

Alabama Commission on Higher Education
RSA Union Building, 100 North Union Street, Room 782
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
Office: 334-242-1998
Fax: 334-242-2269
Website: www.ache.edu

COMMISSION MEETING

Public Service Commission Hearing Room
RSA Union Building, 9th floor
100 North Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

March 11, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Public Zoom Option for Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6569091900?pwd=KzJ3R05rb01NY1BoV1lCdCs2ZGNlZz09>

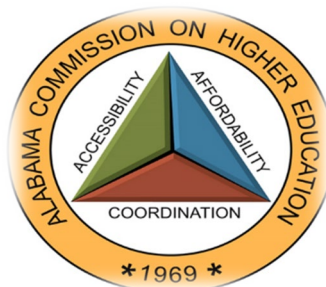
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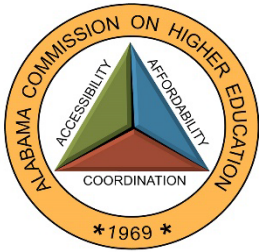
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AGENDA

ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

RSA Union Building, 9th Floor
Public Service Commission Hearing Room

March 11, 2022
10:00 AM

- I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**
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- III. Approval of Agenda**
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- VI. Chairman’s Report**
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- VII. Executive Director’s Report**
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- VIII. Discussion Items**
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C. Adjournment

ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

MINUTES OF ACHE Work Session-Finance Sub-Committee Meeting

December 10, 2021

I. Call to Order

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education Finance Sub-committee met in regular session on Friday, December 10, 2021 in the ACHE Commissioner Conference Room 779, RSA Union Building, Montgomery, Alabama. Commissioner Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

II. Roll Call of Members and Determination of Quorum

Dr. Purcell called the roll and affirmed there was a quorum of members present.

Sub-committee members Members present: Stan Nelson, Stan Pylant, Ann Sirmon, Norman Crow, and Rod Scott.

III. Approval of Agenda

RESOLVED: Commissioner Crow moved to adopt the published agenda for the December 10, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Scott seconded. The agenda was approved.

IV. Finance Sub-Committee Budget Recommendations

Mrs. Veronica Harris presented the **Executive Budget Request for FY 2022-2023** staff recommendation to the Finance Sub-committee with a recommendation for approval.

Dr. Jim Hood presented the **Consolidated Budget Recommendation for FY 2022-2023** staff recommendation to the Finance Sub-committee with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Nelson recommended that the Executive Budget Request for FY 2022-2023 and the Consolidated Budget Recommendation be approved.

Commissioner Scott moved to accept the recommendation for approval of the Executive Budget Request and the Consolidated Budget Request. Commissioner Pylant seconded. Motion carried.

V. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

Charles Buntin, Chairman

Sworn to and subscribed before
me this the ___ day of _____
2022.

James E. Purcell, Executive Director

Notary Public

ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**MINUTES OF MEETING
December 10, 2021**

I. Call to Order

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education met in regular session on Friday, December 10, 2021 in the Public Service Commission Hearing Room, RSA Union Building, Montgomery, Alabama. Commissioner Buntin called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Price opened the meeting with a prayer. Commissioner Buntin then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call of Members and Determination of Quorum

Dr. Purcell called the roll and affirmed there was a quorum of members present.

Commission Members present: Charles Buntin, Stan Nelson, Stan Pylant, Amy Price, Ann Sirmon, Larry Turner, Norman Crow, Timothy Gyan, Paul Kennedy, Rod Scott, and Jody Singleton.

Commission Members absent: Miranda Bouldin-Frost.

III. Approval of Agenda

RESOLVED: Commissioner Price moved to adopt the published agenda for the December 10, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Scott seconded. The agenda was approved.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of September 10, 2021.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved for approval of the September 10, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Price seconded. Motion carried.

V. Chairman's Report

Commissioner Buntin welcomed everyone to the Commission's first in-person meeting since the pandemic.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Dr. Purcell reported on the following:

- FAFSA Completion Update
A copy of the PowerPoint presentation can be found on the ACHE website at www.ache.edu.
- Reminder about prerecorded presentations www.ache.edu
Dr. Purcell mentioned the data and graphs that can be viewed on ache website.

VII. Discussion Items

- Mr. Jacob Orr, Men of Kennis Program, Athens State University
Mr. Orr discussed his history with his participation in the Men of Kennis program, which is a program funded by the State's "Recruit and Retain Minority Teachers" Pilot program. The initiative is designed to support men of color on their path to becoming teachers in Alabama.

- Dr. Shaik Zainuddin, Associate Professor, Materials Science and Engineering, Tuskegee University.
Dr. Zainuddin presented his “Alabama Career Story” and the impact of the Alabama EPSCoR Graduate Research Scholars Program, a State-funded program to support doctoral and master’s level students in participating in federal STEM research at Alabama institutions.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation can be found on the ACHE website at www.ache.edu.

VIII. Decision Items

A. Annual Report: Alabama Commission on Higher Education 2020-2021

Mrs. Margaret Gunter presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Price moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Scott seconded. Motion carried.

B. Finance Sub-Committee Budget Recommendations

1. Executive Budget Request for FY 2022-2023

Mrs. Veronica Harris presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

2. Consolidated Budget Recommendation for FY 2022-2023

Dr. Jim Hood presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

Commissioner Stan Nelson presented the recommendation from the Finance Subcommittee meeting.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Scott moved to accept the Finance Sub-committee’s recommendation for approval of the Executive Budget Request, and the Consolidated Budget recommendation. Commissioner Price seconded. Motion carried, with abstention from Commissioner Kennedy.

C. Report on Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests for FY 2022-2023- FY 2026-2027

Mr. Julian Rogers presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Scott seconded. Motion carried.

D. Academic Programs

1. Alabama A&M University

a. Master of Science in Counseling (CIP 42.2803)

Dr. Robin McGill presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Scott moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Price seconded. Motion carried.

b. Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction (CIP 13.0301)

Dr. Robin McGill presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Scott moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Price seconded. Motion carried.

2. Auburn University

Doctor of Physical Therapy in Physical Therapy (CIP 51.2308)

Dr. Robin McGill presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Price seconded. Motion carried.

3. Athens State University

a. Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Systems Management (CIP 49.0104)

Dr. Robin McGill presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Crow moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Scott seconded. Motion carried.

b. Master of Science in Computer Science (CIP 11.0101)

Dr. Robin McGill presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Scott seconded. Motion carried.

c. Master of Science in Cybersecurity (CIP 11.1003)

Dr. Robin McGill presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Price moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Scott seconded. Motion carried.

4. Troy University

Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design (CIP 50.0409) – Substantive Modification

Dr. Robin McGill presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved to accept the recommendation for approval for a substantive modification. Commissioner Scott seconded. Motion carried.

5. University of North Alabama

a. Associate of Science in Culinary Arts (CIP 12.0503)

Dr. Robin McGill presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Price moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Scott seconded. Motion carried.

b. Associate of Science in Mechatronics (CIP 15.0613)

Dr. Robin McGill presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Scott moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Crow seconded. Motion carried.

c. Associate of Science in Hospitality and Events Management (CIP 52.0901)

Dr. Robin McGill presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Singleton moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Scott seconded. Motion carried.

6. University of South Alabama

Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences (CIP 26.0102)

Dr. Robin McGill presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Crow moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Price seconded. Motion carried.

7. University of West Alabama

Associate of Science in Forestry Technology (CIP 03.0511)

Dr. Robin McGill presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Kennedy moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Price seconded. Motion carried.

8. Beville State Community College

Associate of Applied Science and Short-Term Certificate in Medical Assistant Technology (CIP 51.0801)

Mrs. Kristan White presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Price seconded. Motion carried.

9. Coastal Alabama Community College

- a. Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assistant Technology (CIP 51.0801)

Mrs. Kristan White presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Scott seconded. Motion carried.

- b. Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician (CIP 51.1004)

Mrs. Kristan White presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Scott moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Price seconded. Motion carried.

10. Lawson State Community College

- Associate of Applied Science in Dental Assisting (CIP 51.0601)

Mrs. Kristan White presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Scott moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Pylant seconded. Motion carried.

11. Southern Union State Community College

- Associate of Applied Science in Wellness and Therapeutic Massage (CIP 51.3501)

Mrs. Kristan White presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Scott moved to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Price seconded. Motion carried.

E. Information Items

RESOLVED: Commissioner Scott moved that the Commission accept Information Items 1 through 8. Commissioner Pylant seconded. Motion carried.

1. Implementation of New Short Certificate Programs (Less than 30 Semester Hours)
2. Implementation of Non-Degree Programs at Senior Institutions
3. Changes to the Academic Program Inventory
4. Implementation of Distance Education Programs
5. Update to Units of Instruction, Research, Public Service, and Administration
6. Extensions/Alterations to Existing Programs of Instruction
7. Central Alabama Community College, New Exempt Off-Campus Site: East Memorial Baptist Church in Prattville
8. Summary of Post-Implementation Reports

F. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for March 11, 2022.

Charles Buntin, Chairman

Sworn to and subscribed before
me this the ____ day of _____
2022.

James E. Purcell, Executive Director

Notary Public

DRAFT

DECISION ITEM: A-1a

Athens State University, Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (CIP 30.0000)

Staff Presenter:

Dr. Robin McGill
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed Master of Arts (MA) in Interdisciplinary Studies.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Fall 2022. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 13, 2024, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning in 2023-24 will be at least 5.2, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2023-24 through 2028-29 (six-year average) will be 3.75, based on the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
3. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including also data on related employment and/or acceptance into a graduate program.

Athens State University (ATSU) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2029.

Background:

The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8(c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting plans for the new unit or program to the Commission for its review, evaluation, and approval.

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. The proposed MA in Interdisciplinary Studies will allow students to blend distinct areas of expertise needed to compete for and advance within contemporary careers. The program is designed to attract part-time students, particularly working professionals who may be looking to upskill.
2. ATSU's proposal includes six letters of support from local partners, including Alabama State Senator, Arthur Orr; the City of Athens Mayor, William Marks; and the CEO of the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce, Crystal Brown.
4. The proposed program offers flexibility within ATSU's existing graduate offerings and will not require any additional resources to deliver.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. Athens State University proposal, dated November 11, 2021, with supplementary information. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION: Athens State University								
PROGRAM: Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (CIP 30.0000)								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIBRARY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
INTERNAL REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TUITION	\$21,600	\$43,200	\$52,800	\$52,800	\$64,800	\$69,600	\$74,400	\$379,200
TOTAL	\$21,600	\$43,200	\$52,800	\$52,800	\$64,800	\$69,600	\$74,400	\$379,200
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	2	2	2	3	3	3	2.5
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	6	8	8	9	10	11	8.7
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	8	10	10	12	13	14	11.2
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	4	4	5	5	6	7	5.2
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	2	3	4	4	5	5	3.83

Attachment 2

Summary of Background Information

Athens State University
Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

Role: The proposed program is within the instructional role recognized for the Athens State University (ATSU).

Program Description: The MA in Interdisciplinary Studies will allow students the opportunity to focus their advanced studies around a particular area of expertise, combining elements from different academic specializations. A primary aim of the interdisciplinary master's program is to allow students to engage in graduate-level coursework from across the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education and customize a program of studies to meet their professional goals, including advanced training in cross-disciplinary or emerging fields. With the combination of approaches and courses, as well as construction of an innovative curriculum that crosses traditional discipline boundaries, students will answer a specific complex question or address a theme of interest that allows for transformative learning and the discovery of new ways of looking at challenges and solving problems.

Course of Study and Student Learning Outcomes: When a student is accepted, they must work with the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies Program Lead and a faculty mentor to set out a plan of study that meets SACSCOC requirements for a “coherent course of study.” At least two areas of study must be included, and the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies planning form must be approved by the end of the student's first semester of study. A faculty member from each chosen graduate program must approve the courses chosen by the student. Final approval will be given by the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies Program Lead, and any changes to the agreed plan must be initiated with the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies Program Lead.

Each student's course of study is designed to lead to the following learning outcomes:

- Research and methodological skills: Develop critical-thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills appropriate to the discipline; contextualize work within their chosen field.
- Advanced communication: Develop communication and team-building skills for professional and personal success.
- Advanced core knowledge: Design and pursue increasingly sophisticated practice-led research questions and projects necessary to sustain life-long careers
- Application of discipline-specific theory to practice: Advance technical knowledge and skills across disciplines, as well as professional ethics; become stewards of best practice in chosen fields.
- Application of ethical, legal and policy standards: Evaluate and improve processes, policies, and practices in their chosen field.

Students are deemed to have achieved the learning outcomes through demonstrated mastery of material and content throughout their coursework and successful completion of the thesis/project defense. In addition to faculty assessment of student learning through evaluation of coursework, faculty mentors will regularly work with students individually in the creative process and research. The program will utilize information collected through student learning outcomes assessments to make and document continuous program improvements.

Administration: The program will be administered by the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Stephen Spencer, Dean; and Dr. Debra Baird, Interdisciplinary Degree Program Lead.

Peer Review: The Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) and the program proposal were submitted to the Alabama Council of Graduate Deans (ACGD). Four institutions submitted responses to the proposed program, with several requesting additional information on how the program will be

structured to ensure a coherent and rigorous course of study. Additional information was requested from ATSU and incorporated into the appropriate sections of this summary.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Similar Programs: Similar master's-level programs exist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, (MA and MS in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies, CIP 30.9999) and at the University of Alabama (MA and MS in Interdisciplinary Studies, CIP 30.0000), but specific course offerings would differ based on the different academic strengths and specializations at each institution. Other related master's-level programs exist at Auburn University at Montgomery (Master of Liberal Arts, CIP 24.0101), Jacksonville State University (Master of Arts in Integrated Studies, CIP 24.0101), and the University of North Alabama (Master of Professional Studies, CIP 30.0000).

Relationship to Existing Coursework: ATSU offers an undergraduate degree with a similar cross-disciplinary focus (BS in Individualized Degree Program, CIP 24.0101). Students in this program choose courses across the university's undergraduate offerings and build their own degree, usually declaring one or more minors. ATSU's proposed master's degree is structured similarly to enable students to develop their own course of study from existing graduate program coursework offered across the College of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education.

Collaboration: ATSU's program is structured to accommodate partnerships with other institutions offering graduate certificates, especially in disciplines that the home institution does not have.

Admissions: All admitted students must hold a bachelor's degree upon enrollment; have 3 letters of recommendation and a GRE or MAT score; and meet prerequisite requirements for any program from which the planned program courses are derived.

Mode of Delivery: This program will offer students the opportunity to work with a faculty mentor in planning a program of coursework that is specialized for each student's goals and objectives. This includes opportunities for online, low-residency, or traditional courses. Two courses required of all students, UNV500 Introduction to Research Methods for Interdisciplinary Studies and UNV650 Graduate Capstone Seminar for Interdisciplinary Studies, will be offered online each semester.

Curriculum: Full-time students will be able to complete this program in 4 semesters. Part-time students can complete this program in up to 10 semesters. ATSU plans to develop 2 new courses for the proposed program: UNV500 Introduction to Research Methods for Interdisciplinary Studies and UNV650 Graduate Capstone Seminar for Interdisciplinary Studies.

Program Completion Requirements:	
Credit hours required in program courses:	27
Credit hours required in support courses:	3
Credit hours in required electives:	0
Credit hours in required research:	3
Total credit hours required for completion:	33

Each student will produce a thesis/capstone integrating discipline-specific theory in the practice-led project appropriate to their field and concentration within the program. The project must engage with concepts and entities outside of the immediate and academic boundaries of a specific discipline.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 33% of their coursework from Athens State University. For the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies, students may transfer in up to 22 graduate semester hours from another institution. This will allow the proposed program to serve as a vessel degree program that enables students to stack approved graduate certificates into a master's degree, when combined with the appropriate capstone coursework.

Work-Based Learning: Dependent upon how each student's program is structured and which graduate courses are taken, the student may be involved in internships, experiential learning, and/or practicums.

Accreditation: There is no specialized accrediting body for the proposed program.

Industry Need: The population in and around Athens is increasing as a result of economic, industrial, and military complex expansion, especially in emerging industries and technologies. Job growth in interdisciplinary occupations is predicted to grow at 12% in the State of Alabama over the next ten years. The proposed program maps more than 19 different occupations with an average beginning salary of \$43,000 in the State of Alabama. These occupations include managers, executives, consultants, technology experts, logistics, planning, social services, marketing analysts, executive support, think tank members, research analysts, and team assemblers; many of which appear on the State's "In-Demand Occupations" list for projections up to 2024.

Student Demand: Undergraduate Individualized Degree Program (IDP) faculty surveyed ATSU alumni and current students, receiving 87 replies. From that group, 46 people indicated they would like to pursue an Interdisciplinary Master's Degree in order to continue more in-depth work based on their undergraduate degree. The fall 2021 enrollment of Athens State majors in the undergraduate Individualized Degree Program courses was 85 students, with a total number of declared majors of 166, as of the first semester of the 2021-2022 academic year count. Enrollment and credit hour production in the IDP has increased every year since 2017. Student demand projections were also based on data from institutional enrollments, as well as from labor market analysis.

Resources:

Faculty:

Current Primary Faculty:

Full-time: 5

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 12

Part-time: 2

Additional Faculty to be hired:

Primary Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

Assistantships: No assistantships will be offered for the proposed program.

Equipment: No new equipment will be required for the proposed program.

Facilities: No new facilities will be required for the proposed program.

Library: The ATSU Kares Library collection currently has holdings that will support the undergraduate Individualized Degree Program (IDP), as well as existing graduate coursework that will comprise the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies. The holdings will be sufficient to support the proposed program.

Program Budget: Over the first seven years, the program will require no new funds and is expected to generate a total of \$379,200 through tuition.

Attachment 3

Athens State University
Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	* If New Course
Courses for approved graduate plan of study with at least two concentrations	27	
UNV500 Introduction to Research Methods for MA in Interdisciplinary Studies	3	*
UNV650 Capstone Seminar MA in Interdisciplinary Studies	3	*
Total Program Hours for the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies Degree:	33	

DECISION ITEM: A-1b

Athens State University, Master of Accountancy in Accounting (CIP 52.0301)

Staff Presenter:

Dr. Robin McGill
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed Master of Accountancy (MAcc) in Accounting.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Fall 2022. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 13, 2024, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning in 2023-24 will be at least 7.8, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2023-24 through 2028-29 (six-year average) will be 3.75, based on the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
3. That the program earn or demonstrate significant progress toward separate accounting accreditation through the Accreditation Council for Business Schools & Programs (ACBSP).
4. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including also data on related employment, pass rates for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensure exam, and/or acceptance into a doctoral program.

Athens State University (ATSU) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2029.

Background:

The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8(c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and

the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting plans for the new unit or program to the Commission for its review, evaluation, and approval.

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. The proposed program will be offered online only and is designed to meet the needs of working professionals.
2. The proposed program is designed to fulfill educational requirements for bachelor's-degree holders seeking state licensure as Certified Public Accountants (CPA).
3. ATSU's existing BS in Accounting graduates over 70 students per year, and there is strong demand among existing students to extend their studies to the master's level.
4. ATSU's proposal includes 20 letters of support from local industry and education partners.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. Athens State University proposal, dated October 29, 2021. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION: Athens State University								
PROGRAM: Master of Accountancy in Accounting (CIP 52.0301)								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIBRARY	\$915	\$366	\$366	\$366	\$366	\$366	\$366	\$3,111
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$915	\$366	\$366	\$366	\$366	\$366	\$366	\$3,111
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
INTERNAL REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TUITION	\$36,000	\$74,400	\$84,000	\$91,200	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$100,800	\$578,400
TOTAL	\$36,000	\$74,400	\$84,000	\$91,200	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$100,800	\$578,400
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	3	3	4	4	4	4	3.7
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	11	13	13	14	14	15	13.3
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	14	16	17	18	18	19	17
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	7	7	8	8	8	9	7.8
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	3	5	7	7	7	7	6

Attachment 2

Summary of Background Information

Athens State University
Master of Accountancy in Accounting

Role: The proposed program is within the instructional role recognized for the Athens State University (ATSU).

