

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



September 9, 2026 – 10:00 AM ET

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

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

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Next meeting: November 9, 2026 @ 10am ET

MEETING MINUTES

To be reviewed and approved by the Committee on September 9, 2026

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee
Date: June 8, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

CALL TO ORDER

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Monday, June 8, 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 6 voting Council members in attendance.

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

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 March 30, 2026, committee meeting were approved as presented.

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Ms. Brothers introduced three 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 degrees, certificates, or diploma programs in the Kentucky public postsecondary education institutions.

Council staff reviewed the proposed programs and recommended approval.

University of Kentucky – B.A. Music Industry (CIP 50.1003)

Presented by: Dr. Rachel Shane, Chair, Department of Arts Administration

- The 120-credit-hour 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 omit audition and performance requirements.

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

VOTE: The motion passed. Dr. Figg abstained.

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

Presented by: Dr. Christia Brown, Associate Dean for Student Engagement and Success and Professor of Developmental, Social, and Health Psychology

- The 120-credit-hour program is fully online and focuses on practical psychological applications for the workforce. The curriculum targets key competencies in communication, project management, ethical decision-making, and evidence-based problem-solving. It aligns with current employer demand for skills in collaboration, managing diverse environments, and complex decision-making. Graduates will be prepared for roles in human resources, marketing, health services, and education.

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

VOTE: The motion passed. Dr. Figg abstained.

Eastern Kentucky University – A.A.S. Air Traffic Management (CIP 49.0105)

Presented by: Tim Holt, Chair, ECU School of Aviation and Jennifer Wies, Associate Provost and Professor of Anthropology

- The 60-credit-hour 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 Administration (FAA) tower and enroute 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.

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

VOTE: The motion passed. Dr. Ellis abstained.

CPE PRESIDENT UPDATE

Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE President, provided a brief update to the Committee on the Council's current priorities, including preparations to convene the Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding, the implementation status of 2026 legislative session outcomes, and recent higher education speeches and presentations across Kentucky.

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY RESPONSE TO SB 185 (2026)

Mr. Travis Powell, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, provided an overview of the staff request to approve the proposed six areas of study for Kentucky State University (KSU) as well as the proposed list of academic programs to continue and close. Dr. Michael Dailey, Provost at Kentucky State University, provided insight into how those programs were identified and final proposal decisions were made. Other presenters from Kentucky State University included Dr. Heather Bigard, Vice President of Finance and Administration/CFO and Dr. Tianna Freeman-Taylor, Assistant Vice Provost.

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

1. Approved the following 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 four 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)

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

Council members asked questions of clarification regarding the recommendation and requested updates on the pending legal matters.

MOTION: Dr. Ellis moved 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. Mr. Bokey seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

KCTCS PROGRAMS APPROVED BETWEEN APRIL-MAY 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 new programs reviewed and approved by Council staff between April and May 2026. No action was required by the Committee.

- Ashland Community and Technical College
 - Associate of Applied Science, Automotive Technology (47.0604)
 - Associate of Applied Science, Diesel Technology (47.0605)
- Maysville Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science, Air Conditioning Technology (47.0201)
- Owensboro Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science, Physical Therapy Assistant (51.0806)

ADJOURNMENT

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:40 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.F.A and B.A Creative Writing (CIP 23.1302)
2. University of Kentucky – M.S. Organizational Leadership in Coaching and Sport (CIP 31.0504)

PROGRAM APPROVAL PROCESS

The B.F.A and B.A Creative Writing (CIP 23.1302) proposed by the University of Kentucky began the process before the implementation of the revised New Academic Program Approval Policy in September 2025.

The Notification of Intent (NOI) for this proposed program 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 M.S. Organizational Leadership in Coaching and Sport (CIP 31.0504) program was 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 NOI 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:	Creative Writing
Degree Designation:	Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Arts
CIP Code:	23.1302
Credit Hours:	120
Implementation Date:	8/24/2026

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The proposed program will provide graduates with a multi-disciplinary focus on writing (storytelling, creativity, and poetics), editing, critical thinking, and other professional skills that are necessary for today's creative and commercial workforce. Graduates will be well prepared for jobs requiring skilled writers, as well as for those seeking graduate-level study in creative writing.

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

- Read broadly across a variety of periods, genres, forms, movements, cultures, and media and make connections between theory and practice, including applying theory to critically read, analyze, and understand texts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of literary tropes, techniques, and past and present literary forms, structures, styles, and traditions;
- Develop practical skills in publishing, the business of creative writing, and applying for creative writing grants, fellowships, and residencies; and
- Establish social and professional relationships with local, national and regional literary communities.

Academic Quality

The proposed program will incorporate some of the skills in the Kentucky Graduate Profile. Students will also have opportunities to intern with well-established literary journals and presses.

Creative Writing faculty members continue to be sought-after providers of service and programs in the local public-school system, throughout the state, and across the country. Over the last decade, faculty members have won numerous prizes, been named the state's Poet Laureate, authored critically acclaimed novels, creative nonfiction, and books of poetry and appeared on stages in New York and around the globe.

