



TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM: II.

MEETING DATE: May 19, 2022

SUBJECT: Quality Assurance Funding (QAF)
TN Job Market Placement Definitional Change

ITEM TYPE: Action

ACTION RECOMMENDATION: Approval

BACKGROUND

Standards for the 2020-25 Quality Assurance Funding (QAF) program were developed through collaboration between THEC staff, campus leadership, and institutional governing boards through the QAF Advisory Committee and adopted by the Commission in May 2020. Included in the standards is the Tennessee Job Market Placement standard for community colleges which carries forward definitions and methodology developed in 2015 utilizing the P-20 Connect data system as means of calculating Tennessee job placement.

In October 2021, the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) requested a review of the TN Job Market Placement points earned as a result of Year 1 of the 2020-25 QAF cycle. While the approved QAF standards do not allow for the amendment of points, the standards approved in May 2020 do allow for a review of job placement definition and methodology given the uncertainty of the emerging healthcare crisis. Academic Affairs staff worked with the Policy, Planning, and Research Bureau to review the job placement methodology and gathered feedback from TBR as well as the QAF Advisory Committee. Both TBR and the QAF Advisory Committee support the proposed methodology shift and definitional change.

DEFINITIONAL CHANGE AND METHODOLOGY SHIFT

The current methodology for calculation of the TN Job Market Placement rate utilizes the P-20 Connect data system and focuses on non-University Parallel associate degree graduates. Placement is defined as working full-time at least one fiscal year quarter (three months) after graduation with no unemployment claims. The continuous employment methodology encompasses more of the mission of community colleges by expanding the scope to all community college graduates awarded a technical certificate or associates degree. In the revised definition, placement is defined as those graduates who are employed, full-time or part-time, at least three of the four quarters after graduation. The continuous employment approach focuses on the ability of graduates to obtain and maintain employment, rather than the need for graduates to file for unemployment.

SCORING BASED ON PROPOSED DEFINITION

A review of data using the continuously employed methodology indicates employment rates associated with years prior to and during the COVID 19 pandemic are more stable and insulated from dramatic shifts in graduates seeking government assistance. Scoring of the TN Job Market Placement standard will mirror the Student Access and Success standard which focuses on continuous improvement. The scoring table remains the same as was approved in May 2020, only the definition of success and rate calculation will be updated.