Program Description: The proposed Master of Accountancy (MAcc) is designed to provide an educational opportunity at the graduate level to address local, regional, and national demand for accountants in advanced leadership roles who are capable and prepared to make strategic decisions and guide the financial operations of an organization. It will provide a research foundation that will allow graduates to understand the intricacies of staying abreast of changes in practices, rules, laws, and tools in the accounting field and an understanding of the impact and implementation of those changes. The program will provide both education hours and content needed for students to pursue the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation, including special consideration for the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy updated licensure model launching in 2024.

Student Learning Outcomes: Learning outcomes of the MAcc include the following abilities:

1. Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of the theory and application of financial, managerial/cost, and tax accounting, audit, information systems, ethics, and analytics.
2. Demonstrate an ability to apply analytical and critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities.
3. Apply technologies to understand complex accounting issues and apply that understanding to new contexts.
4. Communicate complex accounting issues effectively.
5. Recognize and analyze ethical, legal, and policy issues in accounting.

Administration: The program will be administered by the College of Business, Dr. Gary Valcana, Interim Dean, and Dr. Lionel Wright, Interim Associate Dean; and the Department of Accounting and Statistics, Dr. Stacie Hughes, Chair.

Peer Review: The Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) and the program proposal were submitted to the Alabama Council of Graduate Deans (ACGD). Three responses were received, with two asking for additional clarification on faculty credentials and instructional costs.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Similar Programs: There are nine Master of Accounting or Master of Accountancy programs at Alabama public institutions under the CIP code 52.0301: University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama in Huntsville, University of North Alabama, Auburn University at Montgomery, Auburn University, University of Alabama, University of South Alabama, Alabama State University, and Troy University. Several of these programs also include fully online options. The strong demand for accountants/auditors in the region and throughout the state justifies an additional program.

Relationship to Existing Coursework: The proposed program will extend ATSU's undergraduate BS in Accounting (52.0301) to the graduate level.

Collaboration: ATSU has no plans for collaboration at this time.

Admissions: Entry into the Master of Accountancy program requires knowledge of undergraduate accounting topics. Applicants must have completed a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, preferably in accounting. Students with undergraduate degrees in other areas are encouraged to apply but must complete the following accounting prerequisites or the equivalents: Intermediate Accounting I, Intermediate Accounting II, Federal Tax Accounting I, Auditing, and Cost or Managerial Accounting.

Mode of Delivery: The proposed program will be offered 100% online. The College of Business will consider additional delivery formats if demand dictates.

Curriculum: Full-time students will be able to complete this program in 4 semesters. Part-time students can complete this program in up to 10 semesters. ATSU plans to develop 8 new courses for the proposed program.

Program Completion Requirements:	
Credit hours required in program core courses	24
Credit hours in support courses	0
Credit hours required in electives	6
Credit hours required in research	0
Total credit hours required for completion	30

Work-Based Learning: The Master of Accountancy program will incorporate experiential learning opportunities throughout the curriculum. Students will participate in real-world case studies, realistic-integrated labs and projects, and comprehensive cases; use professional software (IDEA, Tableau, Excel, Access, etc.); and work within professional ethical frameworks (AICPA, IMA, IIA), CPA task-based simulations, and other experiential learning opportunities as appropriate. Students are not required to complete an internship.

Accreditation: The ATSU College of Business is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools & Programs (ACBSP), and the BS in Accounting holds separate accounting accreditation through ACBSP. If approved, the proposed MAcc program will be submitted to ACBSP to be added to both of those accreditations.

Professional Licensure/Certification: The proposed program is designed to meet the educational requirements of the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation. Most states, including Alabama, require 150 semester hours for CPA licensure, with at least 33 semester hours in accounting (upper division undergraduate and/or graduate level). The MAcc degree will count toward those hours, include material that will prepare students for the content of the CPA exam, and incorporate CPA task-based simulations. It is also designed to prepare students for the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) exam (administered by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA)), including information systems, analytics, internal controls, and an in-depth study of budgeting, cost management, and performance management; and the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) exam.

Industry Need: The proposed MAcc is designed to prepare graduates for employment as Accountants and Auditors (SOC 13-2011) and as Financial Managers (SOC 11-3031), both of which are included on the 2021-2022 Alabama In-Demand Occupations list. For the "Accountants and Auditors" occupation, there are nearly 2,000 estimated annual openings throughout the State. In addition, the proposed degree includes a minimum of 24 graduate hours in accounting, which will also provide graduates with the ability to teach at the undergraduate level, including as adjuncts at community colleges. Many community colleges in the Alabama Community College System have continuous postings for adjunct accounting instructors.

The proposal includes letters of support from the following employers, industry organizations, and education partners:

- 20-20 Accounting Solutions
- Alan Vaughn, CPA, PC
- Alabama Society of CPAs (ASCPA)
- City of Athens Utilities
- Calhoun Community College
- DESE Research, Inc.
- Edgewood Partners
- FMS Aerospace
- J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College
- Institute of Management Accountants (IMA)
- Indorama Ventures Xylenes & PTA
- Lakeland Industries
- Martin Federal Consulting
- NASA
- Nucor Steel Decatur, LLC
- OMI, Inc.
- Optum
- Protective Life Corporation
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Wallace State Community College—Hanceville

Student Demand: ATSU’s BS in Accounting has annual enrollment of over 336 students, and it graduates an average of over 70 students per year. A survey of current undergraduate accounting students was conducted during the fall 2021 semester. Of the 213 actively enrolled accounting majors during that term, 163 completed the survey for a response rate of 77%. Of the 104 respondents who rated a “high” or “very high” level of interest in pursuing a graduate degree in accounting, 99% indicated a “high” or “very high” interest in pursuing that degree at Athens State.

Resources:

Faculty:

Current Primary Faculty:

Full-time: 4

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 6

Additional Faculty to be hired:

Primary Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

The program may seek to hire additional faculty if demand justifies additional sections.

Assistantships: No assistantships will be offered for the proposed program.

Equipment: No new equipment will be required for the proposed program.

Facilities: No new facilities will be required for the proposed program.

Library: Kares Library at Athens State University currently hosts a collection that supports a robust BS program in Accounting. This includes several databases, full-text articles in both EBSCO's Business Source Premier and ProQuest Central (which includes Accounting, Tax, & Banking Collection), and access to O'Reilly Higher Education, which supports the program with eBooks, videos, and tutorials. To fully support a graduate-level program, the Library will need to continue adding monographs and additional peer-reviewed accounting journals important to the field.

Program Budget: Over the first seven years, the program will require estimated new funds of \$3,111 to purchase additional library holdings. The program is expected to generate a total of \$578,400 through tuition.

Attachment 3

Athens State University
 Master of Accountancy in Accounting

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	* If New Course
ACC 525 Accounting Information Systems	3	*
ACC 540 Accounting Analytics I	3	*
ACC 561 Tax Research	3	*
ACC 571 Strategic Cost Accounting	3	*
ACC 620 Internal Auditing	3	*
ACC 640 Accounting Analytics II	3	*
ACC 660 Accounting Ethics	3	*
ACC 670 Corporate Controllershship	3	*
Electives (<i>The electives will be selected from courses in the graduate catalog. Students would be advised and encouraged to choose graduate courses that complement and support their desired field/industry.</i>)	6	
Total Hours Required for MAcc	30	

DECISION ITEM: A-2

University of Alabama at Birmingham, Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering (CIP 14.1901)

Staff Presenter:

Dr. Robin McGill
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Mechanical Engineering.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Summer 2022. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 13, 2023, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning 2023-24 will be at least 3.2, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2023-24 through 2028-29 (six-year average) will be 2.25, based on the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
3. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including data on graduates' employment.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2029.

Background:

The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8 (c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting plans for the new unit or program to the Commission for its review, evaluation, and approval.

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. UAB currently offers a BSME and an MSME in Mechanical Engineering (CIP 14.1901), and the proposed program will extend offerings to the doctoral level, which will be an advantage for the recruitment and retention of students and faculty.
2. The program proposal includes letters of support from the Deans of Engineering at Auburn University, the University of Alabama, and the University of Alabama in Huntsville, whose institutions currently offer a PhD in Mechanical Engineering.
3. UAB's mechanical engineering faculty have a strong track record of securing external funding and building research collaborations inside and outside the institution. These resources will support research assistantships for doctoral students.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. University of Alabama at Birmingham proposal, dated September 17, 2021. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION: University of Alabama at Birmingham								
PROGRAM: PhD in Mechanical Engineering (CIP 14.1901)								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$17,500	\$30,500	\$36,300	\$37,100	\$37,800	\$44,100	\$45,000	\$248,300
STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIBRARY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$239,000	\$288,300	\$339,200	\$392,100	\$446,800	\$455,400	\$464,800	\$2,625,600
OTHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$256,500	\$318,800	\$375,500	\$429,200	\$484,600	\$499,500	\$509,800	\$2,873,900
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EXTRAMURAL	\$239,000	\$288,300	\$339,200	\$392,100	\$446,800	\$455,400	\$464,800	\$2,625,600
TUITION	\$36,000	\$36,800	\$52,500	\$53,600	\$70,200	\$71,600	\$72,900	\$393,600
TOTAL	\$275,000	\$325,100	\$391,700	\$445,700	\$517,000	\$527,000	\$537,700	\$3,019,200
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	7	8	9	10	10	10	9
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	5	7	7	9	9	9	7.7
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	12	15	16	19	19	19	16.7
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	1	4	3	5	3	3	3.2
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	1	2	2	3	3	3	2.5

Attachment 2

Summary of Background Information

Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Role: The proposed program is within the instructional role recognized for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

Program Description: The proposed PhD in Mechanical Engineering will prepare students to become productive engineering researchers in industry, academia, government, or other organizations. Students will be equipped with the skills necessary to define, formulate, and solve novel problems in the field of mechanical engineering. The program will emphasize the engineering sciences with a strong foundation in mathematics. Targeted areas for research which are supported by current and planned courses include solid mechanics, fluid mechanics, mechatronics, and systems safety. Ongoing research funding is provided by private sponsors, National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Energy (DoE), and NASA. Ideal entering students will have a bachelors and/or a master's degree in mechanical engineering or a closely-related discipline, such as aeronautical engineering.

Student Learning Outcomes: Learning outcomes of the PhD in Mechanical Engineering include the following abilities:

1. General Knowledge of the Field: Students will develop the ability to identify, formulate and solve complex Mechanical Engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science and mathematics.
2. Advanced Knowledge of Field in Dissertation Area: Students will be able to explain experimental/theoretical approaches and limitations associated with his/her dissertation project.
3. Knowledge of Literature and Development of Research Plan: Students will be able to summarize the relevant literature, identify its limitations, and formulate an original research plan.
4. Communication of Findings and Conclusions: Students will be able to communicate and defend his/her research results and conclusions in oral and written form.

Administration: The program will be administered by the School of Engineering, Jeffrey W. Holmes, Dean; and the Department of Mechanical Engineering, David Littlefield, Chair.

Peer Review: The Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) and the program proposal were reviewed by the Alabama Council of Graduate Deans (ACGD). Four institutions submitted responses, with three indicating support for the proposed program, and the fourth voicing no major objections. In addition, the proposal included letters of support from the Deans of Engineering at Auburn, UA, and UAH.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Similar Programs: Similar programs are offered at the following institutions in Alabama:

- Auburn University, PhD in Mechanical Engineering (CIP 14.1901)
- The University of Alabama, PhD in Mechanical Engineering (CIP 14.1901)
- University of Alabama in Huntsville, PhD in Mechanical Engineering (CIP 14.1901)

Relationship to Existing Programs: UAB currently offers a BSME and an MSME in Mechanical Engineering (CIP 14.1901), and the proposed program will extend offerings to the doctoral level, which

will be an advantage for recruitment and retention of students and faculty. At the doctoral level, UAB's School of Engineering offers a PhD in Interdisciplinary Engineering (CIP 14.9999) that includes mechanical engineering options.

Collaboration: In addition to internal partnerships with the UAB Medical School and UAB Engineering Innovative Technology Development (EITD) Center, UAB's Department of Mechanical Engineering has sustained collaborations with the US Department of Defense (DoD) on the development of next-generation software to address unique, critical issues in air vehicle and weapons performance. The DoD is funding the Autonomous Vehicle Mobility Institute (AVMI) at UAB to perform research supporting the development of the next generation of autonomous military ground vehicles. AVMI is a partner in the DoD's Automotive Research Center (ARC), along with Clemson University and Mississippi State University. The Department also collaborates with NASA to develop state-of-the-art cryogenic hardware for use on the International Space Station (ISS).

Accreditation: UAB's School of Engineering maintains programmatic accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) for its BSME in Mechanical Engineering, but there is no specialized accreditation for doctoral programs in Mechanical Engineering.

Admissions: Candidates for admission should hold a degree in mechanical engineering or closely-related field from an ABET-accredited (or equivalent) program with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Students without this background will be considered but would be required to complete preparatory coursework. Applicants must also submit GRE scores, and they must score 154 or higher on the quantitative section of the GRE. For international applicants whose native language is not English, a minimum score of 80 on the TOEFL (or equivalent) is required.

Mode of Delivery: Since the majority of students will be full-time on campus, UAB anticipates that approximately 15% of the coursework will be delivered in a true online mode. Other courses will be taught in a traditional mode with all students having access to recorded materials and, in some cases, videoconference access to lectures.

Curriculum: Students entering the program immediately after completing a baccalaureate program can expect to complete the PhD in Mechanical Engineering within 15 semesters, including summers. Time to completion will be reduced for those entering the program with a master's degree. The proposed program has been designed to maximize use of existing courses, with only six new courses being developed in areas that support current high-impact research.

Program Completion Requirements:	
Credit hours required in program core courses	13
Credit hours in program electives	35
Credit hours in required research	24
Total credit hours required for completion	72

For the proposed degree program, all students will complete 13 credit hours of core coursework, along with 24 credit hours of dissertation research. At the doctoral level, program electives prepare a student for their dissertation research and are selected in consultation among the student, advisor, and graduate committee. Attachment 3 gives examples of coursework for likely research topic areas in the proposed PhD in Mechanical Engineering. Those entering the program with a master's degree may reduce the required credit hours in program electives to 14 hours (versus 35 hours).

Industry Need: The proposed PhD program is designed to prepare graduates for employment as Mechanical Engineers (SOC 17-2141), which appears on the statewide "In-Demand Occupations List," with 305 annual openings projected.

Student Demand: A survey by Hanover Research was distributed online to current UAB engineering students and recent UAB engineering alumni. A total of 362 respondents completed the survey, with 216

of these respondents expressing an interest in a PhD program in Mechanical Engineering at UAB. Of these, around a third of respondents applied to or plan to apply to a graduate or PhD program in the next five years. Among Mechanical Engineering students/graduates, nearly three quarters of respondents (70%) are moderately or very interested in this program, whereas students in other disciplines are not as interested (22%).

In addition, UAB's lack of a dedicated doctoral option in Mechanical Engineering has meant that the institution has lost competitive students to other programs. Several current MSME students expressed an interest in continuing their doctoral students at UAB, and have placed their pursuit of a PhD on hold while the status of the status of the proposed program is pending.

Resources:

Faculty:

Current Primary Faculty:

Full-time: 13

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 2

Part-time: 0

Additional Faculty to be hired:

Primary Faculty—

Full-time: 2

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

UAB notes that current faculty are capable of teaching new coursework for the proposed program, but the additional demand on time will require hiring additional faculty. Most of the costs associated with supporting additional faculty will be defrayed by external research funding, and so expenses given in the program summary represent investments in lab start-up costs. New faculty will hold a PhD in mechanical engineering or closely related field. They will have experience procuring research funding and coordinating high-level research projects.

Assistantships: At least 8 assistantships will be available for students in the program. Full-time students in this program will be supported by extramural grants and contracts awarded to program faculty.

Equipment: No new equipment will be required for the proposed program.

Facilities: No new facilities will be required for the proposed program.

Library: The resources of UAB Libraries are well suited to support a doctoral program in mechanical engineering, as they already provide strong support for existing PhD programs in the School of Engineering. These resources include Compendex, Scopus, and inter-library loan. UAB has a solid collection of journals in engineering-related fields and a growing collection of online books and monographs.

Program Budget: The proposal projects that \$2,873,900 in new funds will be required to support the proposed program over the first seven years. A total of \$3,019,200 will be available through external grant funding and tuition.

Attachment 3

University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	*If New Course
Program Core Topics	13 hours	
ME 661 Mathematical Methods in Engineering I	3	
ME 662 Mathematical Methods in Engineering II	3	
GRD 717 Principles of Scientific Integrity	3	
ME 694 Mechanical Engineering Seminar (4 enrollments)	1x4	
Required Dissertation Research (ME 799)	24 hours	
Program Electives (see examples below)	35 hours for BSME students 14 hours for MSME students	

Sample curriculum preparing a student for research in solid mechanics	Number of Credit Hours	* If New Course
12 courses/35 CH + 13 CH core + 24 CH ME 799 = 72 CH if entering with BSME 5 courses/14 CH + 13 CH core + 24 CH ME 799 = 51 CH if entering with MSME		
ME 564 Introduction to Finite Element Method	3	
ME 575 Mechanical Vibrations	3	
ME 665 Computational Methods in Engineering	3	
ME 670 Intro to Continuum Mechanics	3	
ME 672 Advanced Dynamics	3	
ME 679 Advanced Finite Element Analysis	3	
ME 690 Introduction to Hydrocodes	3	
ME 690 Fracture Mechanics	3	
ME 773 Engineering Acoustics	3	*
ME 774 Analysis of Plates and Shells	3	*
ME 798 Non-dissertation Research	2	
MSE 635 Advanced Mechanics of Composites	3	

Sample curriculum preparing a student for research in fluid mechanics	Number of Credit Hours	* If New Course
12 courses/35 CH + 13 CH core + 24 CH ME 799 = 72 CH if entering with BSME 5 courses/14 CH + 13 CH core + 24 CH ME 799 = 51 CH if entering with MSME		
ME 511 Intermediate Fluid Mechanics	3	
ME 521 Introduction to Computational Fluid Dynamics Basics	3	
ME 556 Building Energy Modeling and Analysis	3	
ME 611 Advanced Fluid Mechanics	3	
ME 613 Introduction to Computational Fluid Dynamics	3	
ME 614 Advanced Computational Fluid Dynamics	3	
ME 615 Introduction to Turbulent Flows	3	
ME 650 Transport Phenomena	3	
ME 665 Numerical Methods in Engineering	3	
ME 670 Continuum Mechanics I	3	
ME 688 Fluid-Structure Interactions	3	
ME 798 Non-dissertation Research	2	

Sample curriculum preparing a student for research in mechatronics	Number of Credit Hours	* If New Course
12 courses/35 CH + 13 CH core + 24 CH ME 799 = 72 CH if entering with BSME 5 courses/14 CH + 13 CH core + 24 CH ME 799 = 51 CH if entering with MSME		
ME 530 Vehicular Dynamics	3	
ME 531 Introduction to Vehicle Drive Systems Engineering	3	
ME 532 Intro to Electric Vehicles	3	
ME 547 Internal Combustion Engines	3	
ME 580 Instrumentation and Measurements	3	
ME 672 Advanced Dynamics	3	
ME 677 Systems Engineering	3	
ME 731 Dynamics and Mobility of Autonomous Vehicles: Modeling and Simulation	3	
ME 732 Autonomous Wheel Power Management Systems: Theory and Design	3	
ME 733 Vehicle Dynamics Mechatronics-based Control	3	*

ME 734 Physical and Virtual Sensors	3	*
ME 735 Mechatronic Design of Wheeled and Tracked Vehicles	3	*
ME 736 Autonomous Vehicles: Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Controls	3	*
ME 798 Non-dissertation Research	2	

Sample curriculum preparing a student for research in system safety	Number of Credit Hours	* If New Course
12 courses/35 CH + 13 CH core + 24 CH ME 799 = 72 CH if entering with BSME		
5 courses/14 CH + 13 CH core + 24 CH ME 799 = 51 CH if entering with MSME		
ASEM 610 Introduction to System Safety	3	
ASEM 611 Hazard Analysis and Waste Elimination	3	
ASEM 612 Engineering Risk	3	
ASEM 613 Human Performance and Engineering Design	3	
ASEM 615 Resilience Engineering – Leading through Climates of Change	3	
ASEM 617 Crisis Leadership and Safety Critical Design	3	
ASEM 628 Electrical Systems Safety	3	
ME 564 Introduction to the Finite Element Method	3	
ME 575 Mechanical Vibrations	3	
ME 665 Numerical Methods in Engineering	3	
ME 672 Advanced Dynamics	3	
ME 798 Non-dissertation Research	2	

DECISION ITEM: A-3

University of Alabama in Huntsville, Bachelor of Science in Child, Family, and Community Development (CIP 19.0799)

Staff Presenter:

Dr. Robin McGill
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed Bachelor of Science (BS) in Child, Family, and Community Development.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Fall 2022. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 13, 2024, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning in 2023-24 will be at least 11, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2023-24 through 2028-29 (six-year average) will be 7.5, based on the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
3. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including data on related employment and/or acceptance into a graduate program.

