

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME: Alabama Commission on Higher Education (Commission)

RULE NO. & TITLE: 300 – 2 – 1 - .04 Operational Policy On The Approval, Disapproval, Deferral, And Withdrawal Of New Programs Of Instruction.

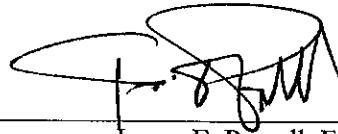
INTENDED ACTION: Amendment

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: To establish procedures related to the use of post-implementation conditions on the approval of new academic programs. To also establish a deadline for the implementation of new academic programs.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS: Persons wishing to present views on these amended rules may contact Tim Vick, Director of Operations and Fiscal Services, Alabama Commission on Higher Education, P.O. Box 302000, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2000, Telephone 334-353-9153 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day up to and including February 9, 2018.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE: February 9, 2018.

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY: Timothy W. Vick



James E. Purcell, Ed.D.
Executive Director

300-2-1-.04 Operational Policy On The Approval, Disapproval, Deferral, And Withdrawal Of New Programs Of Instruction.

(1) The purpose of the operational policy on the approval, disapproval, deferral, and withdrawal of new programs of instruction is to ensure that all such programs are subject to a fair and consistent evaluation and determination.

(2) It is the responsibility of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to establish policies and procedures for approving, disapproving, deferring, and withdrawing new programs of instruction.

(3) Approval: The approval of a new program of instruction shall require the concurrence of a majority (7) of all the members of the Commission.

(4) Disapproval: A program that receives a negative recommendation by a majority vote of Commission members present may be reconsidered after one year at the request of the institution, provided substantive changes indicate the need for reconsideration.

(5) Disapproval: A program that receives a favorable vote of a majority of the members present but which falls short of receiving a favorable vote by a majority of the members of the Commission may be reconsidered at the next regularly scheduled meeting at the request of the institution provided substantive changes indicate the need for reconsideration.

(6) Deferral: Should the Commission (by majority vote of members present) defer action on a proposed program, it will specify the future meeting at which the program will be reconsidered, being mindful of the ten-month deadline for program action. If the ten-month limitation has been reached or will be reached before the next scheduled meeting of the Commission, action will not be deferred; however, if the Commission decides that special consideration is warranted, such a program may be disapproved by a majority of members present with the provision that the program can be reconsidered at a specified meeting scheduled prior to the one-year restriction on resubmission of disapproved programs. Deferral is a Commission, not an institutional prerogative.

(7) Withdrawal: Should an institution withdraw a proposed program from Commission consideration, it may be resubmitted at any time; however, the time which has expired prior to the withdrawal will not count toward the ten-month deadline on Commission program action. The Commission will have ten months beginning at the time the program is resubmitted to take action on the program.

(8) Post-implementation conditions on enrollment, graduation rates, and the efficacy of the assessment system will be placed on the approval of new academic programs.

(a) Programs with program-specific accreditation will be required to report steps to be taken to obtain accreditation in the proposal/ application, and the accreditation status as a post-implementation condition of approval. Programs which require licensure will be required to report steps to be taken to optimize exam pass rates in the proposal/ application, and the licensure pass rate as a post-implementation condition of approval.

(b) The unemployment/ continuing education rate post-implementation reporting will be considered as informational/ notification only, and will not be a consequential consideration in evaluating attaining/ meeting post-implementation.

(9) The window will be 30 months (2 ½ years) from the time of Commission approval to implementation, before Commission approval will expire.

Author: William O. Blow

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§16-5-1, et seq.

History: Filed April 10, 1989. Amended: Filed March 12, 1996;
effective April 16, 1996. Amended: Filed December 12, 2017; effective.