

DATE: January 24, 2008

SUBJECT: Status of Academic Program Inventory

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: At the November 2007 Commission meeting, a report on academic program activity as well as program termination was requested. As you know, the Commission has the statutory responsibility to review and approve new academic programs. This responsibility is exercised so as to promote academic quality and to fulfill student demand, employer need and societal requirements. The responsibility of program termination lies with the two governing boards – Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee, although the Commission staff may recommend program termination to the governing boards.

The attached report reflects on program activity and termination from 2000 to 2007. During this period, whereas 190 programs were terminated by the governing boards a total of 168 new programs were approved. This net decline of 22 academic programs occurred during a time when enrollment in state public higher education institutions increased by over 18,000 students.

**Tennessee Higher Education Commission
Status of Academic Program Inventory
2000 – 2007
January 2008**

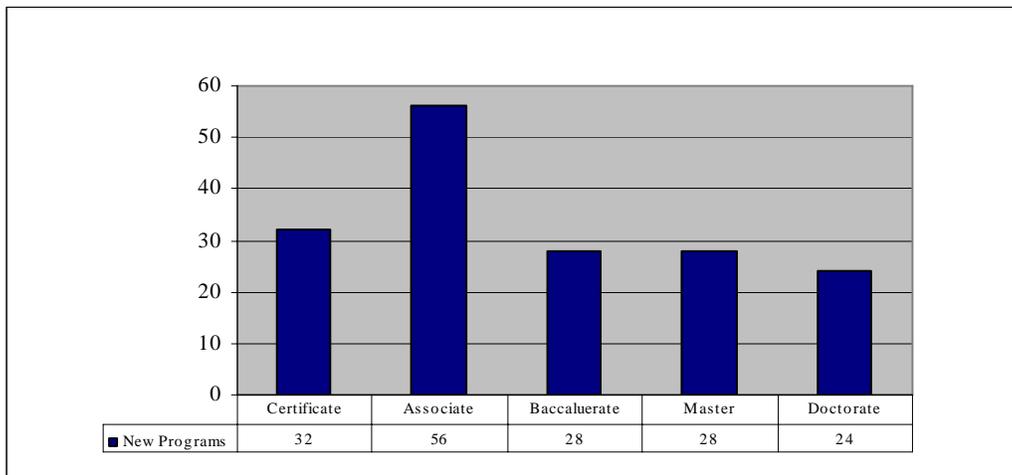
The Tennessee Higher Education Commission maintains an academic program inventory (API) that track changes in the programmatic activity for public higher education institutions. The API is used for a variety of applications in support of the Commission’s mission, including the student information system, performance funding and the SREB Academic Common Market. Currently, there are 1300+ active program offerings at our public universities and community colleges. Close to 70 percent of these programs are offered at the pre-baccalaureate and baccalaureate level. This report focuses on the program terminations and approvals by the governing boards and new program approvals by the Commission from 2000 to 2007. Programs are typically terminated or consolidated into other program to maintain the relevance of program offerings. New programs are developed as the needs and demands within the state warrant. During this period, whereas 190 programs were terminated by the governing boards a total of 168 new programs were approved. This net decline of 22 academic programs occurred during a time when enrollment in state public higher education institutions increased by over 18,000 students (from 190,350 to 208,612). A detailed listing of all program approvals and terminations can be found in Appendix A of this report.

Program Terminations and Approvals, 2000 – 2007

	Terminations	New Programs	Net Change
TBR - Universities	64	64	0
UT System	18	16	-2
TBR - Community Colleges	108	88	-20
Total Actions	190	168	-22

Of the 168 new programs that were approved by the governing boards and the Commission since 2000, approximately 52 percent were approved at the pre-baccalaureate level. A total of 28 or 17 percent of new programs were approved at the baccalaureate level. Graduate programs accounted for 31 percent of all new program approvals.