The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2029.

Background:

The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8 (c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting plans for the new unit or program to the Commission for its review, evaluation, and approval.

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. The proposed program is designed to fulfill a need for additional high-skilled professionals who work with youth and young children, especially in the Greater Huntsville area.
2. The proposed program builds on existing partnerships with local community colleges offering associate-level programs in Child Development.
3. The proposed program will offer an alternative path for students who are not making satisfactory progress in education, kinesiology, nursing or other related disciplines and will support retention and graduation of students who might otherwise withdraw or transfer.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. University of Alabama in Huntsville proposal, dated September 17, 2021. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
<i>INSTITUTION: University of Alabama in Huntsville</i>								
<i>PROGRAM: Bachelor of Science in Child, Family, and Community Development (CIP 19.0799)</i>								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$0	\$85,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$935,000
STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIBRARY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$85,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$935,000
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EXTRAMURAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TUITION	\$0	\$126,720	\$209,540	\$287,610	\$321,780	\$341,240	\$346,220	\$1,633,110
TOTAL	\$0	\$126,720	\$209,540	\$287,610	\$321,780	\$341,240	\$346,220	\$1,633,110
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	12	20	27	30	32	32	25.5
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	2	3	5	6	6	7	4.8
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	14	23	32	36	38	39	30.3
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	8	10	12	12	12	12	11
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	2	2	8	10	11	12	7.5

Attachment 2

Summary of Background Information

Bachelor of Science in Child, Family, and Community Development
University of Alabama in Huntsville

Role: The proposed program is within the instructional role recognized for the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH).

Program Description: Offered by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the UAH College of Education, in partnership with the Department of Kinesiology, the proposed BS in Child, Family and Community Development is designed for students seeking to advance their knowledge and skills to work in a community-based setting designed to serve youth and families beyond a traditional classroom. Primary areas of focus include education, research, and practical experiences in early childhood and child development, recreation and health, children's museums, and family and child advocacy and public policy. The degree will be a non-licensure program with two concentration offerings: Leadership in Early Learning and Family Relations (based in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction), and Recreation and Community Leadership (based in the Department of Kinesiology).

Student Learning Outcomes: Learning outcomes of the BS in Child, Family and Community Development include the following abilities:

1. Demonstrate a strong knowledge base in their respective concentration areas (Leadership in Early Learning and Family Relations or Recreation and Community Leadership) by developing and implementing high-quality educational/recreational programming for children, youth, families, and the community.
2. Demonstrate professionalism and leadership skills by demonstrating the ability to assume leadership roles in various settings and effectively collaborating with diverse groups of constituents and stakeholders, seeking to improve the performance and success of those they lead.
3. Demonstrate professional skills and dispositions characteristics of effective leaders.

Administration: The program will be administered by the College of Education, Dr. Beth N. Quick, Dean; and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Wolfram Verlaan, Chair, in partnership with the Department of Kinesiology.

Peer Review: The Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) and the program proposal were available for review by the College and University Chief Academic Officers (CUCAO). Responses were received from three institutions, with no major objections raised.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Similar Programs: There are currently five other universities in Alabama that offer bachelor's degrees related to supporting children, youth, and families:

- Alabama A&M University, BS in Family and Consumer Sciences (CIP 19.0101), concentration in Human Development and Family Studies
- Auburn University, BS in Human Development and Family Science (CIP 19.0799), concentrations in Early Child Development and Child Life

- Jacksonville State University, BS in Family and Consumer Sciences (CIP 19.0101), concentrations in Child Development and Human Sciences
- University of Alabama, BS in Early Childhood Education (CIP 19.0711) and BS in Human Development and Family Studies (CIP 19.0701)
- University of Montevallo, BA/BS in Family and Consumer Sciences (CIP 19.0101), concentration in Human Development and Family Studies

While there are certainly similarities with programs offered by other institutions, UAH's proposed program differs in its focus on leadership development within non-school settings, including in its recreational option.

Relationship to Existing Coursework: The two concentrations in the Child, Family, and Community Development degree program will be connected to the existing BS in Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Education (CIP 13.1015), as well as to the existing BS in Sport and Fitness Management (CIP 31.0504). The proposed degree will include new coursework on developing leaders; collaborating with families, schools, and communities; positive youth development, and critical issues at the community level. Students will also have options for additional coursework offered in other UAH colleges depending on their career goals.

Collaboration: UAH faculty have developed relationships with local community colleges including Drake State Community & Technical College and Calhoun Community College. Both Drake and Calhoun have expressed interest and support in the proposed degree. Calhoun is specifically interested in this proposed degree for students graduating from their Child Development degree program. The UAH Department of Kinesiology has built a strong partnership with Huntsville Parks and Recreation, which has led to an understanding of the need for trained individuals as community organizers and recreation staff.

Admissions: There are no special admission requirements for the program.

Mode of Delivery: The department plans to use in-person instruction to deliver the majority of coursework. Some program courses will be delivered online or in a hybrid/blended delivery format, but will not exceed 10% of the program.

Curriculum: Two distinct concentrations will be offered in the proposed program. The Leadership in Early Learning and Family Relations concentration will be housed in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and will support students interested in pursuing employment in an early childhood-related field, such as within early care and education programs, non-profit organizations, children's museums or similar specialized programming. The Recreation and Community Leadership concentration will be housed in the Department of Kinesiology and will prepare students for a career in recreational facilities, such as parks and recreation departments, schools, early care and education programs, wellness centers, and non-profit organizations.

Credit hours required in program core	24
Credit hours in general education courses	41
Credit hours required in program concentration	36
Credit hours in required or free electives	19
Credit hours in required research	0
Total credit hours required for completion	120

Full-time students will be able to complete the program in 8 semesters and part-time students in 10-12 semesters.

Work-Based Learning: Students in each concentration will be required to complete a six-credit practicum experience during the last semester of their respective programs. The practicum is designed for students to gain knowledge and skills from leaders in the field (e.g., program administrators, early care

and education professionals, recreation/sport professionals, parks and recreation professionals, community health professionals, corporate wellness, etc.). Students will be supervised by faculty or staff.

Accreditation: UAH will not initially seek any specialized accreditation for this program. The two concentration areas will require accreditation by different accreditation bodies. The most likely accreditation body for the Leadership in Early Learning and Family Relations concentration would be the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The most likely accreditation body for the Recreation and Youth Leadership concentration would be Council on Accreditation Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Related Professions (COAPRT). UAH is open to seeking accreditation in the future when the program is fully functioning and operating at a level that meets accrediting requirements.

Industry Need: The proposed program is designed to prepare graduates for employment as Recreation Workers (SOC 39-9032), Preschool teachers (Except Special Education) (SOC 25-2011), and Education and Childcare Administrators, Preschool and Daycare (SOC 11-9031). Huntsville's growing population, including young children and families, creates a strong demand for high-quality childcare and recreational services and supports.

Student Demand: Existing degree programs have a larger focus on teacher training, exercise science professional preparation, and sport management with a strong emphasis on business, with less focus on working with children in a community setting. Current partnerships with local community colleges and with the Huntsville Parks and Recreation Department have informed the development of this program to meet community needs. In addition, some students pursuing existing programs struggle to complete, and the proposed program will offer them an alternative career pathway.

Resources:

Faculty:

Current Primary Faculty:

Full-time: 4

Part-time: 1

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 4

Part-time: 2

Additional Faculty to be hired:

Primary Faculty—

Full-time: 2

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

To support the program, UAH will need to hire a new faculty member for each concentration. Candidates must have a PhD in their respective fields and be able to maintain scholarly activities; teach courses in concentration areas; and engage in school, college, university, and national service.

Assistantships: No assistantships will be offered for the proposed program.

Equipment: No new equipment will be required for the proposed program.

Facilities: No new facilities will be required for the proposed program.

Library: The M. Louis Salmon Library provides learning/information resource support for the curriculum, mission, students, faculty, and staff at UAH. In keeping with the university's mission, the Salmon Library contributes to and supports the discovery, creation, and communication of knowledge

in an innovative environment, and supports self-sufficient learners who can discover, access, and use information effectively. With over 200,000 print titles, 489,000 electronic books, 63,000 online serial/journal titles, 195 electronic databases, 12 credentialed librarians, unique learning labs and outreach programs, the Salmon Library offers key resources for academic success and scholarly endeavors.

Program Budget: The proposal projected that \$935,000 in new funds will be required to support two new full-time faculty members over the first seven years. Over the same period, UAH projects that the program will generate \$1,633,110 through tuition.

Attachment 3

Bachelor of Science in Child, Family, and Community Development
 University of Alabama in Huntsville

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	* If New Course
General Education Courses	41	
Freshman Composition (Area I)	6	
Fine Arts (Area II)	3	
Humanities (literature) (Area II)	3-6	
Humanities (non-literature) (Area II)	3	
Public Speaking (Area II)	3	
Mathematics (Area III)	3	
Science (Area III)	8	
History (Area IV)	3-6	
General Psychology (Area IV)	3	
Life-Span Development (Area IV)	3	
Elective Courses	19	
Approved Electives in ECH, ED, EDC, SOC, PY, or related fields		
Major Courses – Program Core	24	
CFC305 Collaborating with Families, Schools, and Communities	3	*
CFC325 Positive Youth Development	3	*
CFC335 Critical Issues at the Community Level	3	*
CFC451 Leadership in Youth and Community Development	3	*
CFC452 School and Community Health	3	*
MGT301 Managing Organizations	3	
MGT363 Human Resource & Labor Relations Management	3	
MGT410 Leadership, Personal Development, and Organization	3	
Recreation and Community Leadership Concentration <i>(students select one of two 36-hr concentrations)</i>	36	
CFC460 Programming in Rec/Leisure	3	*
CFC461 Recreation Administration	3	*
KIN260 Foundations of Kinesiology	3	
KIN361 Teaching Team Sport	3	
KIN362 Teaching Individual Sport	3	
KIN363 Teaching Fitness and Wellness	3	
KIN381 Facilities & Equipment Management	3	
KIN385 Event Management	3	

KIN445 Principles of Coaching	3	
KIN470 Sport Marketing	3	
CFC496 RCL Internship	6	*
Leadership in Early Learning and Family Relations Concentration <i>(students select one of two 36-hr concentrations)</i>	36	
ECH320 Differentiated Instruction for Early Learners	3	
ECH330 Assessment of Young Learners	3	
ECH340 Language, Speech, & Literacy Development	3	
ED309 Classroom & Behavior Management	3	
ED413 Children's and Adolescent Literature	3	
EDC316 Differentiated Instruction for Early Childhood Special Education	3	
KIN455 Motor Learning and Development	3	
MGT320 Career Development	3	
MGT361 Organizational Behavior	3	
MGT408 Teamwork & Teamwork Processes	3	
CFC495 ELFR Internship	6	*
Total Credit Hours for BS in Child, Family, and Community Development	120	

DECISION ITEM: A-4

University of Montevallo, Master of Education in Applied Instruction (CIP 13.0101)

Staff Presenter:

Dr. Robin McGill
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed Master of Education (MEd) in Applied Instruction.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Fall 2022. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 13, 2024, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning 2023-24 will be at least 5.8, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2023-24 through 2028-29 (six-year average) will be 3.75, based on the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
3. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including also data on related employment and graduate acceptance into doctoral programs.

University of Montevallo (UM) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2029.

Background:

The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8(c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting plans for the new unit or program to the Commission for its review, evaluation, and approval.

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. The proposed program provides advanced training for professionals in educational contexts outside the traditional K-12 setting, and will prepare graduates for employment as Training and Development Specialists (SOC 13-1151) and Self-Enrichment Education Teachers (SOC 25-3021), both of which appear on the Statewide In-Demand Jobs list.
2. The program consists of coursework already offered for existing master's-level programs and will not require any additional resources to deliver.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. University of Montevallo proposal, dated December 10, 2021. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION: University of Montevallo								
PROGRAM: Master of Education in Applied Instruction (CIP 13.0101)								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIBRARY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
INTERNAL REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TUITION	\$18,468	\$33,858	\$52,326	\$67,716	\$76,950	\$101,574	\$135,432	\$486,324
TOTAL	\$18,468	\$33,858	\$52,326	\$67,716	\$76,950	\$101,574	\$135,432	\$486,324
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	1	1	2	2	3	4	2.2
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	2	4	4	5	6	8	4.8
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	3	5	6	7	9	12	7
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	3	4	4	6	8	10	5.8
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	3	4	5	6	6	8	4.6

Attachment 2

Summary of Background Information

University of Montevallo
Master of Education in Applied Instruction

Role: The proposed program is within the instructional role recognized for the University of Montevallo (UM).

Program Description: The proposed MEd in Applied Instruction is a non-certification program designed to support the advanced preparation of professionals in applied education settings, such as corporate training and community education. The core will be composed of coursework that covers applied instruction, instructional design, instructional technology, client assessment, program evaluation, and working with diverse populations. The program will offer five concentrations: STEAM for Early Learners; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Language and Literacy; Educational Psychology and Research; and Exercise and Nutrition Science. An additional six credit hours in thesis are an option for students seeking to attain 18 graduate credit hours in their discipline, which is required for teaching at the community college level.

Student Learning Outcomes: Learning outcomes of the MEd in Applied Instruction include the following abilities:

1. Apply progressively more advanced content in their respective industry to be applied in an educational setting.
2. Design educational programs for applied settings in their industry in both traditional and online formats using academic technologies.
3. Deliver educational programs in applied settings in their industry.
4. Evaluate clients in applied settings in their industry.
5. Evaluate educational programs designed for their industry.
6. Work with diverse populations.

Administration: The program will be administered by the College of Education and Human Development, Dr. Courtney C. Bentley, Dean; and the Department of Teaching, Leadership, and Technology, Dr. Cassie Raulston, Chair.

Peer Review: The program proposal was reviewed by the Alabama Council of Graduate Deans (ACGD). Four institutions submitted responses to the proposed program, with two expressing concern about student demand for the program.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Similar Programs: The following institutions offer related programs:

- University of Alabama at Birmingham, MAEd in Educational Studies (CIP 13.0101); and MS in Instructional Design and Development (CIP 13.0301)
- University of North Alabama, MS in Instructional Technology and Design (CIP 13.0501), Track in Workplace Design and Performance Improvement

- University of South Alabama, MS in Instructional Design and Development (CIP 13.9999)
- University of West Alabama, MEd in Learning, Design, and Technology (CIP 13.0501)

In addition, the. Athens State University, Auburn University, and Auburn University in Montgomery offer graduate certificates with course bundles similar to concentrations within the proposed program.

Relationship to Existing Coursework: UM's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) currently offers MEd programs in Instructional Leadership, Elementary Education, and Secondary Education, which are tailored for certified public-school personnel. In addition, the College offers an EdS in Instructional Technology (CIP 13.0501), as well as an MS in Exercise Science (CIP 31.0505). Curriculum for the proposed program will be repackaged from coursework available for these existing programs.

Collaboration: UM has designed this degree so that it can be easily adapted to accommodate graduate certificates earned at other institutions, such as through the ASSET program under development with the Alabama Council of Graduate Deans.

Admissions: There are no special admissions requirements for four out of five proposed concentrations. The Exercise and Nutrition Science concentration will have prerequisites for graduate coursework. Students completing an undergraduate EXNS program at UM are exempt.

Mode of Delivery: Coursework for the proposed program will be delivered online. This delivery format is designed to accommodate working professionals. The program will also require students to design and evaluate instructional programming for their professional context.

Curriculum: Full-time students will be able to complete this program in 3 semesters, and part-time students can complete this program in 5 semesters.

Program Completion Requirements:	
Credit hours required in program core courses	18
Credit hours required in program concentration	12
Credit hours in free electives	0
Credit hours in optional research/practicum	6*
Total credit hours required for completion	30-36*

**There is an optional six-hour thesis for students seeking to attain 18 graduate-level credit hours in their discipline.*

This program will offer five concentrations:

- STE2AM for Early Learners: This concentration will explore areas such as Science, Technology, Engineering, Environmental Studies, and Math, which are considered essential for early learners' development because it allows them to explore, engage in inquiry-based learning, formulate questions, and develop innovative building skills. This innovative grouping of STE2AM extends to early learning educational settings outside of K-12 schools including, but not limited to, zoos and wildlife preserves, science centers, and museums. This concentration, although relevant to people in early childhood and elementary school settings, is designed to provide advanced training for professionals working in outside traditional educational settings.
- Exercise and Nutrition Science: This concentration provides advanced training and designing, implementing, and evaluating nutritional and fitness programs through advanced clinical experience and research. The exercise and nutrition sciences concentration will require an internship and thesis to be completed in the students' professional context. Students will be eligible to sit for the Registered Dietician exam and be prepared to go into fitness and sports fields.

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** This concentration will prepare managers and HR staff working in the corporate sector to effectively work with diverse populations while also preparing them to design, implement, and evaluate diversity programming for their employer or industry.
- **Educational Psychology and Research:** This concentration will provide advanced training for managerial staff in social serving agencies and prepare students for entry into doctoral programs by providing advanced content in applied research methodologies.
- **Language and Literacy:** This concentration will prepare professionals working in educational settings focused on literacy and language development. Strong emphasis is placed on the science of reading.

Accreditation: No specialized accreditation is available for the program.

Industry Need: The proposed program provides advanced training for professionals in educational contexts outside the traditional K-12 setting, and will prepare graduates for employment as Training and Development Specialists (SOC 13-1151) and Self-Enrichment Education Teachers (SOC 25-3021), both of which appear on the Statewide In-Demand Jobs list.