Established in 2014, the Graphite Creative Writing Association (Graphite) now has over 150 undergraduate student members. Graphite draws students from a variety of disciplines far beyond English or creative writing students, with each meeting drawing between 30-50 students who are eager to hone their writing skills.

Connection to Other Programs

Creative Writing is currently offered as a track within the English program and has seen steady enrollment growth.

This proposed program would allow UK to centralize its collaborations with community-based literary entities, such as the University Press of Kentucky and other regional and independent presses, the Carnegie Center for Literacy, the Kentucky Governor's Schools for the Arts Writing programs, the Kentucky Book Festival, the Kentucky Women Writers Conference, the Kentucky Literary Hall of Fame, the Hindman Writers Workshop, the Frank X Walker Literary Festival, the Berry Center's Kentucky Arts and Letters Day, the Kentucky Black Writers Coalition, and the Louisville Book Festival. These connections can serve as partners for experiential educational experiences via internships, cooperative education, volunteer, service-learning, and externships.

Student Demand

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 5

Year 2 – 11

Year 3 – 22

Year 4 – 38

Year 5 – 56

Employment Demand

Labor-market data indicate continued and growing demand for occupations that utilize writing, editing, communication, and critical-thinking competencies, such as writers and authors, editors, and media and communications workers. Employment opportunities in this area include content development, organizational communications, media, digital communication, and other professional contexts in which effective writing and communication are essential.

Graduates who intend to become writers or authors can expect an average Kentucky wage of approximately \$55,700 and with 278 job openings and 15% annual growth over the next 10 years. Those who become editors have an average Kentucky wage of approximately \$56,400, with 168 openings and projected growth of 16 percent. The broader category of media and communications workers has an average Kentucky wage of approximately \$59,300 and projected growth of 16 percent, compared with 7 percent nationally.

Budget

No additional faculty will be needed. The program is also expected to generate substantial net tuition revenue over time, an estimated \$493,793 by year five.

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 1,665,298
Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 814,431

BA & BFA Creative Writing

Presented by
Shauna M. Morgan, PhD
Associate Professor of English
Director of Division of Creative Writing Department
University of Kentucky

Program Purpose and Objectives:

The establishment of the Creative Writing undergraduate degree aligns with our college's commitment to excellence in education, research, and innovation.

- The BA provides a creative writing degree with a foundation in literature courses and a wide range of creative writing courses across a variety of subjects and genres.
- The BFA provides an intensive workshop-based program and study of literature and related arts that prepares students to be published writers or professionals in the industry.

BA Creative Writing Curriculum Overview:

- Pre-Major (6 hrs)
- Major Core (12 hrs)
- Guided Electives (30 hrs)
- Capstone (3 hrs)

BFA Creative Writing Curriculum Overview:

- Pre-Major (6 hrs)
- Major Core (18 hrs)
- Guided Electives (30 hrs)
- Capstone (9 hrs)

Creative Writing- Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

1. Develop the creative and technical skills necessary to conceive, execute, and revise original literary work in a student's chosen genre and write effectively across genre.
 **Critical & Creative Thinking**  **Knowledge Application**
2. Discover and develop their own voice and style as writers with an awareness of the literary, cultural, and historical contexts in which they write.
 **Communication**  **Adaptability & Leadership**
3. Read broadly across a variety of periods, genres, forms, movements, cultures, and media and make connections between theory and practice.
 **Quantitative Reasoning**
4. Demonstrate knowledge of literary tropes, techniques, and past and present literary forms, structures, styles, and traditions.
 **Professionalism**  **Information Literacy**
5. Develop practical skills in publishing, the business of creative writing, and applying for creative writing grants, fellowships, and residencies. (BFA students only)
 **Interpersonal Relations**
6. Establish social and professional relationships with local, national and regional literary communities. (BFA students only)
 **Collaboration & Teamwork**  **Civic Engagement**

Market Demand, Student Demand and Financial Sustainability

- **Student demand.**
 - 23% growth in Creative Writing Option since 2019
 - 150+ students in the undergraduate Creative Writing Association, Graphite
- **Market Gap**
 - Only 3 active undergraduate Creative Writing programs in Kentucky
- **Workforce Preparation**
 - Creative practice + writing, editing, critical thinking, storytelling, digital & professional skills
 - Internship & experiential learning

BA and BFA Creative Writing degree at UK:

- Expand access to undergraduate Creative Writing education
- Build on demonstrated student interest
- Learn from accomplished, nationally recognized faculty
- Prepare students for diverse careers by developing highly transferable skills
- Connect students with Kentucky's literary and creative community
- Strengthen Kentucky's pipeline of writers and creative professionals

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution:	University of Kentucky
Program Name:	Organizational Leadership in Coaching and Sport
Degree Designation:	Master of Science
CIP Code:	31.0504
Credit Hours:	30
Implementation Date:	8/24/2026

