associate of Applied Science, Diesel Technology (47.0605)

The program prepares graduates for entry-level service technician jobs related to diesel technology, including analyzing and repairing malfunctions and maintaining heavy construction equipment, agricultural equipment, and medium and heavy trucks. This program was also developed in response to recommendations from this program's advisory committee. Students will alternate between academic settings (classroom or labs), and field sites where students apply their knowledge through work-study experiences.

Maysville Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science, Air Conditioning Technology (47.0201)

Local employers have requested associate's degree-prepared students for entry-level positions in the HVAC industry. Graduates will be responsible for troubleshooting, performing preventative maintenance, and installation, service, and repair of HVAC units and systems. Graduates will be prepared to sit for the Kentucky Journeyman Exam.

Owensboro Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science, Physical Therapy Assistant (51.0806)

The program will provide students with the opportunity for licensure and immediate employment as physical therapy assistants. The need for this program was underscored by the results of a workforce needs survey of regional healthcare employers conducted by the institution and a community forum for healthcare leaders and industry partners conducted by the institution. Multiple employers expressed an urgent need for graduates of the program.

APPLICABLE STATUTE(S), REGULATION(S), CPE POLICIES

- KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council to define and approve the offering of all technical, certificate, diploma, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree at public postsecondary institutions. It also mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature.

APPROVAL PROCESS

Associate degree programs of a vocational/technical/occupational nature (i.e. AAS) undergo the following process for approval:

- KCTCS posts a proposal to the program approval system by the first of the month, and Council staff feedback or decisions will be made by the last business day of the month.
- If no issues are identified, the program is approved by Council staff and reported as an information item to the Council.
- If issues are identified, the institution addresses those through the program approval system, and the review period is extended. Once the issues are resolved, the program is approved by Council staff and reported as an information item at the next Council meeting.