Student Demand: As noted by the peer reviewers, the proposed program does not provide convincing evidence of student demand. But, since it is entirely composed of existing coursework regularly offered for other programs at UM, there is no additional investment required. These courses have an average enrollment of 12 students, allowing for additional seats capped to 25.

Resources:

Faculty:

Current Primary Faculty:

Full-time: 4

Part-time: 1

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 9

Part-time: 0

Additional Faculty to be hired:

Primary Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

Assistantships: No assistantships will be offered for the program.

Equipment: No new equipment will be required for the proposed program.

Facilities: No new facilities will be required for the proposed program.

Library: Carmichael Library provides adequate resources to support the proposed MEd in Applied Instruction. The library currently supports several master's degree programs in education and exercise nutrition science, as well as undergraduate majors and/or minors in mathematics, biology, chemistry, African American studies, and peace and justice studies. The library's monograph and serial holdings, supplemented by interlibrary loan to fill in any gaps in the collection, meet the needs of education students and faculty. The Education Department has a designated faculty liaison to communicate budget information to the education faculty and to ensure that the library meets the curricular needs of

the major. Additionally, the library director has been a campus leader in bringing Open Educational Resources to campus.

Program Budget: Over the first seven years, the program will not require any new funds to deliver and is expected to generate \$486,324 through tuition.

Attachment 3

University of Montevallo
 Master of Education in Applied Instruction

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	*If New Course
Core Requirements (18 hours):	18	
ED 500 Standards-Based Instruction for Diverse Learners (revised course)	3	
ED 204 Innovative Instructional Design	3	
EDF 526 Assessment and Data Analysis for Instructional Improvement	3	
EDF 540 Applied Educational Research	3	
ED 570 Instructional Technology and Design	3	
EDF 620 Social and Multicultural Foundations	3	
Concentrations (12 hours)	12	
STE²AM for Early Learners Concentration		
ED 575 Environmental Education for ECE/Elementary Teachers	3	
ED 557 Thinking Mathematically in the Elementary Classroom	3	
ED 514 Creative Arts for the Classroom Teacher	3	
ED 574 Thinking Geographically in the Elementary Classroom	3	
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Concentration:		
ED 571 Selected Topics in ELL/Special Education	3	
EDF 510 Comparative Educational Systems	3	
EDF 531 Problems and Issues in Public Education	3	
EDF 551 Select Topics in Professional Studies	3	
Language and Literacy Concentration:		
ED 516 Emerging Literacy in the Classroom	3	
ED 530 Language and Literacy Development	3	
ED 532 Content Area Literacy	3	
ED 525 Assessment and Planning for Literacy Instruction	3	
Educational Psychology and Research Concentration:		
EDF 600 Applied Research in Education and Behavioral Science	3	
EDF 580 Advanced Human Growth and Development	3	
EDF 630 Advanced Educational Psychology	3	
EDF 551 Selected Topics in Professional Studies	3	
Exercise and Nutrition Sciences Concentration:	12	
EXNS 595 Internship in EXNS	6	
EXNS 591 Thesis	6	
Total Credit Hours for MEd in Applied Instruction:	30	

DECISION ITEM: A-5a

University of North Alabama, Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care (CIP 51.0908)

Staff Presenter:

Dr. Robin McGill
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed Bachelor of Science (BS) in Respiratory Care.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Spring 2023. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by January 13, 2025, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning 2024-25 will be at least 8.3, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2025-26 through 2029-2030 (five-year average) will be 7.5, based on the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
3. That the program will achieve, or make significant progress toward, specialized accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).
4. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including also data on related employment, licensure pass rates, and/or progress into a graduate program.

The University of North Alabama (UNA) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2030.

Background:

The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8 (c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting

plans for the new unit or program to the Commission for its review, evaluation, and approval.

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. The proposed BS in Respiratory Care is designed to prepare graduates for employment as respiratory therapists (SOC 29-1126), which appear on the Statewide In-Demand Occupations List and are in high-demand due to the COVID pandemic and high growth in Region 1.
2. The proposed program will be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) and will prepare students for certification through the National Board for Respiratory Care and state licensure through the Alabama State Board of Respiratory Therapy.
3. The proposal includes 5 letters of support from industry partners and potential employers, including North Alabama Medical Center, Helen Keller Hospital, Athens Limestone Hospital, Huntsville Hospital Madison, and UAB Hospital.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. University of North Alabama proposal, dated December 10, 2021, with subsequent revisions. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION: University of North Alabama								
PROGRAM: Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care (CIP 51.0908)								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$1,225,000
STAFF	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$84,000
EQUIPMENT	\$161,785	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$191,785
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIBRARY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$4,950	\$4,400	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$28,850
TOTAL	\$353,735	\$196,400	\$195,900	\$195,900	\$195,900	\$195,900	\$195,900	\$1,529,635
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	TOTAL
REALLOCATIONS	\$334,535	\$148,400	\$119,100	\$80,700	\$32,700	\$0	\$0	\$715,435
EXTRAMURAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TUITION + FEES	\$19,200	\$48,000	\$76,800	\$115,200	\$163,200	\$211,200	\$230,400	\$864,000
TOTAL	\$353,735	\$196,400	\$195,900	\$195,900	\$195,900	\$211,200	\$230,400	\$1,579,435
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	4	8	12	17	22	24	14.3
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	4	8	12	17	22	24	14.3
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	4	5	7	10	12	12	8.3
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	3	6	9	11	11	8

Attachment 2

Summary of Background Information

University of North Alabama
Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care

Role: The proposed program is within the instructional role for the University of North Alabama (UNA).

Program Description: The proposed Bachelor of Science (BS) in Respiratory Care is designed to prepare graduates to be advanced respiratory therapists for assessment and treatment of patients with heart and lung conditions. In addition to hospital-based care, graduates will also be prepared to assist in the prevention of cardiopulmonary disease, and the management, care, and rehabilitation of patients with chronic disease. This program will prepare students to sit for the national board exam to become Certified Respiratory Therapists (CRTs) or Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRTs) and obtain state licensure in Alabama.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of respiratory care practice as performed by registered respiratory therapists (RRTs).
2. Collaborate effectively with other health care professionals to provide direction and input with decisions related to the plan of respiratory care services and resources for clients.
3. Demonstrate the ability to recall, apply, and analyze information required of advanced-level respiratory therapists.
4. Utilize effective and professional communication with clients from diverse backgrounds, in addition to peers and other health care professionals.
5. Engage in critical thinking and problem solving through evidence-based practice in multiple health care settings.

Administration: The program will be administered by the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions, Dr. Vickie Pierce, Dean; and the Department of Undergraduate Programs, Dr. Clarissa Hall, Chair.

Peer Review: The Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) and the program proposal were available for review by the College and University Chief Academic Officers Association (CUCAO). No responses were received.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Similar Programs: Jacksonville State University has the only other active baccalaureate program in Respiratory Therapy (CIP 51.0908). Related associate-level programs are offered at Bishop State Community College, Jefferson State Community College, Shelton State Community College, Trenholm State Community College, Wallace State Dothan, and Wallace State Hanceville.

Relationship to Existing Coursework: At the undergraduate level, UNA currently offers a BSN in Nursing (51.3801), but does not offer any other allied health programs. The program will require substantive change approval from SACSCOC prior to implementation.

Collaboration: UNA has not identified any collaborations at this time, but is open to opportunities as they arise or as needs are identified.

Admissions: For admission, applicants must fulfill all of the required general education requirements and any health-related requirements in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Alabama Department of Public Health guidelines, including student liability insurance, a criminal background check, and drug screening.

Mode of Delivery: Coursework for the program will be delivered via face-to-face instruction in addition to labs, clinical, and simulation learning.

Curriculum: UNA plans to develop 21 new courses for the program.

Program Completion Requirements:	
Credit hours required in program courses	63
Credit hours in general education or core curriculum	41
Credit hours required in pre-professional courses	16
Credit hours in required or free electives	0
Credit hours required in required research	0
Total credit hours required for completion	120

Work-Based Learning: Students will participate in numerous work-based learning activities in the BSRC program including labs, clinical and simulation experiences, and clinical rotations in local hospitals while under the direct supervision of licensed respiratory therapists.

Specialized Accreditation: UNA will seek accreditation for the program through the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).

Professional Certification/Licensure: Graduates will be prepared to sit for the National Board for Respiratory Care's two credentialing exams: Therapist Multiple Choice Exam (TMC) and the Clinical Simulation Exam (CSE). Those achieving the low-cut score on the TMC will earn the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential. Those achieving the high-cut score on the TMC will earn the CRT credential and be eligible to sit for the CSE and earn the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) Credential. Those earning the CRT or the RRT are eligible for licensure through the Alabama State Board of Respiratory Therapy, which is required to practice in the State.

Industry Need: The proposed BS in Respiratory Care is designed to prepare graduates for employment as respiratory therapists (SOC 29-1126), which are included on the 2020-2021 Statewide In-Demand Occupations List. Respiratory Therapy (RT) departments in Alabama have been greatly impacted by the COVID pandemic and the need for additional therapists is high. All local area hospitals have RT employment vacancies that they are struggling to fill. Two hospitals located within six miles of UNA report over 20 RT vacancies at this time. The RT program at UNA will graduate advanced respiratory therapists and help fill this gap.

The program proposal includes five letters of support from potential employers attesting to the need for this program, including North Alabama Medical Center, Helen Keller Hospital, Athens Limestone Hospital, Huntsville Hospital Madison, and UAB Hospital.

Student Demand: A Qualtrics survey was distributed to current UNA students from various colleges/ departments (Applied Health Sciences, Biology, Interdisciplinary/Professional Studies and Pre-Nursing) to gauge interest in a BSRC in Respiratory Care to become a licensed respiratory therapist. A total of 227 participants responded to the survey and the findings revealed that 47% (n= 107) replied "yes" and 37% (n=84) replied "maybe" regarding interest in the program. Only 15% (n=36) participants replied "no" related to interest in the program. Findings revealed that the majority (84%) would be interested in the possibility of UNA offering a BS in Respiratory Care.

Resources:

Faculty:

Current Primary Faculty:

Full-time: 1

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

Additional Faculty to be hired:

Primary Faculty—

Full-time: 1

Part-time: 1

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

UNA recently hired a Program Director to oversee program launch and accreditation. Once the program is up and running, the Program Director will also serve as a full-time faculty member. In addition, UNA plans to hire another full-time faculty member and a part-time faculty member to support the program. Given that all faculty will be dedicated to this program and not have teaching responsibilities elsewhere, salary/benefit costs are included for all three, at a total of \$175,000 annually.

Staff: The program is required to maintain a medical director, and UNA plans to engage a local physician to serve in this role at a cost of \$12,000 annually.

Assistantships: No assistantships will be offered for the proposed program.

Equipment: UNA projects specialized equipment costs of \$161,785 in the first year of the program.

Facilities: No new facilities will be required for the proposed program.

Library: The UNA library currently subscribes to CINAHL Complete, Medline, Ovid Nursing and Health Professions Premier Collection, and ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health. The library also subscribes to Bates Visual Guide to Physical Examination and purchased Visible Body Human Anatomy Atlas. These resources provide videos and interactive gross and microanatomy 3D models. An app version of Visible Body Human Anatomy Atlas is available for mobile devices. In addition, the library provides access to Films on Demand and Academic Video Online which have many videos on the topic of respiratory therapy and care. The library also currently provides access to a variety of journals in the area of respiratory care, including, but not limited to: *Respiratory Care*, *Respiratory Care Education Annual*, *Chronic Respiratory Disease*, *NPJ Primary Care Respiratory Medicine*, *Pulmonary Medicine*, *Pulmonary Circulation*, *Pulmonary Therapy*, and *Pulmonary Pharmacology & Therapeutics*.

Other: Costs in the “other” line are associated with specialized accreditation through CoARC, including an annual fee of \$2,250 and one-time costs for initial accreditation and self-study.

Program Budget: The proposal projects that \$1,529,635 in new funds will be required to support the program over the first seven years, including start-up costs for faculty, staff, equipment, and program accreditation. Over the same period, the program is expected to generate a total of \$864,000 through tuition and student fees. The program will require \$715,435 in internal reallocations over the first five years, but is expected to become self-sustaining by Year 6.

Attachment 3

University of North Alabama
 Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	* If New Course
General Education Coursework (Areas I-IV)	41	
Pre-Professional (Area V) Coursework	16	
FYE 101 – First Year Experience Seminar	1	
BI 241 – Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4	
BI 242 – Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4	
BI 307 – Microbiology	4	
MA 147 – Elementary Statistics	3	
Respiratory Care Core Courses	63	
RC 300 – Respiratory Anatomy and Physiology	3	*
RC 302 – Respiratory Pathophysiology	3	*
RC 304 – Foundations in Respiratory Care	3	*
RC 306 – Respiratory Pharmacology	3	*
RC 308 – Respiratory Foundations Lab	3	*
RC 310 – Respiratory Clinical Practice I	1	*
RC 330 - Pulmonary Diagnostics	3	*
RC 332 – Respiratory Pharmacology	3	*
RC 334 – Mechanical Ventilation I	3	*
RC 336 – Critical Care Lab	3	*
RC 338 – Clinical Practice II	4	*
RC 410 – Pediatric and Neonatal Respiratory Care	3	*
RC 412 – Advanced Critical Care Lab	2	*
RC 414 – Seminar I	2	*
RC 416 – Mechanical Ventilation II	3	*
RC 418 – Clinical Practice III	6	*
RC 442 – Clinical Practice IV	6	*
RC 444 – Seminar II	2	*
RC 446 – Respiratory Care Leadership and Education	3	*
RC 448 – Senior Capstone	2	*
RC 450 – Research and Evidence-Based Practice	2	*
Total Credit Hours for BS in Respiratory Care:	120	

DECISION ITEM: A-5b

University of North Alabama, Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nursing (CIP 51.3818)

Staff Presenter:

Dr. Robin McGill
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Nursing.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Spring 2023. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 13, 2025, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning 2024-25 will be at least 10, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2024-25 through 2029-2030 (six-year average) will be 2.25, based on the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
3. That the program will achieve, or make significant progress toward, specialized accreditation through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
4. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including also data on related employment.

The University of North Alabama (UNA) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2030.

Background:

The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8 (c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting plans for the new unit or program to the Commission for its review, evaluation, and approval.

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. The proposed DNP is designed to prepare graduates for employment as Nurse Practitioners and Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Post-Secondary (SOC 25-1072), both of which are included on the Statewide In-Demand Occupations List.
2. UNA's Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions has offered a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) since 2006, and the college has recently begun to offer post-master's certificates in related areas. The college has resources in place to deliver the proposed DNP without additional costs.
3. The proposed program will offer a strategic benefit by supporting the nursing pipeline in an underserved area of the State and by offering unique tracks in Population Health with a focus on simulation and Educational Leadership with a focus on simulation.
4. The proposal includes seven letters of support, including representatives from the following: City of Florence Mayor, Northwest-Shoals Community College, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the North Alabama Medical Center.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. University of North Alabama proposal, dated December 7, 2021, with supplementary information. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION: University of North Alabama								
PROGRAM: Doctor in Nursing Practice in Nursing (CIP 51.3818)								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIBRARY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	TOTAL
REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EXTRAMURAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TUITION	\$164,000	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$2,132,000
TOTAL	\$164,000	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$2,132,000
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	10	15	15	15	15	15	14.2
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	20	25	25	25	25	25	24.2
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	5	8	8	8	8	8	7.2

Attachment 2

Summary of Background Information

University of North Alabama
Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nursing

Role: The proposed program would be the third doctorate-level program for the University of North Alabama (UNA), and is not within the current instructional role recognized by the Commission for UNA. UNA's two existing doctoral programs are the Executive Doctor of Business Administration (CIP 52.0201, approved September 2019) and the PhD in Exercise Science and Health Promotion (CIP 31.0505, approved March 2020). UNA must request an instructional role change from the Commission before a fourth doctorate program can be considered.

According to ACHE's "Guidelines for Instructional Role," the Commission may receive, review, and vote on program proposals in a single discipline at a level higher than an institution's Commission recognized instructional degree level if the proposed program shall contribute strategic benefit to the configuration of current public institution offerings in the State of Alabama. UNA has submitted the proposal to be considered as a program that qualifies for an exception to its instructional role as a unique program that would serve a strong, distinct, and well documented societal, education or economic need. Because the proposed program extends disciplinary offerings to a higher degree level, UNA must also gain approval from SACSCOC for a substantive change prior to implementation.

Program Description: The proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is designed for nurses who hold master's degrees to further their education and training with evidence-based practice strategies to enhance healthcare of individuals, families, and populations; strengthen safety and quality of care; provide care for diverse and vulnerable populations; serve as an interprofessional leader, mentor and role model; and transform education to improve nursing and self-care. This program will have three tracks: Advanced Practice, Population Health with a focus on simulation, and Educational Leadership with a focus on simulation. Students who currently hold a certification as an advanced practice nurse with a clinical background would be ideal candidates for the Advanced Practice track or Population Health track with a concentration in simulation. The Advanced Practice track will prepare nurses to take on significant roles in advocacy for improved healthcare and problem-solving of complex healthcare issues at local, state, regional, national, and global levels. The Population Health with a focus on simulation track will prepare nurses to become population health-focused leaders in a variety of settings. Students holding an MSN with a focus in education or leadership would be ideal candidates for either the Population Health track with a concentration in simulation or the Educational Leadership track with a concentration in simulation. This track will enable nurses to easily transition to the educational realm of nursing, ensuring the latest technology is utilized to improve health outcomes.

Student Learning Outcomes: The proposed DNP in Nursing will focus on the following learning objectives. Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Utilize current evidence and sound clinical judgement to provide equitable, diverse, and inclusive person-centered care. (Domain 2: Person-Centered Care)
2. Appraise information related to population health management to propose and implement diverse, inclusive, ethical, and just care that improves the health of populations. (Domain 3: Population Health)
3. Influence safety and quality of care through the adoption, integration, and dissemination of current practice guidelines and evidence-based interventions. (Domain 5: Quality and Safety)

4. Design systems-based practice and select evidence-based methodologies to lead innovative solutions that address complex health problems and ensure optimal care. (Domain 7: Systems-Based Practice)
5. Formulate informatics processes and communication technologies to drive decisions, support knowledge expansion, and provide safe high-quality healthcare. (Domain 8: Informatics and Healthcare Technologies)
6. Facilitate, lead, and evaluate interprofessional partnerships that improve patient and population outcomes. (Domain 6: Interprofessional Partnerships)

Administration: The program will be administered by the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions, Dr. Vickie Pierce, Dean; and the Department of Graduate Programs, Dr. Kristy Oden, Chair.

Peer Review: The Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) and the program proposal were reviewed by the Alabama Council of Graduate Deans (ACGD). Of the five institutions who submitted responses, three supported the proposed program, one had no objections, and one requested additional information about alignment with accreditation standards. UNA provided additional information, which has been included in the appropriate sections below.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Similar Programs: The following public institutions also offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice:

- Auburn University (CIP 51.3818)
- Auburn University at Montgomery (CIP 51.3818)
- Jacksonville State University (CIP 51.3818)
- Troy University (CIP 51.3818)
- University of Alabama (CIP 51.3818)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham (CIP 51.3818)
- University of Alabama at Huntsville (CIP 51.3818)
- University of South Alabama (CIP 51.3801)

UNA notes that its proposed program distinguishes itself through its tracks in Population Health with a concentration in simulation and in Educational Leadership with a concentration in simulation. The proposed program will also support the growth of the nursing pipeline in an underserved area of the State.