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The proposed program is designed for individuals seeking to advance their careers in sport, and for individuals transitioning into the sport industry who already possess a baccalaureate degree and want to develop specialized expertise. Graduates will leave with transferable skills applicable across a range of sports and organizational settings, including leadership and supervision, athlete advocacy, coaching, policy and decision-making, service learning, data-informed decision-making, and sporting event production. Graduates will apply their skills in complex, real-world situations, preparing them to assume greater leadership and organizational responsibility. Students will select one of two tracks. The Coaching track will prepare future coaches to lead and inspire athletes across all levels, from youth and secondary education to collegiate and professional sports. The Sport Leadership track focuses on enhancing leadership and administrative skills across diverse sports settings, including athletic administration, sport operations, event management, sport management, and community sports.

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

- Collect, analyze, interpret, and utilize sport-related data to make informed decisions in sporting-related environments;
- Construct and utilize evaluations to improve programs and initiatives in sport;
- Make socially responsible decisions in sport settings; and
- Plan, execute, and evaluate sport and/or fitness related events.

Academic Quality

All students will take a course that embeds a service-learning project designed to offer practitioner-based experience in planning, staffing, directing, and evaluating.

Connection to Other Programs

Students with backgrounds in kinesiology, exercise science, health promotion, sport-related studies, and other related fields may seek advanced preparation in coaching, organizational leadership, administration, and sport operations as they transition from undergraduate study into professional careers or pursue advancement within the sport industry.

The proposed program will also provide a natural pathway from the existing B.S. Sport Management toward graduate work. Program faculty intend to eventually create an accelerated pathway so that students can earn both credentials within a shorter time frame.

The proposed program builds on two already existing tracks within the M.S. in Kinesiology and Health Promotion, which will give students more marketability under a degree that is more indicative of the content they receive.

Student Demand

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 20

Year 2 – 20-25

Year 3 – 23-26

Year 4 – 25-30

Year 5 – 27-32

Employment Demand

Graduates of the program will be prepared for positions as umpires, referees, coaches or scouts, exercise trainers and group fitness instructors, athlete agents, and entertainment and recreation managers. In the next ten years, state-level demand for athlete agents is expected to grow by 3.6% and graduates expect annual salaries in the range of \$70,501 in Kentucky. Also over the next 10 years, those going into careers related to entertainment and recreation management can expect state-level growth of 4.9%, with an annual salary of \$68,723 in Kentucky.

Budget

All faculty are already in place to teach courses in the proposed program, so no additional faculty will be needed

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$): \$ 3,850,805

Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$): \$ 467,670

Organizational Leadership and Coaching in Sport

College of Education
Department of Kinesiology and
Health Promotion



Purpose and Objectives

- Nearly 200 students have already graduated through the existing specialization.
- Students are already pursuing coursework focused on leadership and coaching in sport.
- The proposed program formally recognizes an established area of study rather than creating a new academic discipline.
- The program provides students with a degree title that more clearly communicates their preparation for careers in sport



Curriculum Structure

- Organizational Leadership & Coaching in Sport
 - Sport Leadership
 - Coaching
 - Leadership & Organizational development
 - Community Partnerships
- Builds on existing specialization curriculum
- Expands course options for students
- Includes opportunity for distance learning modalities
- Leverages expertise already present across departments



Connections

- **Accelerated Pathway**

Undergraduate

Sport Leadership & Management



Organizational Leadership & Coaching in Sport

- Sport-focused content currently housed within Kinesiology and Health Promotion receives a more directly aligned academic identity and CIP classification



Kentucky Workforce & Student Demand

Demonstrated Student Demand

Since 2013

- 15-25 students/year
- 10-15 graduates/year
- Nearly 200 graduates

Workforce Opportunity

- ~ 99,000 annual job openings in entertainment & sports
- \$54,000 media salary
- 6% projected job growth

The proposed degree gives students a credential that clearly communicates their sport-specific preparation to employers



Financial Sustainability

- Existing Faculty
 - Faculty capacity already exists in both Sport Leadership & Coaching
- \$0 New Launch Resources
 - No additional resources are required to launch the degree
- 13+ Years of Demonstrated Enrollment
 - Sustained enrollment since 2013, with approximately 15-25 students annually.

UK can launch the program by leveraging existing faculty expertise, curriculum, and student demand.



TOPIC/TITLE:	KCTCS Programs approved between June 2026 – Sept. 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 program. No further action is needed.

Somerset Community College – A.A.S., Cybersecurity (43.0404)

The program provides a comprehensive foundation in cybersecurity principles, emphasizing the protection of hardware, software, users, and information assets across a wide range of organizational environments. Regional employers are looking for a broad, in-depth degree in the field. Although Somerset currently offers certificates in this field, K-12 partners note that their students are more likely to enroll and persist in postsecondary programs that culminate in an associate's degree.

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.