Program Approvals by Degree Level, 2000 – 2007



Program Approvals by Major Taxonomy, 2000 – 2007

Major Taxonomy	Certificate	Associate	Bachelors	Masters	Doctoral	Total
Agriculture	2	1	0	1	1	5
Architecture	0	0	0	2	0	2
Area Studies	0	0	2	1	0	3
Biological Sciences	0	2	0	2	0	4
Business Management	6	4	2	3	0	15
Communications	1	1	1	1	0	4
Computer Science	2	3	1	2	1	9
Education	0	13	1	2	3	19
Engineering	1	3	6	2	4	16
English Languages	0	1	0	0	1	2
Health Professions	6	10	2	9	10	37
Industrial Arts	0	3	0	0	0	3
Law and Legal Studies	0	1	0	0	0	1
Liberal Arts and Science	2	2	3	1	0	8
Marketing Operations	1	0	1	0	0	2
Multidisciplinary Studies	0	0	1	0	0	1
Parks & Recreation	0	0	1	0	1	2
Physical Sciences	2	0	1	0	0	3
Protective Services	0	11	1	1	0	13
Psychology	0	0	0	0	1	1
Social Sciences & History	0	0	3	1	2	6
Trades and Industrial	8	1	0	0	0	9
Visual & Performing Arts	1	0	2	0	0	3
Grand Total	32	56	28	28	24	168

- Of the 168 new programs approved since 2000, 100 or 60 percent of the programs were in five areas: health, education, engineering, business management and protective services.
- Highest number of doctoral programs was in health professions. These new programs were due primarily to changes in accreditation requirements for the Physical Therapy program as well as the state’s public health initiative.
- Over 30 percent of the new master’s programs were also in the area of health professions. The Regents On-line Degree Program for Nursing (MSN) was approved in April 2004. This program is available on-line and increases access to graduate nursing education in remote areas of the state and for practicing nurses for whom time and flexibility are critical.
- New baccalaureate programs were approved primarily in the areas of engineering, liberal arts and social sciences. The six (6) new engineering programs were in the areas of biomedical, computer and electrical.
- At the associate’s degree level, the majority of new programs were approved in education. At the January 2006 THEC meeting, the Commission approved the Associate of Science in Teaching to address the shortage of teachers in Tennessee at all 13 community colleges. This program is intended to facilitate entry of transfer students from community colleges into university teacher education programs. New programs in health professions particularly the September 2007

approval of the online Nursing associate program were also top priorities at the community colleges.

- Twenty of the new certificate programs at the community colleges were in the fields of trade/industrial, health and business.

Program Terminations by Major Taxonomy 2000-2007

Major Taxonomy	Certificate	Associate	Bachelors	Masters	Doctoral	Total
Agriculture	1	0	0	1	2	4
Architecture	0	0	0	0	0	0
Area Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Biological Sciences	0	0	2	0	1	3
Business Management	11	9	5	3	0	28
Communications	1	0	1	0	0	2
Computer Science	8	5	1	0	0	14
Education	0	0	6	11	1	18
Engineering	7	19	1	1	1	29
English Languages	1	1	1	0	0	3
Foreign Languages	0	1	0	0	0	1
Health Professions	6	6	3	3	0	18
Home Economics	2	0	4	0	0	6
Industrial Arts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law and Legal Studies	1	3	0	0	0	4
Liberal Arts & Science	3	0	2	0	0	5
Marketing Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	0	0	1	0	0	1
Multidisciplinary Studies	0	0	2	0	0	2
Parks & Recreation	0	0	4	4	1	9
Personal Improvement	3	0	0	0	0	3
Physical Sciences	0	2	2	1	0	5
Protective Services	0	9	0	0	0	9
Psychology	0	0	1	0	0	1
Social Sciences & History	0	2	3	2	2	9
Trades and Industrial	5	5	0	0	0	10
Visual & Performing Arts	1	2	3	0	0	6
Grand Total	50	64	42	26	8	190

- Of the 190 programs terminated by the governing boards, 43 percent of the programs were in the areas of engineering, biological sciences and health professions.
- Over 100 programs were terminated at the pre-baccalaureate level. Of all programs terminated, 38 percent were at the associate degree level.
- The majority of programs terminated at both the baccalaureate and master's level were education programs.
- Four of the eight doctoral programs terminated were at Middle Tennessee State University. These programs offered the Doctorate of Arts degree which has diminished on a national level. The new program approvals reflect the conversion of these programs to the traditional Ph.D. research degree.