Relationship to Existing Coursework: UNA's College of Nursing and Health Professions has offered an MSN (CIP 51.3801) since 2006. In addition, the College began offering post-master's certifications in 2019 in the following areas: nurse educator, nurse leader, and family nurse practitioner.

Collaboration: UNA does not have plans to collaborate with other institutions in delivering this program.

Specialized Accreditation: UNA's College of Nursing and Health Professions is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for its baccalaureate, master's, and post-master's certificate programs through June 2031. UNA intends to seek CCNE program accreditation for the DNP once the program is eligible to do so in summer/fall of 2024.

CCNE accreditation is based on alignment with standards set by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in *The Essentials for Doctoral Education* (2006), which explicitly discusses study in Advanced Practice Nursing. UNA's program also proposes tracks in Educational Leadership and

Population Health, which were also designed to align with AACN standards that include advanced pedagogical preparation and organizational and systems-level knowledge.

Admissions: Applicants for the DNP program must hold an MSN from an accredited institution and must be licensed as a registered nurse (RN) with no restrictions or reprimands. Work experience is preferred, but not required.

Mode of Delivery: Program courses will be delivered online via Canvas Learning Management System. There will be two required on-campus intensives: one will take place at the start of the program for orientation; the second will conclude the program with presentations of final evidence-based projects. Students may be asked to attend campus for project proposal defense.

Curriculum: Full-time students will be able to complete the post-master's DNP in 5 semesters. Part-time students can complete in 8 semesters. UNA plans to develop 22 new courses for this program. The length of the program exceeds the 12 months as required for post-master's DNP programs.

Program Completion Requirements:	
Credit hours required in program core	15
Credit hours required in selected track	15-18
Credit hours in required or free electives	0
Credit hours required in required research	9
Total credit hours required for completion	39-42

**Note: The total credit hours of the DNP degree depends on the track that the student selects. The Advanced Practice track will be completed in 39 hours. The Educational Leadership and Simulation, and Population Health Leadership and Simulation Tracks will be completed in 42 hours.*

Faculty will utilize course maps to map the AACN *Essentials* to each DNP course. The proposed curriculum includes four DNP project courses, totaling 9 credit hours. The proposed program will emphasize early identification of the DNP project team to guide the student from the beginning of the program. The final project will be appropriately disseminated to the appropriate audience. The student will also submit a manuscript for publication.

Work-Based Learning: The Doctor of Nursing Practice program will require experiential learning and may include campus immersions, projects and presentations, clinical internships, simulations, and precepted training. The program will require 1000 hours of immersive practice experience as outlined in the *Essentials*.

Industry Need: The proposed DNP program will address the needs for more nurse practitioners and nurse educators who are prepared at the doctoral level. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) reports approximately two-thirds of US nursing schools face a faculty and/or clinical preceptor shortage, with 1,637 faculty vacancies were reported in 892 nursing schools that have baccalaureate and/or master's level programs. Ninety percent of these vacant positions were positions that either preferred or required a doctoral degree (AACN 2020).

The proposed DNP is designed to prepare graduates for employment as Nurse Practitioners (SOC 29-1171) and Nursing Instructors and Teachers Post-Secondary (SOC 25-1072), both of which are included on the Statewide In-Demand Occupations List. The proposed program will produce skilled graduates with doctoral preparation who can fill needs in either area, thus benefitting both the educational and practice communities. Graduates will be able to practice as nurse practitioners, nurse educators, and clinical nurse specialists in a variety of settings.

The proposal includes seven letters of support, including representatives from the following: City of Florence Mayor, Northwest-Shoals Community College, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and

the North Alabama Medical Center. Peer reviewers from other DNP institutions also noted that demand for clinical experts in nursing continues to grow.

Student Demand: A Qualtrics survey was conducted among current and former BSN and MSN students in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Of the 158 respondents, 109 were interested in pursuing a DNP degree, with 98% percent of those interested in pursuing a DNP degree at UNA.

Resources:

Faculty:

Current Primary Faculty:

Full-time: 19

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 1

Part-time: 0

Additional Faculty to be hired:

Primary Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

While there are no immediate plans to hire new faculty, UNA plans to monitor the enrollment trends and instructional needs of the new DNP program. Additional faculty will be hired to maintain proper faculty workloads as needed.

Staff: There will not be dedicated staff for this program.

Assistantships: No assistantships will be offered for the proposed program.

Equipment: No new equipment will be required for the proposed program.

Facilities: No new facilities will be required for the proposed program.

Library: UNA's current library collections are adequate to support coursework in the DNP program. The library provides access to a variety of databases to support nursing students, faculty, and staff. These include: CINAHL Complete, Health & Wellness Resource Center, Health Reference Center Academic, Health Source: Consumer Health, Health Source: Nursing/Academic, InfoTrac Nursing & Allied Health Collection, Medline via EbscoHost, Nursing Reference Center Plus, Ovid Nursing & Health Professional Premier, ProQuest Health & Medical Complete, Visible Body Human Anatomy Atlas, Visible Body Anatomy and Physiology, and Science Direct. The library also provides access to databases in other disciplines such as ERIC, SPORTDiscus, PsycInfo and PsycArticles that relate to nursing and other health related fields. Through these and other databases, the library provides access to 6824 periodicals in health and medicine and 912 periodicals in nursing and allied health. These numbers reflect all electronic periodicals.

Program Budget: The proposal projects that no new funds will be required to support the program over the first seven years. The program is expected to generate a total of \$2,132,000 through tuition.

Attachment 3

University of North Alabama
 Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nursing

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	* If New Course
DNP Core Courses (all tracks)	24	
NU 700 Data Management and Analysis	3	*
NU 702 Health Care Informatics	3	*
NU 704 Writing for Dissemination	3	*
NU 706 Evidence-Based Design and Translation	3	*
NU 708 Epidemiology	3	*
NU 800 DNP I: Project Identification	1	*
NU 802 DNP II: Project Development	2	*
NU 804 DNP III: Project Implementation	3	*
NU 806 DNP IV: Project Evaluation	3	*
Advanced Practice Track	15	
NU 720 Scientific Underpinnings	3	*
NU 722 Health Policy and Politics	3	*
NU 724 Health Disparities	3	*
NU 726 Patient Outcomes	3	*
NU 728 Leadership	3	*
Educational Leadership and Simulation Track	18	
NU 730 Leadership and Innovation in Population Health	3	*
NU 734 Population Health I	3	*
NU 740 Transformational Teaching Learning Resources, Strategies and Evaluation I	3	*
NU 742 Transformational Teaching Learning Resources, Strategies and Evaluation II	3	*
NU 750 Role of Technology and Simulation in Population Health	3	*
NU 752 Advanced Nursing Simulation	3	*
Population Health Leadership and Simulation Track	18	
NU 730 Leadership and Innovation in Population Health	3	*
NU 732 Finance and Delivery for Healthcare Diversity	3	*
NU 734 Population Health I	3	*
NU 736 Population Health II	3	*
NU 750 Role of Technology and Simulation in Population Health	3	*
NU 752 Advanced Nursing Simulation	3	*
Total Credit Hours for DNP Degree:	39-42	

DECISION ITEM: A-6a

University of South Alabama, Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Sustainability (CIP 30.3301)

Staff Presenter:

Dr. Robin McGill
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed Bachelor of Science (BS) in Environmental Science and Sustainability.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Fall 2022. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 13, 2024, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning in 2023-24 will be at least 10, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2024-25 through 2028-29 (five-year average) will be 7.5, based on the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
3. That USA's existing BS in Biology (CIP 26.0101) continue to meet minimum viability requirements for graduates as stated in Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
4. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including data on graduates' acceptance into graduate programs and/or related employment.

The University of South Alabama (USA) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2029.

Background:

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. The proposed program is related to USA's existing graduate programs in marine conservation and environmental

toxicology, and fits within the mission of the newly launched School of Marine and Environmental Sciences.

2. The proposed program will take advantage of USA's proximity to the delta and coastal regions of the State, allowing for hands-on education and the ability to partner with local environmental, consulting, petro-chemical, new sustainability and government agencies.
3. The proposal includes four letters of support from the following private industries and government agencies: the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy of Alabama, Thompson Engineering, Inc., and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. University of South Alabama proposal, dated December 9, 2021. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION: University of South Alabama								
PROGRAM: BS in Environmental Science and Sustainability (CIP 30.3301)								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$181,000	\$243,000	\$243,000	\$243,000	\$243,000	\$243,000	\$243,000	\$1,639,000
STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIBRARY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$181,000	\$243,000	\$243,000	\$243,000	\$243,000	\$243,000	\$243,000	\$1,639,000
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EXTRAMURAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TUITION	\$123,840	\$206,400	\$268,320	\$288,960	\$268,320	\$278,640	\$239,080	\$1,673,560
TOTAL	\$123,840	\$206,400	\$268,320	\$288,960	\$268,320	\$278,640	\$239,080	\$1,673,560
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	12	20	26	28	26	27	23.2
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	12	20	26	28	26	27	23.2
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	6	8	9	10	12	15	10
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	2	7	11	13	15	8

Attachment 2

Summary of Background Information

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Sustainability
University of South Alabama

Role: The proposed program is within the instructional role recognized for the University of South Alabama (USA).

Program Description: Offered by the School of Marine and Environmental Sciences in USA's College of Arts and Sciences, the proposed BS in Environmental Science and Sustainability is designed to give students the opportunity to apply state-of-the-art field and laboratory techniques to study environmental issues in coastal Alabama and around the world. Students will use modern equipment in the field for GIS (gathering, managing, and analyzing data) and soil and water quality, as well as in the lab for studying chemical, mineralogical, biological, and physical properties of soil and water samples. Many courses have a lab component that will involve problem solving for real life applications. Field trips throughout coastal Alabama will expose students to a wide range of geology, as well as soil and water quality concerns and coastal resource management (e.g., living shorelines, oyster farms, dune restoration, etc.).

Student Learning Outcomes: Learning outcomes of the BS in Environmental Science and Sustainability include the following abilities:

1. Explain foundational principles of environmental science and discuss the interdisciplinary connections within the field.
2. Demonstrate the capacity to effectively review and synthesize scientific literature on major issues impacting the environment.
3. Develop scientific hypotheses, apply appropriate experiments and methodologies to test hypotheses, and make evidence-based conclusions through the objective analysis and interpretation of data.
4. Perform typical tasks associated with laboratory, field, and modeling work related to environmental science and sustainability issues in academic, government, and industry settings.
5. Identify and engage with key transdisciplinary partners that are needed to develop action plans for sustainable solutions that meet necessary scientific standards but also consider the social concerns of communities. Students should have a full understanding of the critical elements of sustainable development, environmental policies, ethics, natural resources, and sociology that influence sustainability.
6. Demonstrate the ability to orally communicate complex concepts and methodologies in environmental science to a broad range of communities (e.g., peers, general public, scientists).
7. Express an understanding of ethical conduct and best practices consistent with the expectations of the broader scientific community.

Administration: The program will be administered by the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Andrzej Wierzbicki, Dean; and the School of Marine and Environmental Sciences, Dr. Sean Powers, Chair.

Peer Review: The Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) and the program proposal were available for review by the College and University Chief Academic Officers Association (CUCAO). No responses were received.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Similar Programs: The following universities in Alabama offer related programs:

- Auburn University, BS in Environmental Sciences (CIP 03.0104); BS in Natural Resources Management (CIP 03.0201)
- Auburn University at Montgomery, BS in Environmental Sciences (CIP 03.0104)
- Troy University, BS/BA in Environmental Sciences (CIP 03.0104)
- University of Alabama, BS in Environmental Sciences (CIP 03.0104)
- University of Montevallo, BS/BA in Environmental Studies (CIP 03.0103)
- University of North Alabama, BS/BA in Sustainability (CIP 30.3301)
- University of West Alabama, BS/BA in Environmental Science (CIP 30.0101)

While there will certainly be some overlap with existing programs, USA's proposed program distinguishes itself through its primary focus on coastal and watershed sciences and conservation.

Relationship to Existing Programs: Launched in 2021, USA's School of Marine and Environmental Sciences has faculty with substantial experience in climate change, coastal and watershed science, and policy and management experience. USA currently offers the following related graduate programs: MS in Environmental Toxicology (CIP 26.1006) and MS in Marine Conservation and Resource Management (CIP 03.0205). At the undergraduate level, USA's Department of Biology offers a BS in Biology (CIP 26.0101) with a concentration in Environmental Science, and it seems likely that some students who would enroll in this degree concentration will opt instead for the proposed BS in Environmental Science and Sustainability.

Collaboration: USA does not plan to collaborate with other institutions at this time.

Accreditation: No specialized accreditation is anticipated for the program.

Admissions: The program has no special admission requirements.

Mode of Delivery: Coursework for the program will be delivered via face-to-face instruction. Hands on experiences and field work will be heavily emphasized and the program will utilize campus resources such as the nature trail, ponds, and woods as well as local field trips (e.g. removing invasive species/Apple Snails from Langan Park, shoreline restoration on the Dauphin Island Causeway, etc.). Environmental Science (i.e. ENV) courses with a lab component will require one to two lab practicums.

Curriculum: Full-time students will be able to complete the program in (8 semesters, and part-time students in 16 semesters. USA will develop 6 new courses for the proposed program. The program focuses on science methodology and applied analysis, applying state-of-the-art field methods, instrumentation, and data analysis to the study of the natural and human environment from an interdisciplinary systems perspective.

Program Completion Requirements:	
Credit hours required in program core courses	33
Credit hours required in general education or core curriculum	41
Credit hours required in support courses	28
Credit hours in required minor*	18-24
Credit hours in required research**	0
Total credit hours required for completion	120

* A minor is required for College of the Arts & Sciences programs.

**Research and internship experiences will be strongly encouraged, but no formal requirement is made since many of the field courses will have research experiences integrated in curriculum.

Work-based Learning: Field and lab classes will have a strong focus on work-based learning through experiential activities with the use of the latest technology and software proficiency and coding. It is also highly recommended, but not required, that students complete an internship with one of USA's partners (e.g., Alabama Coastal Federation, The Nature Conservancy, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alabama State Lands Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Quality, the NOAA Disaster Response Center, Grand Bay NEER, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Mobile Baykeeper, etc.) and/or take part in local volunteer opportunities such as the Share the Beach, Coastal Cleanup, and/or assisting USA/DISL graduate students with their work. Students in the program will be strongly encouraged to obtain certification through USA's Center for continuing education and conference services in hazardous materials (HAZMAT) training, which is necessary for the proper management of hazardous materials and to a part of onsite environmental response teams.

Industry Need: The proposed program will prepare students for immediate employment in the analysis and mitigation of environmental problems, particularly in the following occupations:

- 1) Environmental Scientists and Specialists (SOC 19-2041) (20-21 Alabama In-Demand List)
- 2) Conservation Scientists (SOC 19-1031)
- 3) Environmental Science and Protection Technicians (SOC 19-4042)

The 2020-21 In-Demand list shows 105 average annual openings for environmental scientists and specialists. The nation and the world face the daunting task of finding sustainable ways to manage the planets limiting resources and to mitigate past environmental harm. Coupling an environmental sciences curriculum to new ideas and concepts in sustainability will result in well trained students that are in demand. The proposed program included letters of support from the following industry partners, attesting to the demand for graduates trained in environmental science and sustainability:

- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
- Thompson Engineering
- Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Student Demand: USA has an active Sierra Club chapter and student interest in the environment and conservation is high and growing. Recent interviews conducted of area high school science teachers over the last 18 months showed high numbers of students focusing on environmental science programs, and recent interviews with high school students at USA Day recruitment events revealed substantial interest by incoming freshmen. Additional interviews with environmental consulting firms, coastal resource and environmental agencies, public health agencies, and the petrochemical industries (18 interviews over the last 6 months) indicated a demand for students broadly trained in the environmental sciences who can obtain environmental response certification (the latter offered through short courses at USA's continuing/professional studies classes).

Resources:

Faculty:

Current Primary Faculty:

Full-time: 11

Part-time: 2

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

Additional Faculty to be hired:

Primary Faculty—

Full-time: 3

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

USA is planning a cluster hire in Environmental Sciences, with three new positions to be filled. The first will be a tenure-track assistant/associate professor whose research is in Environmental Sociology and has expertise in suitability sciences; a second tenure-track assistant professor who works in the field of environmental sustainability and planning; and a PhD-level instructor with expertise in environmental sciences.

Staff: The School of Marine Sciences already has a full-time academic advisor and administrator that can support this program. No additional staff will be hired.

Assistantships: No assistantships will be offered for the proposed program.

Equipment: No new equipment will be required for the proposed program.

Facilities: No new facilities will be required for the proposed program.

Library: Through its journal and book collections, the Marx Library currently supports the MS in Environmental Toxicology, as well as graduate degrees in marine sciences and BS degrees in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences (Geology, Geography, and Meteorology), and Sociology. Sufficient resources in related fields of global climate change and sociology are available and resources not currently available to students can be provided through inter-library loans.

Program Budget: Over the first seven years, the program will require estimated new funds of \$1,639,000 to support the hiring of three full-time faculty members. The program is expected to break even, generating \$1,673,560 through tuition over the same period.

Attachment 3

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Sustainability
 University of South Alabama

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	* If New Course
General Education Courses	41	
Program Core Courses	33	
ENV 337/337L Environmental Science I	4	*
ENV 338/338L Environmental Science II	4	*
ENV 339 Climate Change	3	*
ENV 340/340L Fundamentals of Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry	4	*
ENV 335/335L Environmental Conservation & Sustainability	4	*
ENV 334/334L Environmental Monitoring & Assessment	4	*
GY 425 Hydrology	4	
GIT 460 Intro to Geographic Information Technology (GIT)	4	
GEO 410 Biogeography	3	
Minor Courses	18-24	
Additional Courses Required by the Department	28	
BLY121/BLY121L General Biology I with Lab	4	
BLY122/BLY122L General Biology II with Lab	4	
CH131/CH131L General Chemistry I with Lab	4	
CH132/CH132L General Chemistry II with Lab	4	
GY111/GY111L Physical Geology	3	
MA125 Calculus I	3	
PH114/PH114L Non-calculus Based General Physics I or PH201/PH201L Calculus Based General Physics I	3	
Total Credit Hours for BS in Environmental Science and Sustainability	120	

DECISION ITEM: A-6b

University of South Alabama, Bachelor of Science in Marine Sciences (CIP 30.3201)

Staff Presenter:

Dr. Robin McGill
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed Bachelor of Science (BS) in Marine Sciences.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Fall 2022. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 13, 2024, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning in 2023-24 will be at least 10, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2024-25 through 2028-29 (five-year average) will be 7.5, based on the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
3. That USA's existing BS in Biology (CIP 26.0101) continue to meet minimum viability requirements for graduates as stated in Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
4. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including data on graduates' acceptance into doctoral programs and/or related employment.

The University of South Alabama (USA) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2029.

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. The proposed program expands upon USA's existing MS and PhD programs in Marine Sciences, and will not require any additional resources to deliver.

2. The proposed program will take advantage of USA's proximity to the delta and coastal regions of the State, as well as existing partnerships with maritime industries, non-governmental organizations, and federal and state resource agencies along the central Gulf of Mexico coast.
3. The proposal includes five letters of support attesting to the need for this program: the Alabama Marine Resources Division of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, the Alabama Coastal Federation, and USA's Marine Science Student Association.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. University of South Alabama proposal, dated November 17, 2021. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION: University of South Alabama								
PROGRAM: BS in Marine Sciences (CIP 30.3201)								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIBRARY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EXTRAMURAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TUITION	\$154,800	\$216,720	\$278,640	\$299,280	\$278,640	\$288,960	\$252,840	\$1,769,880
TOTAL	\$154,800	\$216,720	\$278,640	\$299,280	\$278,640	\$288,960	\$252,840	\$1,769,880
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	15	21	27	29	27	28	24.5
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	15	21	27	29	27	28	24.5
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	6	8	9	10	12	15	10
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	2	7	11	13	15	8

Attachment 2

Summary of Background Information

Bachelor of Science in Marine Sciences
University of South Alabama

Role: The proposed program is within the instructional role recognized for the University of South Alabama (USA).

Program Description: Offered by the School of Marine and Environmental Sciences in USA's College of Arts and Sciences, the proposed BS in Marine Sciences is an interdisciplinary program that combines geological, chemical, physical, and biological oceanography in order to understand the marine environment, marine life, and their interactions. Students will spend at least one summer taking courses at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL), as well as a Semester by the Sea. The partnership with the Dauphin Island Sea Lab will expose students to a variety of USA and DISL faculty who are actively pursuing research and funding, as well as maximizing students' field time by providing students with a unique, interdisciplinary, "hands on" education which heavily emphasizes experiential learning. Students will have access to multiple boats for sampling, state of the art research facilities at USA and DISL, an extensive array of collection gear, and advanced laboratory, field instruments and computing equipment.

Student Learning Outcomes: Learning outcomes of the BS in Marine Sciences include the following abilities:

1. Broadly explain and discuss foundational principles of the core components of marine science: biological, chemical, geological and physical oceanography.
2. Perform typical tasks associated with laboratory, field, and modeling work conducted in academic, government, and industry marine science settings.
3. Develop scientific hypotheses, apply appropriate experiments and methodologies to test hypotheses, and make evidence-based conclusions through the objective analysis and interpretation of data.
4. Demonstrate the ability to communicate complex concepts and methodologies to a broad range of communities (e.g., peers, general public, scientists), both orally and in written form.
5. Demonstrate the capacity to effectively review and synthesize scientific literature on major issues impacting the marine environment.
6. Express an understanding of ethical conduct and best practices consistent with the expectations of the broader scientific community.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental concepts of marine science, including principles of physical, geological, chemical, and biological oceanography.

Administration: The program will be administered by the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Andrzej Wierzbicki, Dean; and the School of Marine and Environmental Sciences, Dr. Sean Powers, Chair.

Peer Review: The Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) and the program proposal were available for review by the College and University Chief Academic Officers Association (CUCAO). No responses were received.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Similar Programs: The following universities in Alabama offer related programs:

- Alabama State University, BS in Marine Biology (CIP 26.1302)
- Auburn University, BS in Marine Biology (CIP 26.1302)
- Troy University, BS/BA in Marine Biology (CIP 26.1302)
- University of Alabama, BS in Marine Science (CIP 26.1302)
- University of North Alabama, BS/BA in Marine Biology (CIP 26.1302)
- University of West Alabama, BS/BA in Marine Biology (CIP 26.1302)

Existing programs, including the BS in Marine Science at the University of Alabama, are offered through Biology Departments and share resources available through the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. The proposal notes the broader scope of USA's Marine Science discipline, which includes the study of physical, chemical, and geological oceanography, as well as biological oceanography.

Relationship to Existing Programs: USA's School of Marine and Environmental Sciences currently offers the following related graduate programs: MS in Marine Sciences (CIP 30.0101) and PhD in Marine Sciences (CIP 30.0101), as well as an MS in Marine Conservation and Resource Management (CIP 03.0205). At the undergraduate level, the School of Marine and Environmental Sciences has begun to offer a minor in Marine Sciences, and USA's Department of Biology offers a BS in Biology (CIP 26.0101) with a concentration in Marine Biology, which has some similar coursework to the proposed degree.

Collaboration: The program leverages offerings through the State of Alabama's Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium, Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL).

Accreditation: No specialized accreditation is anticipated for the program.

Admissions: The program has no special admission requirements.

Mode of Delivery: Coursework will be delivered via face-to-face instruction. Marine science classes with a lab component will require one to two lab practicums. Field and lab classes will have a strong focus on work-based learning through experiential activities with the use of the latest technology and software proficiency and coding.

Curriculum: Full-time students will be able to complete the program in 4 years with one summer semester (9 semesters), and part-time students in 18 semesters. USA will develop 8 new courses for the proposed program.

Program Completion Requirements:	
Credit hours required in program core courses	37
Credit hours required in general education or core curriculum	41
Credit hours required in support courses	24
Credit hours in required minor*	18
Credit hours in required research**	0
Total credit hours required for completion	120

* A minor is required for College of the Arts & Sciences programs.

**Research and internship experiences will be strongly encouraged, but no formal requirement is made since many of the field courses will have research experiences integrated in curriculum.

Work-based Learning: It is highly recommended, but not required, that students complete an internship with one of USA's partners (e.g., Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division, Grand Bay NEER, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Mobile Baykeeper, etc.) and/or take part in local volunteer opportunities such as the

Share the Beach Sea Turtle Nesting Program, the Marine Mammal Stranding Network, Docent Training and volunteering at the DISL Estuarium, and/or assisting USA/DISL graduate students with their work.

Industry Need: The proposed BS program is designed to prepare graduates for employment in the following occupations: Environmental Scientists and Specialists (SOC 19-2041, included on the in-demand occupations list); Conservation Scientists (SOC 19-1030), and Geological Technicians (19-4043). Job opportunities in marine and coastal sciences continue to expand as a result of diversification of government agencies, NGO's, and environmental consultancies focusing on the challenges of making sustainable economic use of marine and coastal systems. The proposed program included letters of support from the following industry partners, attesting to the demand for graduates trained in marine sciences:

- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy
- Dauphin Island Sea Lab
- Alabama Coastal Foundation

Student Demand: Established in 2016, the Marine Science minor currently enrolls 50 students. A student formed Marine Sciences Student Association currently has 104 active students, and submitted a letter of support attesting that many students would have opted for the program, had it been available. Interviews conducted with high school science teachers in the area support the conclusion that there will be demand for the program. Recent interviews with high school students at USA Day recruitment events illustrate substantial interest by would-be freshmen.

Resources:

Faculty:

Current Primary Faculty:

Full-time: 11

Part-time: 2

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

Additional Faculty to be hired:

Primary Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

Support Faculty—

Full-time: 0

Part-time: 0

Staff: The School of Marine Sciences already has a full-time academic advisor and administrator who can assist with support.

Assistantships: No assistantships will be offered for the proposed program.

Equipment: No new equipment will be required for the proposed program. In the most recent fiscal year, the Alabama State Legislature provided \$900,000 of supplemental funding to assist in acquiring equipment and instrumentation for the new School of Marine and Environmental Sciences.

Facilities: No new facilities will be required for the proposed program. As part of the recently launched School of Marine and Environmental Sciences, USA has completed a \$3.5 million renovation of 20,000 square feet of classrooms, teaching and research labs, and office space.

Library: Through its journal and book collections, the Marx Library currently supports the MS and PhD in Marine Sciences, as well as the MS in Marine Conservation and Resource Management and related BS degrees in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences (Geology, Geography, and Meteorology), and Sociology. The Marx Library has recently subscribed to several relevant electronic book collections which have provided access to many more monographs for research use. Resources not currently available to students can be provided through inter-library loans.

Program Budget: Over the first seven years, the program will require no new funds to establish and is expected to generate \$\$1,769,880 through tuition.

Attachment 3

Bachelor of Science in Marine Sciences
 University of South Alabama

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	* If New Course
General Education Courses	41	
Core Courses	37	
MAS134/MAS134L Introduction to Ocean Sciences	4	
MAS331/MAS331L Marine Science I: Geological & Physical Oceanography	4	*
MAS332/MAS332L Marine Science II Chemical & Biological Oceanography	4	*
Take 3 courses from the following: MAS 371 Shark and Ray Biology MAS 367 Marine Biology MAS 430 Marine Botany MAS 451 Marine Vertebrate Zoology MAS 471 Marine Invertebrate Zoology MAS 476 Marine Tech Methods	10	
MAS336 Marine Operations and Research (Capstone/Writing Course)	3	*
MAS337/MAS337L Marine Geology	4	*
MAS475/MAS475L Marine Ecology	4	
MAS431/MAS431L Field & Lab Measurements in Marine Science	4	*
Minor Courses	18	
Additional Courses Required by the Department	24	
BLY121/BLY121L General Biology I with Lab	4	
BLY122/BLY122L General Biology II with Lab	4	
CH131/CH131L General Chemistry I with Lab	4	
CH132/CH132L General Chemistry II with Lab	4	
MA125 Calculus I	3	
PH114/PH114L Non-calculus Based General Physics I or PH201/PH201L Calculus Based General Physics I	3	
Total Credit Hours for BS in Marine Sciences	120	

DECISION ITEM: A-7a

Chattahoochee Valley Community College, Associate of Applied Science and Short-Term Certificate in Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic (CIP 51.0904)

Staff Presenter:

Mrs. Kristan White
Academic Program Analyst

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed Associate of Applied Science (AAS) and Certificate in Medical Emergency Services - Paramedic.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below.

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Fall 2022. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 13, 2024, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning 2023-24 will be at least 10, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2023-24 through 2028-29 (six-year average) will be at least 7.5, based on the adopted graduation rates as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8 (a)(2).
3. That the program achieves, or shows significant progress toward, specialized accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), Committee on Accreditation of Education Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions.
4. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program will be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including data on related employment, licensure through the Alabama Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services, and/or acceptance into a baccalaureate program.

Chattahoochee Valley Community College (CVCC) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2029.

Background:

The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8 (c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and

the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting plans for the new unit or program to the Commission for its review, evaluation, and approval.

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. This program is designed to prepare students for national certification and licensure as Paramedics through the Alabama Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services, and will help meet the demand for Emergency Medical Services in the state and local area.
2. The proposed program provides an alternative pathway for students not admitted to CVCC's nursing program.
3. Each semester, local EMS services request to visit classrooms with job offerings. Graduates will be prepared for employment as paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and firefighters.
4. CVCC's existing multiple allied health programs provide the foundation, facilities and equipment need to support this new program.
5. This proposal includes three letters of support from local EMS facilities attesting to the need for this program.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Application Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. Chattahoochee Valley Community College proposal, dated September 30, 2021, with supplementary information. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION: Chattahoochee Valley Community College								
PROGRAM: Associate of Applied Science and Short-term Certificate in Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic (CIP 51.0904)								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIBRARY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
STAFF	\$31,698	\$32,708	\$33,719	\$34,730	\$35,741	\$35,741	\$35,741	\$240,078
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$2,700	\$5,000	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$5,000	\$2,300	\$21,900
TOTAL	\$34,398	\$37,708	\$36,019	\$37,030	\$38,041	\$40,741	\$38,041	\$261,978
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
INTERNAL REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EXTRAMURAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TUITION	\$71,832	\$143,664	\$179,580	\$239,440	\$239,440	\$239,440	\$239,440	\$1,352,836
TOTAL	\$71,832	\$143,664	\$179,580	\$239,440	\$239,440	\$239,440	\$239,440	\$1,352,836
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	12	15	20	20	20	20	18
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	12	15	20	20	20	20	18
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	8	10	10	10	10	12	10
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	6	6	7	7	9	10	7.5

Attachment 2
Summary of Background Information

Chattahoochee Valley Community College
Associate of Applied Science and Short-term Certificate in Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic
(CIP 51.0904)

Program Description/Objectives: The proposed AAS and Certificate in Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic will prepare individuals, under the remote supervision of physicians, to recognize, assess, and manage medical emergencies in prehospital settings and supervise ambulance personnel. This program includes instruction in basic, intermediate, and advanced EMT procedures; emergency surgical procedures; medical triage; rescue operations; crisis scene management and personnel supervision; equipment operation and maintenance; patient stabilization, monitoring, and care; drug administration; identification and preliminary diagnosis of diseases and injuries; communication and computer operations; basic anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and toxicology; and professional standards and regulations.

Role: The proposed program is within the instructional role for Chattahoochee Valley Community College.

Mode of Delivery: All program coursework will be delivered using face-to-face instruction and will incorporate traditional methods of lecture, skills lab, and clinical components. Students are required to attend and conduct specific skills during their clinical experiences within each semester of the program. Students will clock 45 hours in semester I; 135 hours in semester II; and 270 hours in semester III.

Similar Programs: The following community colleges offer similar AAS programs in Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic (CIP 51.0904): Beville CC, Coastal Alabama CC, Enterprise State CC, Gadsden State CC, Jefferson State CC, Lurleen B. Wallace CC, Northeast Alabama CC, Northwest-Shoals CC, Southern Union CC, Trenholm State CC, Wallace State CC –Dothan, and Wallace State CC –Hanceville. However, the two closest programs, Southern Union in Opelika and Wallace in Dothan are a significant distance (40 miles and 85 miles, respectively) and do not cover the college's service area including a 50-mile radius of Georgia.

Relationship to Existing Offerings: The proposed program will be offered under the Department of Health Science and is associated with other health science programs offered at CVCC, in particular the existing short-term certificate programs in Emergency Medical Technician and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (CIP 51.0904).

Professional Licensure/Certification: CVCC intends to seek accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP). After completion of coursework and clinical requirements, students will be eligible to take the National Registered Paramedic (NRP) Examination and seek licensure as paramedics through the Alabama Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services.

The Alabama Department of Public Health Office Emergency Medical Services conducted a site visit of CVCC's Emergency Medical Services EMT program on October 03, 2019. The After-Action Report stated: "It became evident that CVCC EMS could become the primary EMS training facility for the area with a few small changes." As a result of the visit and After-Action Report, CVCC made the decision to pursue expansion of the existing paramedic program.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Industry Need: The proposed program is designed to prepare graduates for employment as paramedics (SOC 29-2043), emergency medical technicians (SOC 29-2042), and firefighters (SOC 33-2011), all of which are on the 2020-2021 Statewide In-Demand Occupations List. Alabama's In-Demand Occupations List (2020-2021) indicates 3,820 EMS Personnel were employed as of 2018 and there were 295 average annual job openings. According to the National Occupational Handbook, employment of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics is projected to grow six percent from 2019 to 2029, faster than the average for all occupations. Specifically, in Alabama the projected growth is 19 percent from 2016 to 2026. CVCC is strategically located along the Georgia/Alabama border and its service area includes nineteen surrounding counties. The EMS growth in Georgia is projected at 24 percent.

Program Budget: The proposal projects that \$261,978 in new funds will be required to support the program over the first seven years. The program is expected to generate \$1,352,836 through tuition. Projected expenses include the following:

- \$240,078 for clerical staff
- \$21,900 in accreditation expenses over the first seven years

Current, EMT instructors are qualified to teach the additional EMS courses required for the AAS Paramedic degree, so additional faculty are not required. However, per accreditation requirements of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CoAEMSP), the program must have clerical support. Facilities and equipment are already in place to support this program.

Attachment 3

Chattahoochee Valley Community College
 Associate of Applied Science and Short-Term Certificate in
 Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic (CIP 51.0904)

Associate of Applied Science:

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	*If New Course
100 Intermediate College Algebra	3	
ENG 101 English Composition I	3	
PSY 200 General Psychology	3	
SPH 106 or 107 Speech	3	
Humanities Elective	3	
BIO 201 Human A & P I	4	
BIO 202 Human A & P II	4	
EMS 100 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	1	
EMS 107 Emergency Vehicle Operator Course	1	
EMS 118 EMS Basic Theory/Lab	9	
EMS 119 EMS Basic Clinical	1	
EMS 155 Advanced EMT	7	
EMS 156 AEMT Clinical	2	
EMS 241 Paramedic Cardiology	3	*
EMS 242 Patient Assessment	2	*
EMS 244 Paramedic Clinical	1	*
EMS 257 Paramedic Applied Pharmacology	2	*
EMS 245 Paramedic Medical Emergencies	3	*
EMS 246 Paramedic Trauma Management	3	*
EMS 247 Paramedic Special Pop.	2	*
EMS 248 Paramedic Clinical II	3	*
EMS 253 Paramedic Trans. Workforce	2	*
EMS 254 Advanced Comp. for Paramedic	2	*
EMS 255 Paramedic Field Preceptorship.	5	*
EMS 256 Paramedic Team Leadership	1	*
Total Hours Required for AAS in Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic	73	

Short-Term Certificate:

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	*If New Course
EMS 241 Paramedic Cardiology	3	*
EMS 242 Patient Assessment	2	*
EMS 244 Paramedic Clinical	1	*
EMS 257 Paramedic Applied Pharmacology	2	*
EMS 245 Paramedic Medical Emergencies	3	*
EMS 246 Paramedic Trauma Management	3	*
EMS 247 Paramedic Special Pop.	2	*
EMS 248 Paramedic Clinical II	3	*
EMS 253 Paramedic Trans. Workforce	2	*
EMS 254 Advanced Comp. for Paramedic	2	*
EMS 255 Paramedic Field Preceptorship.	5	*
EMS 256 Paramedic Team Leadership	1	*
Total Hours Required for Certificate in Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic	29	

DECISION ITEM: A-7b

Chattahoochee Valley Community College, Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician (CIP 51.1004)

Staff Presenter:

Mrs. Kristan White
Academic Program Analyst

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Medical Laboratory Technician.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below.

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Fall 2022. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 13, 2024, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning 2023-24 will be at least 10, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2023-24 through 2028-29 (six-year average) will be at least 7.5, based on the adopted graduation rates as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8 (a)(2).
3. That the program achieves, or shows significant progress toward, specialized accreditation through the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).
4. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program will be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including data on related employment, pass rates for the national certification exam, and/or acceptance into a baccalaureate program.

Chattahoochee Valley Community College (CVCC) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2029.

Background:

The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8 (c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting

plans for the new unit or program to the Commission for its review, evaluation, and approval.

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. Awareness of a need for a local Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program arose from discussions with local healthcare facilities and workforce regional councils pointing to the high demand in the region.
2. CVCC has strong partnerships with area health care facilities and currently utilizes these facilities as clinical sites for existing health science programs.
3. There are no other associate degree MLT programs within a 50-mile radius of CVCC.
4. This proposal includes two letters of support from St. Francis Emory Healthcare in Columbus, Georgia and Martin Army Community Hospital in Ft., Benning, Georgia attesting to the program's strengths and expressing the need for more technicians.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Application Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. Chattahoochee Valley Community College proposal, dated September 30, 2021, with supplementary information. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION: Chattahoochee Valley Community College								
PROGRAM: Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician (CIP 51.1004)								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$65,725	\$67,703	\$67,703	\$69,679	\$71,656	\$73,634	\$73,634	\$489,734
LIBRARY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$95,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$95,000
STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$17,500
TOTAL	\$163,225	\$70,203	\$70,203	\$72,179	\$74,156	\$76,134	\$76,134	\$602,234
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
INTERNAL REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EXTRAMURAL	\$115,993	\$22,971	\$15,099	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$154,063
TUITION	\$47,232	\$47,232	\$55,104	\$78,720	\$78,720	\$78,720	\$78,720	\$464,448
TOTAL	\$163,225	\$70,203	\$70,203	\$78,720	\$78,720	\$78,720	\$78,720	\$618,511
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	12	15	20	20	20	20	18
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	12	15	20	20	20	20	18
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	8	10	10	10	10	12	10
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	6	6	7	7	9	10	7.5

Attachment 2
Summary of Background Information

Chattahoochee Valley Community College
Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician (CIP 51.1004)

Program Description/Objectives: The proposed AAS in Medical Laboratory Technician will prepare individuals, under the supervision of clinical laboratory scientists/medical technologists, to perform routine medical laboratory procedures and tests and to apply preset strategies to record and analyze data. The program includes instruction in general laboratory procedures and skills; laboratory mathematics; medical computer applications; interpersonal and communication skills; and the basic principles of hematology, medical microbiology, immunohematology, immunology, clinical chemistry, and urinalysis.

Role: The proposed program is within the instructional role for Chattahoochee Valley Community College.

Mode of Delivery: All program coursework will be delivered using face-to-face instruction. Students will also complete 8 credit hours (4 courses) of clinical practicum hours that will include specimen collection, processing, preparation and analysis of patient specimens, critical assessment of specimens for pre-analytical errors and interfering substances, proper documentation, and reporting of patient results appropriately.

Similar Programs: The following community colleges offer similar AAS programs in Medical Laboratory Technician (CIP 51.1004): Calhoun Community College, Gadsden State Community College, Jefferson State Community College, Shelton State Community College, and Wallace State Community College – Hanceville. However, there are no AAS MLT programs within a 50-mile radius of CVCC. Additionally, Bishop State Community College was approved for a similar AAS program in December 2020, but has yet to fully implement.

Relationship to Existing Offerings: The proposed program will be offered under the Department of Health Science and is associated with other health science programs offered at CVCC, including Nursing (Direct Entry and Mobility) (CIP 51.3801), Practical Nursing (CIP 51.3901), Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aide (CIP 51.3902), Medical Assisting (CIP 51.0801), and Emergency Medical Technician and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (CIP 51.0904).

Specialized Accreditation: CVCC intends to seek accreditation through the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), which reviews and accredits qualified entry-level education programs for medical laboratory technicians. Having this accreditation will allow graduates to obtain national certification.

Professional Certification: Once accredited through NAACLS, the program will enable graduates to be eligible to sit for the certification exam for Medical Laboratory Technicians offered by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). While certification is not required for employment in the State of Alabama, it is preferred by industry.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Industry Need: The proposed program is designed to prepare graduates for employment as medical and clinical laboratory technologists and technicians (SOC 29-2010), which is included on the Statewide In-Demand Occupations List, with 350 annual openings projected across the State. The In-Demand Occupations for Region 5 indicates 660 individuals employed in the field as of 2018. Awareness of a need for a local MLT program arose from discussions CVCC had with local healthcare facilities and workforce regional councils. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment of Clinical Laboratory

Technologists and Technicians is projected to grow by 11% from 2020-2030. This rate of growth is much faster than the average for all occupations.

Program Budget: The proposal projects that \$602,234 in new funds will be required to support the program over the first seven years. The program is expected to generate \$464,234 through tuition, and will require \$154,063 in supplemental funding. CVCC intends to use federal Carl Perkins funds to support the program for the first three years until it can become self-sustaining. Projected expenses include the following:

- \$489,734 for an MLT program director/faculty member and future adjunct faculty member
- \$95,000 in first year laboratory equipment costs to include: incubator, refrigerator, centrifuge, and spectrophotometer. These items will be purchased with warranty/service agreements. CVCC will also apply for a Workforce Grant to help with equipment purchases. Consumable items will be purchased through the allocated department budget.
- \$17,500 in accreditation expenses over the first seven years

As there are currently no CVCC faculty employed to teach the medical laboratory courses, CVCC will hire an MLT program director/faculty member who will have both administrative and teaching responsibilities. As the program grows, CVCC intends to bring on adjunct faculty.

Attachment 3

Chattahoochee Valley Community College
 Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician (CIP 51.1004)

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	*If New Course
ORI 105B: Orientation and Student Success with Technology	3	
ENG101: English Composition I	3	
BIO 103: Principles of Biology or BIO 201: Human Anatomy & Physiology I (BIO 201 prerequisite is not required for MLT students)	4	
MTH 100: Intermediate College Algebra	3	
PSY 200: General Psychology	3	
Humanities & Fine Arts Elective	3	
SPH 106: Fundamentals of Oral Communication or SPH 107: Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3	
MLT 111: Urinalysis	3	*
MLT 121: Hematology and Body Fluids	6	*
MLT 131: Laboratory Techniques	4	*
MLT 141: MLT Microbiology I	5	*
MLT 142: MLT Microbiology II	3	*
MLT 151: MLT Clinical Chemistry	5	*
MLT 161: Integrated Laboratory Simulation	2	*
MLT 181: Clinical Immunology	2	*
MLT 191: MLT Immunohematology	5	*
MLT 293: MLT Clinical Seminar	2	*
MLT 294: Medical Laboratory Practicum Hematology and Urinalysis	2	*
MLT 295: Medical Laboratory Practicum Microbiology	2	*
MLT 296: Medical Laboratory Practicum Immunohematology	2	*
MLT 297: Medical Laboratory Practicum Chemistry and Immunology	2	*
Total Hours Required for AAS in Medical Laboratory Technician	67	

DECISION ITEM: A-8

Gadsden State Community College, Associate of Applied Science and Certificate in Dental Assistant (CIP 51.0601)

Staff Presenter:

Mrs. Kristan White
Academic Program Analyst

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed Associate of Applied Science (AAS) and Certificate in Dental Assistant.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below.

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Fall 2022. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 1, 2024, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning 2023-24 will be at least 17.7, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2023-24 through 2028-29 (six-year average) will be at least 7.5, based on the adopted graduation rates as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8 (a)(2).
3. That the program achieves, or shows significant progress toward, specialized accreditation through the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).
4. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program will be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including data on related employment, pass rates for the national certification exam, and/or acceptance into a baccalaureate program.

Gadsden State Community College (GAD) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than January 1, 2029.

Background:

The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8 (c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting

plans for the new unit or program to the Commission for its review, evaluation, and approval.

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. This program will help meet statewide industry demand for dental assistants (SOC 31-9091), which are included on the State's In-Demand Occupations List.
2. This proposal includes five letters of support from local employers and economic developers attesting to the need for this program.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Application Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. Gadsden State Community College proposal, dated October 13, 2021, with supplementary information. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION: Gadsden State Community College								
PROGRAM: Associate of Applied Science and Certificate in Dental Assistant (CIP 51.0601)								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$101,559	\$113,529	\$113,529	\$113,529	\$113,529	\$113,529	\$113,529	\$782,733
LIBRARY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$2,050	\$2,091	\$2,091	\$2,091	\$2,140	\$2,140	\$2,140	\$14,743
TOTAL	\$103,609	\$115,620	\$115,620	\$115,620	\$115,669	\$115,669	\$115,669	\$797,476
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
INTERNAL REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EXTRAMURAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TUITION	\$159,900	\$159,900	\$213,200	\$213,200	\$213,200	\$213,200	\$213,200	\$1,385,800
TOTAL	\$159,900	\$159,900	\$213,200	\$213,200	\$213,200	\$213,200	\$213,200	\$1,385,800
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	15	15	18	18	20	20	17.7
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	15	15	18	18	20	20	17.7
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	15	15	18	18	20	20	17.7
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	12	12	15	16	16	16	14.5

Attachment 2
Summary of Background Information

Gadsden State Community College
Associate of Applied Science and Certificate in Dental Assistant (CIP 51.0601)

Program Description/Objectives: The proposed AAS in Dental Assisting will help to address a local and regional need for dental assistants due to an ageing workforce. Because there is a correlation between oral health and the overall well-being of individuals, not only will more dentists be needed, but individuals trained to assist them as well. The program will train students to communicate effectively with patients and dental team members, as well as understand proper infection control procedures, basic life-saving skills, and how to expose, mount, and print digital radiographs in a laboratory and clinical setting.

Role: The proposed program is within the instructional role for Gadsden State Community College (GAD).

Mode of Delivery: The program will be delivered via face-to-face instruction with corresponding laboratories. Students will also perform 360 practicum hours in local dental clinics and offices.

Similar Programs: Currently, there are four other community colleges in Alabama that offer an AAS in Dental Assisting: Calhoun Community College, Coastal Alabama Community College, Trenholm State Community College, and Wallace State Community College. Lawson State Community College was approved to begin offering an AAS in Dental Assisting in December 2021. Each of those schools also offer Certificates in Dental Assisting. All the above programs are fully accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

Relationship to Existing Offerings: The proposed program will be offered under the Department of Health Science and is associated with other health science programs offered at GAD, including Clinical Laboratory Technology (CIP 51.1004), Nursing (CIP 51.3801), and Emergency Medical Technician (CIP 51.0904). GAD intends to develop a program in Dental Hygiene that would share some resources with this proposed program.

Specialized Accreditation: GAD intends to seek specialized accreditation for the proposed program through the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

Professional Licensure/Certification: Licensure of dental assistants is not required in Alabama, but is preferred by employers. The proposed program will prepare students to be successful on the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam administered by the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Industry Need: The proposed program is intended to prepare students for employment as dental assistants (SOC 31-9091), an occupation which is included on the Statewide In-Demand Occupations List. Labor market projections indicate that there are 470 annual openings in dental assisting across the State of Alabama. The Dental Assistant program will fulfill a growing job need for entry-level dental assistants for Alabama's Workforce Region 2. According to Alabama Department of Labor's Region 2 Occupation Projections 2012-2022 report, Dental Assistants were projected to have annual job growth of 70 jobs through 2022 with an annual need of approximately 30 jobs per year. Similarly, the EMSI 2021 Program Overview for Region 2 projected 85 annual openings for Dental Assistants through the year 2030.

Program Budget: The proposal projects that \$797,476 in new funds will be required to support the proposed program over the first seven years. The program is expected to generate \$1,385,800 through tuition. Projected expenses include the following:

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- \$782,733 for a new program administrator/full-time faculty member.
- \$14,743 in CODA accreditation fees over the first seven years.

Attachment 3

Gadsden State Community College
 Associate of Applied Science and Certificate in Dental Assistant (CIP 51.0601)

Associate of Science:

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	*If New Course
ENG 101: English Composition I	3	
Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3	
SPH 106: Fundamentals of Oral Communication	3	
MTH 100: College Intermediate Algebra or higher	3	
BIO 201: Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4	
PSY 200: General Psychology	3	
PSY 210: Human Growth & Development	3	
CIS 146: Microcomputer Applications	3	
ORI 110: College Orientation	1	
EMS 100: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	1	
DAT 100: Introduction to Dental Assisting	2	*
DAT 101: Preclinical Procedures I	3	*
DAT 102: Dental Materials	3	*
DAT 103: Dental Anatomy & Physiology	3	*
DAT 104: Basic Sciences for Dental Assisting	2	*
DAT 111: Clinical Practice I	5	*
DAT 112: Dental Radiology	3	*
DAT 113: Dental Health Education	2	*
DAT 114: Dental Office Administration	4	*
DAT 116: Pre-Clinical Procedures II	3	*
DAT 122: Clinical Practice II	4	*
DAT 123: Dental Assisting Seminar	4	*
Total Hours Required for AAS in Dental Assisting	65	

Certificate

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	*If New Course
EMS 100: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	1	
DAT 100: Introduction to Dental Assisting	2	*
DAT 101: Preclinical Procedures I	3	*
DAT 102: Dental Materials	3	*
DAT 103: Dental Anatomy & Physiology	3	*
DAT 104: Basic Sciences for Dental Assisting	2	*
DAT 111: Clinical Practice I	5	*
DAT 112: Dental Radiology	3	*
DAT 113: Dental Health Education	2	*
DAT 114: Dental Office Administration	4	*
DAT 116: Pre-Clinical Procedures II	3	*
DAT 122: Clinical Practice II	4	*
DAT 123: Dental Assisting Seminar	4	*
Total Hours Required for CER in Dental Assisting	39	

DECISION ITEM: A-9

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College, Associate of Applied Science in Building Construction (CIP 46.0415)

Staff Presenter:

Mrs. Kristan White
Academic Program Analyst

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the proposed AAS in Building Construction.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below.

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented Fall 2022. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 13, 2024, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning 2023-24 will be at least 26, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2023-24 through 2028-29 (six-year average) will be at least 7.5, based on the adopted graduation rates as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8 (a)(2).
3. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program will be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal, including data on related employment, pass rates on state licensure exams, and/or acceptance into a baccalaureate program.

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College (LBW) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2029.

Background:

The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8 (c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting plans for the new unit or program to the Commission for its review, evaluation, and approval.

Staff recommendation for approval is based on the following rationale:

1. This program will help meet industry demand for skilled construction trades workers, which appear on Alabama's Statewide In-Demand Occupations List.
2. This proposal includes four letters of strong support from the following future industry partners and local officials: Wyatt Sasser Construction, Wright Brothers Construction, Crenshaw County Commission, Crenshaw County Schools.

Supporting Documentation:

1. New Academic Degree Program Application Summary, attached.
2. Summary of Background Information, attached.
3. Curriculum for Proposed Program, attached.
4. Lurleen B. Wallace Community College proposal, dated November 4, 2021, with supplementary information. Available upon request.
5. "Evaluation and Review of New Instructional Program Proposals of Public Postsecondary Institutions," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.03. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION: Lurleen B. Wallace Community College								
PROGRAM: Associate of Applied Science in Building Construction (CIP 46.0415)								
ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$107,517	\$107,517	\$107,517	\$107,517	\$112,263	\$112,263	\$112,263	\$766,857
LIBRARY	\$500	\$250	\$250	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$1,400
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$150,000
STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$208,017	\$132,767	\$112,767	\$112,767	\$117,363	\$117,363	\$117,363	\$918,257
SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	TOTAL
INTERNAL REALLOCATIONS	\$47,500	\$44,400	\$14,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$106,500
EXTRAMURAL	\$105,206	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$105,206
TUITION	\$55,404	\$88,452	\$98,172	\$121,500	\$147,744	\$171,072	\$197,316	\$879,660
TOTAL	\$208,110	\$132,852	\$112,772	\$121,500	\$147,744	\$171,072	\$197,316	\$1,091,366
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	6-YEAR AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	10	11	14	17	20	23	15.8
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	7	8	9	11	12	14	10.2
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	17	19	23	28	32	37	26
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	11	12	14	17	20	22	16
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the degree completions projections average.</i>								
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	4	6	7	9	11	13	8.3

Attachment 2 Summary of Background Information

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College
Associate of Applied Science in Building Construction (CIP 46.0415)

Program Description/Objectives: The proposed AAS in Building Construction will prepare students to apply technical knowledge and skills to residential and commercial building construction and remodeling. The program includes instruction in construction equipment and safety; site preparation and layout; construction estimating; blueprint reading; building codes; framing; masonry; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning; electrical and mechanical systems; interior and exterior finishing; and plumbing. Students will gain the knowledge, skills, abilities, and certifications/licensure necessary to gain employment in building construction trades.

Role: The proposed program is within the instructional role for Lurleen B. Wallace Community College (LBW).

Mode of Delivery: The program will be delivered via face-to-face instruction, with supplementary materials available through the Canvas learning management system. The program does not require an internship or practicum. The course BUC238: Cooperative Work Experience is designed to provide students with an opportunity to work directly with local employers in the construction industry.

Similar Programs: Currently, Lawson State Community College offers an AAS in Building Construction (CIP 46.0499) and Trenholm State Community College offers an AAT in Building Construction (CIP 46.0499). Northeast Alabama Community College began offering a Building Construction Technology program (CIP 46.0415) in Fall 2021.

Relationship to Existing Offerings: LBW currently offers skilled trades programs in Advanced Manufacturing Technology (CIP 15.0613), which include Welding, Industrial Electronics, and Air Conditioning and Refrigeration.

Specialized Accreditation: LBW intends to seek program accreditation through the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) within the next five years. Based on ACCE criteria that institutions must have at least one class of graduates prior to seeking accreditation, the College will be eligible to apply for candidacy in 2024.

Professional Licensure/Certification: Industry credentials, including OSHA 10 and the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Core, will be incorporated into the curriculum. The college will ensure that programs prepare graduates to sit for state licensure examinations administered through the State of Alabama Home Builders Licensure Board; State of Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board; Alabama Board of Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors.

Public Review: The program was posted on the Commission website from January 27, 2022 to February 15, 2022 (twenty days) for public review and comments. No comments were received.

Industry Need: The proposed program is designed to prepare graduates for employment as Construction Trades Workers and Construction Laborers (SOC 47-2000/47-2061), Carpenters (SOC 47-2031), and Construction Managers (SOC 11-9021), which are all included on the 2021 Statewide In-Demand Occupations list and the Alabama Demand Occupations 2020-2021 list for Regions 6 and 7. In addition, LBW conducted a local industry survey, which indicated that 93% of respondents felt there is a need for an associate degree in building construction, and 100% of respondents would hire graduates with training in building construction. Construction-related programs at LBW include Welding (WDT) and Industrial Electronics (ILT). Currently, Welding (WDT) and Industrial Electronics (ILT) are the largest technical programs at the College, with 307 combined students enrolled during the FA21 semester. Those programs also have high dual enrollment populations and strong support from service area high schools.

About 20% of those students live in close proximity to the Luverne Center, where the Building Construction program will be located.

Program Budget: The proposal projects that \$918,257 in new funds will be required to support the proposed program over the first seven years. The program is expected to generate \$879,660 through tuition, with supplemental funds of \$211,706 required to support the program in its first three years. Projected expenses include the following:

- \$766,857 for the new full-time faculty member hired for the building construction program in September 2021.
- \$125,000 in equipment expenses in the first two years and \$5000 per year for the next five.
- \$1,400 for additional library resources. The program instructor is working with the Director of Learning Resources to identify new books, online databases, and audio/visual materials for the program. LBW has allocated additional library funding for years 1-7 to ensure that the collection is developed appropriately.

Attachment 3

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College
 Associate of Applied Science in Building Construction (CIP 46.0415)

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	*If New Course
GENERAL EDUCATION (22 HOURS)	22	
ORI101: Orientation to College	1	
MTH100: Intermediate College Algebra or higher	3	
ENG101: English Composition I	3	
CIS146: Microcomputer Applications	3	
MTH246: Mathematics of Finance	3	
SPH106: Fundamentals of Oral Communication	3	
PSY200: General Psychology or other social science	3	
MUS101: Music Appreciation or other humanities/fine arts	3	
CORE CURRICULUM (46 HOURS)	46	
BUC110: Basic Construction Tools and Materials	3	*
BUC111: Basic Construction Layout	3	*
BUC113: Basic Construction Print Reading	3	*
CAR232: Construction Project Management	3	*
BUC121: Floors and Walls Framing	3	*
BUC115: Roof and Ceiling Framing	3	*
BUC133: Building Codes	3	*
CMT206: Construction Estimating	3	*
CMT175: Electrical & Plumbing Systems	3	*
CMT170: HVAC Systems	3	*
CAR132: Interior and Exterior Finishing	3	*
CAR203: Special Projects in Carpentry	3	*
CMT208: Project Planning and Scheduling	3	*
CMT114:10 Hour OSHA Construction Safety	1	*
BUS238: Cooperative Work Experience	3	*
CAR230: Residential Repair and Remodeling	3	*
Total Hours Required for AAS in Building Construction Degree	68	

INFORMATION ITEM: B-1

Implementation of Non-Degree Programs at Senior Institutions

Staff Presenter:

Mrs. Kristan White
Academic Program Review Analyst

Staff Recommendation:

For information only.

Background:

Commission guidelines state that non-degree programs of senior institutions, including pre-baccalaureate, post-baccalaureate, and post-master's certificates, do not require Commission approval, but they must be reported to the Commission prior to implementation.

In accordance with these guidelines, the following institutions have sent notification regarding the non-degree programs indicated, with further details in the attached summary:

Athens State University

- Undergraduate Certificate: Occupational Health and Safety Management (CIP 51.2206, Level 1)

Auburn University

- Graduate Certificate: Aviation Hospitality Management (CIP 49.0104, Level 6)

Jacksonville State University

- Graduate Certificate: Teaching College World History (CIP 54.0101, Level 6)
- Graduate Certificate: Local History (CIP 54.0101, Level 6)
- Graduate Certificate: Teaching College U.S. History (CIP 54.0101, Level 6)

University of Alabama

- Graduate Certificate: Digital Communication (CIP 09.0903, Level 6)

University of North Alabama

- Undergraduate Certificate: Restorative Justice (CIP 45.9999, Level 1)

Supporting Documentation:

1. Summary of Proposed Non-Degree Programs at Senior Institutions, attached.
2. "Reasonable Extensions and Alterations of Existing Units and Programs of Instruction," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.06. Available upon request.
3. Written unpublished documentation provided by the institutions. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

Summary of Proposed Non-Degree Programs at Senior Institutions

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY (ATSU)

Undergraduate Certificate: Occupational Health and Safety Management (CIP 51.2206, Level 1)

Offered by the Occupational Health and Safety Management, this certificate will afford professionals without safety degrees, holding positions in the field of occupational health and safety, the opportunity to gain relevant professional knowledge necessary in executing the managerial and technical skills required on a daily basis. The certificate will also afford an avenue for continuing education units required by many professional certifying organizations. This certificate requires 15 credit hours and will be offered 100% online.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY (AU)

Graduate Certificate: Aviation Hospitality Management (CIP 49.0104, Level 6)

Offered by the Department of Aviation in the College of Liberal Arts in collaboration with the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics, and Hospitality Management in the College of Human Sciences, the Graduate Certificate in Aviation Hospitality Management is intended for Aviation Management, Professional Flight, and Hospitality Management – Hotel and Restaurant Management Option degree students. The certificate requires 15 semester hours from the Aviation Management and Hospitality Management programs. Aviation and Hotel and Restaurant Management Option students use 6 semester hours from their core major curriculum and 9 hours from the collaborating program curriculum. Completion of this certificate will appear on the official Auburn University transcript. The holder of a Certificate in Aviation Hospitality Management will have a depth of knowledge and a more strategic view of the aviation industry. This enhanced professional competency will enable them to become effective company representatives and a preferred source to fill flight attendant, supervisor, and managerial positions.

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY (JSU)

Graduate Certificate: Teaching College World History (CIP 54.0101, Level 6)

Offered by the Department of History and Foreign Languages, the Teaching College World History Graduate Certificate is a nine-credit hour program that will help prepare an individual to teach world history survey courses in college survey courses. Students pursuing this certificate will take coursework on the pedagogy of teaching a college history survey course sequence and graduate content classes. After completing the three courses, the individual will be better prepared to teach these undergraduate general education courses at any two- or four-year college. Students may enroll in this program as a stand-alone graduate certificate program, but this graduate certificate may also be embedded within, and count as credit toward, the Master of Arts in History (CIP 54.0101). This certificate requires 9 credit hours and will be offered 100% online.

Graduate Certificate: Local History (CIP 54.0101, Level 6)

Offered by the Department of History and Foreign Languages, the Local History Graduate Certificate will train students in the practice of history, the collection of historically important material, and its preservation, with a focus on local and regional history. This program will allow master's students and others to focus on applying historical techniques to local and often under-served communities, raising

awareness of the importance of the unique history of various groups and places. Successful graduates will become catalysts for the preservation and examination of the history in their localities. Students may enroll in this program as a stand-alone graduate certificate program, but this graduate certificate may also be embedded within, and count as credit toward, the Master of Arts in History (CIP 54.0101). This certificate requires 12 credit hours and will be offered 100% online.

Graduate Certificate: Teaching College U.S. History (CIP 54.0101, Level 6)

Offered by the Department of History and Foreign Languages, the Teaching College U.S. History Graduate Certificate is a nine-credit hour program that will certify an individual in teaching the United States history survey courses at the college level. Students pursuing this certificate will take coursework on the pedagogy of teaching a college history survey course and graduate content classes. After completing the three courses, the individual will be prepared to teach these undergraduate general education courses at any two- or four-year college. Students may enroll in this program as a stand-alone graduate certificate program, but this graduate certificate may also be embedded within, and count as credit toward, the Master of Arts in History (CIP 54.0101). This certificate requires 9 credit hours and will be offered 100% online.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA (UA)

Graduate Certificate: Digital Communication (CIP 09.0903, Level 6)

Offered by the Department of Advertising and Public Relations, this online Graduate Certificate in Digital Communication is designed for students—primarily not residing in Tuscaloosa—who seek more advanced training in managing persuasive communication across digital platforms. It will be geared towards working professionals in advertising, public relations, marketing and related fields, as well as students in graduate programs outside advertising and public relations or marketing. These programs typically include, but are not limited to English, creative writing, political science and consumer sciences. This certificate requires 15 credit hours and will be offered 100% online.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA (UNA)

Undergraduate Certificate: Restorative Justice (CIP 45.9999, Level 1)

This certificate will be offered by the Department of Politics, Justice, Law, and Philosophy. In Spring 2018, UNA launched the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, which brings incarcerated (“inside”) and university (“outside”) students together in the same classroom. EN 492 (The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program) was cross-listed with Political Science (PS) and Criminal Justice (CJ) and delivered at Limestone Correctional Facility in Harvest, Alabama. It became an annual course offering in 2019. The program has received grant funding to support tuition for inside students, as well as program expansion into a full credential. The grant has also supported the training of 5 additional faculty to teach Restorative Justice courses through the Inside-Out model. We are proposing an interdisciplinary certificate in Restorative Justice to be delivered at Limestone Correctional Facility through the Inside-Out model. The program will be available for both inside (incarcerated) and outside (university) students. This certificate requires 18 credit hours and less than 50% of courses will be offered online.

INFORMATION ITEM: B-2

Changes to the Academic Program Inventory

Staff Presenter:

Mrs. Kristan White
Academic Program Analyst

Staff Recommendation:

For information only.

Background:

Alabama Administrative Code, Chapter 300-2-1-.06, "Reasonable Extensions and Alterations of Existing Units of Instruction," provides that an institution may request changes to its program offerings within the Academic Program Inventory. Changes that are considered both "reasonable" and "non-substantive" are submitted as information items not requiring Commission approval. Substantive changes, however, require Commission approval.

Non-substantive changes include the following: 1) changes in program titles or CIP codes or degree nomenclatures at the same level (except doctoral, which is always considered substantive), provided that no changes in program requirements, content, or objectives are made, and provided that the new nomenclature replaces the current designation; 2) programs placed on inactive status or deleted from the Academic Program Inventory; 3) change in award for completion from Diploma to Associate in Applied Technology in technical colleges, provided certain conditions are met; 4) change in award for completion from Associate in Applied Technology to Associate in Applied Science in technical colleges, provided certain conditions are met; and 5) change in award for completion from Diploma and/or Certificate to Associate in Applied Science in community colleges.

Supporting Documentation:

1. Proposed Changes to Academic Program Inventory, attached.
2. Academic Program Inventory. Available on the Commission's Website: www.ache.edu.
3. "Reasonable Extensions and Alterations of Existing Units and Programs of Instruction," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1.06. Available upon request.
4. Written unpublished documentation provided by the institutions. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

Proposed Changes to the Academic Program Inventory

A. Changes in CIP Codes, Program Titles, or Degree Nomenclature

The following changes in CIP codes, program titles, or degree nomenclature represent no changes in program requirements, content, and objectives and are recommended as information items.

Four-Year Institutions

Auburn University at Montgomery	45.0602 45.0603	Applied Economics, MS
Jacksonville State University	50.0501	Drama, BA Theatre, BA
University of Alabama at Birmingham	16.0101	Foreign Languages and Literatures, BA World Languages and Literatures, BA

Two-Year Institutions

None

B. Program Inventory Deletions

Institutions may elect to delete program entries/awards from the Commission's Academic Program Inventory. However, institutions understand that these programs/awards cannot be reinstated to the Academic Program Inventory in the future without undergoing the regular process for new program review and approval.

Four-Year Institutions

University of South Alabama	13.9999	Bachelor of Science in Educational Studies
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Two-Year Institutions

None

C. Programs Placed on Inactive Status

Institutions may elect to place programs on inactive status in the Commission's Academic Program Inventory. While a program is on inactive status, no new students may be admitted. If an inactive program has not been reinstated within five years, it will be removed from the Commission's Academic Program Inventory.

Troy University	11.0101	Associate of Science in Computer Science
Troy University	42.2803	Master of Science in General Counseling

INFORMATION ITEM: B-3

Implementation of Distance Education Programs

Staff Presenter:

Mrs. Kristan White
Academic Program Analyst

Staff Recommendation:

For information only.

Background:

Commission policy states that academic programs approved by the Commission do not require additional approval to be configured and offered as distance education programs. However, institutions preparing to offer existing programs as distance education offerings must report this intent to the Commission prior to implementation.

In compliance with the Commission's policy on distance education, the following institutions have reported plans to implement the distance education programs listed, effective 2022.

Auburn University at Montgomery

M.S. in Social Work (CIP 44.0701)

University of Alabama at Birmingham

M.S. in Biotechnology (CIP 26.1201)

University of South Alabama

B.S. in Radiologic Sciences (CIP 51.0907)

Supporting Documentation:

1. "Policy on Distance Education," Ala. Admin Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.10. Available upon request.
2. Written unpublished documentation provided by the institutions. Available upon request.

INFORMATION ITEM: B-4

Updates to Units of Instruction, Research, Public Service, and Administration

Staff Presenter:

Mrs. Kristan White
Academic Program Review Analyst

Staff Recommendation:

For information only.

Background:

According to the Commission's definitions relating to program review (Alabama Administrative Code, Chapter 300-2-1, Review of Programs & Other Units of Instruction), a department is an instructional unit encompassing a discrete branch of study, usually located within a division and/or a school or college.

Administrative changes at the department level, such as establishing a new department, combining two or more departments into a single department, or dividing a department into two or more departments, are considered non-substantive and do not require Commission approval. However, before any of these changes may be implemented, they must be presented to the Commission as information items. If the administrative change creates a more prominent unit of instruction such as a division or school, Commission approval as a new unit is required. Establishment or changes to units of administration, research, or public service, are also considered non-substantive.

ACHE staff has reviewed the submissions included in Attachment 1 as non-substantive changes to institutional units.

Supporting Documentation:

1. Proposed Non-substantive Updates to Institutional Units, attached.
2. Definitions Recognized by the Commission," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1.01. Available upon request.
3. "Reasonable Extensions and Alterations of Existing Units and Programs of Instruction," Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1.06. Available upon request.
4. Written unpublished documentation provided by the institutions. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

Proposed Non-Substantive Updates to Institutional Units

A. Establishment of Units

- University of Alabama, Establishment of the Alabama Mobility and Power Center as a New Unit of Research
- University of Alabama, Establishment of the Center for Substance Use Research and Related Conditions as a New Unit of Research
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, Establishment of the Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health as a New Unit of Research
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, Establishment of the Mary Heersink Institute for Biomedical Innovation as a New Unit of Research

B. Unit Name Changes

- Auburn University, Change in the Name of the Department of Aviation to the School of Aviation
- Auburn University, Change in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences to the College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
- Auburn University, Change in the Name of the Harrison School of Pharmacy to the Harrison College of Pharmacy
- Auburn University, Change in the Name of the School of Nursing to the College of Nursing
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, Change in the name of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to the Department of World Languages and Literatures

C. Reorganization of Units

- None

D. Dissolution of Units

- None

INFORMATION ITEM: B-5

Extensions/Alterations to Existing Programs of Instruction

Staff Presenter:

Mrs. Kristan White
Academic Program Analyst

Staff Recommendation:

For information only.

Background:

The Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 16-5-8 (c) states:

“The governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of any new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting plans for the new unit or program to the commission for its review, evaluation, and approval. No state funds shall be expended by any public institution on any new unit or program of instruction which has not been approved by the commission.... The term ‘new unit of instruction’.... does not include reasonable extensions or alterations of existing curricula, or programs which have a direct relationship to existing programs. The commission may, under its rulemaking power, define the character of the reasonable extensions and alterations.”

As directed in the Code of Alabama Section cited above, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education has defined what is considered as “reasonable.” See Alabama Administrative Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.06.

The staff has reviewed the items listed in Attachment 1 and has determined that they are reasonable extensions/alterations of existing programs.

Consistent with Commission policy and operational definitions, specializations will not be identified separately in the Commission’s Academic Program Inventory, and the institutions may not identify them as degree programs.

Supporting Documentation:

1. Proposed Non-Substantive Extensions and Alterations to Existing Programs of Instruction, attached.
2. “Reasonable Extensions and Alterations of Existing Units and Programs of Instruction,” Ala. Admin. Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.06. Available upon request.
3. “Guidelines for Approval of Certificate Programs in Existing Associate Applied Science (AAS) and Associate in Applied Technology (AAT) Programs.” Available upon request.
4. Written unpublished documentation provided by the institutions. Available upon request.

Attachment 1

Proposed Non-Substantive Extensions and Alterations to Existing Programs of Instruction

Four-Year Institutions

Auburn University at Montgomery

1. Addition of a Concentration in Data Science to the Existing BS in Mathematics (CIP 27.0101)

Troy University

1. Addition of a Concentration in General Studies to the existing MS in Criminal Justice Administration (CIP 43.0103)
2. Addition of a Concentration in Business Intelligence to the existing MBA in Business Administration (CIP 52.0201)
3. Addition of a Concentration in Hybrid Arts to the existing MBA in Business Administration (CIP 52.0201)
4. Addition of a Concentration in Music Industry to the existing MBA in Business Administration (CIP 52.0201)

University of Alabama

1. Addition of a Concentration in Sports Media to the existing MA in Journalism and Media Studies (CIP 09.0499)
2. Addition of a Concentration in Community Journalism to the existing MA in Journalism and Media Studies (CIP 09.0499)
3. Addition of a Concentration in Digital Communication to the existing MA in Advertising and Public Relations (CIP 09.0903)

University of Alabama at Birmingham

1. Addition of a Track in Bioinformatics to the existing PhD in Biomedical Engineering (CIP 14.0501)

University of Montevallo

1. Addition of a Concentration in Human Resources to the existing BBA in Business Administration (CIP 52.0201)
2. Addition of a Concentration in International Management to the existing BBA in Business Administration (CIP 52.0201)
3. Addition of a Concentration in Financial Sales to the existing BBA in Finance (CIP 52.0801)
4. Addition of a Concentration in Sustainable Finance to the existing BBA in Finance (CIP 52.0801)

University of North Alabama

1. Addition of a Concentration in Professional Health Science to the Existing BS/BA in Chemistry (CIP 40.0501)

Alabama Community College System

None

INFORMATION ITEM: B-6

Implementation of New Short Certificate Programs (Less than 30 Semester Hours)

Staff Presenter:

Mrs. Kristan White
Academic Program Analyst

Staff Recommendation:

For information only.

Background:

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) reports the approval of short-term certificate programs (less than 30 semester hours) at the following two-year colleges in the fields of study listed below:

Bishop State Community College CIP Code

General Education 24.0102

Bevill State Community College CIP Code

Urban Forestry Technician 03.0508

Sterile Processing Technology/ Technician 51.1012

Coastal Alabama Community College CIP Code

Plumbing Technology 46.0503

Wallace State Community College-Hanceville CIP Code

Greenhouse Technician 01.0601

Landscape Technician 01.0601

Nursery Technician 01.0601

Turf Technician 01.0601

Construction Science 46.0499

FAME- Industrial Electronics 47.0105

Medical Assistant 51.0710

INFORMATION ITEM: B-7

Summary of Post-Implementation Reports

Staff Presenter:

Mrs. Kristan White
Academic Program Analyst

Staff Recommendation:

For information only.

Background:

Commission policy requires institutions to submit a post-implementation performance report for each approved program following its post-implementation monitoring period. All program approvals include post-implementation conditions around average annual new enrollments, average annual graduates, and program assessment. Certain program approvals include additional conditions related to specialized accreditation, licensure of graduates, further financial oversight, viability of existing programs, or other conditions unique to the proposed program.

In compliance with Commission policy, the following reports have been received:

Programs Meeting Post-Implementation Conditions

- Athens State University, Master of Education in Career and Technical Education (CIP 13.1319)
- Auburn University, Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology (CIP 42.2803)

Programs Not Meeting Post-Implementation Conditions

- None

Supporting Documentation:

1. "Operational Policy on the Approval, Disapproval, Deferral, and Withdrawal of New Programs of Instruction," Ala. Admin Code (Commission on Higher Education), r. 300-2-1-.04. Available upon request.
2. Unpublished post-implementation reports submitted by the institutions. Available upon request.
3. Summary of Reports on Post-Implementation Conditions, attached.

a) Summary of Reports on Programs that Met Post-Implementation Conditions

**Athens State University
 Master of Education (MEd) in Career and Technical Education (CIP 13.1319)
 MET POST-IMPLEMENTATION CONDITIONS**

Approved by Commission: June 10, 2016

Proposed Implementation Date: January 2017

Actual Implementation Date: January 2017

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning in 2017-18 through 2021-22 (five-year average) will be at least 13, based on the proposal.
2. That the average number of graduates for the academic years 2017-18 through 2020-21 (four-year average) will be at least 3.75, based on the state minimum requirement.
3. That a follow-up survey be conducted after the first five years that will show at least 75 percent of the graduates were successful in acquiring related employment or in acceptance to a baccalaureate program.
4. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program will be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal.

Master of Education in Career and Technical Education (CIP 13.1319)	Average New Enrollment Headcount 2017-18 through 2021-22	Average Number of Graduates, 2017-18 through and 2020-21	Percentage of Graduates Employed in The Field
Required	13	3.75	75%
Reported	53	29.5	100%
	Exceeded	Exceeded	Info only

Condition 1: Enrollment condition met.

Condition 2: Graduate condition met.

Condition 3: Employment or continuing education condition was met, though this condition is now for information only.

Condition 4: Assessment condition met.

Auburn University
Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology (CIP 42.2803)
MET POST-IMPLEMENTATION CONDITIONS

Approved by Commission: December 9, 2016

Proposed Implementation Date: January 2017

Actual Implementation Date: January 2017

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning in 2017 through 2021 (five-year average) will be at least 5, based on the proposal.
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the academic years 2017 through 2021 (five-year average) will be at least 3.75, based on the state minimum requirement.
3. That a follow-up survey be conducted after the first five years that will show at least 75 percent of the graduates were successful in acquiring related employment or in acceptance to graduate school.
4. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program will be provided, particularly as related to objectives and assessment measures stated in the proposal.

Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology (CIP 42.2803)	Average New Enrollment Headcount 2017 through 2021	Average Number of Graduates between 2017 and 2021	Percentage of Graduates Employed in The Field
Required	5	3.75	75%
Reported	7.6*	7.4**	100%
	Exceeded	Exceeded	Info only

Condition 1: Enrollment condition met. *Twelve of seventeen students in 2017 were already enrolled in the Counseling Psychology doctoral program when the MA degree option became available. Students in the doctoral program are eligible to obtain the MA degree during the course of their program of study. When the twelve students are removed from the 2017 count, the MA program still met enrollment with 5.2 average new students.

Condition 2: Graduate condition met. **When the twelve students are removed from the 2017 graduate count, the MA program still met graduate requirements with 5 average graduates.

Condition 3: Employment or continuing education condition was met, though this condition is now for information only. All graduates but one (who obtained employment at a university counseling center) continued their education in the AU Counseling Psychology doctoral program.

Condition 4: Assessment condition met.

b) Summary of Reports on Programs that Did Not Meet Post-Implementation Conditions

None