
Docket Item:

SB3 (Applied Baccalaureate) Implementation Update

Summary:

SB3 was signed by Governor Brown on June 6, 2019 with an effective date of January 1, 2020. This bill allows community colleges to offer applied baccalaureate degrees if approved to do so by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. In order to gather input from stakeholders and inform the rulemaking process, the HECC has convened Rules Advisory Committee (RAC). Staff plan to bring rules to the April HECC meeting for approval.

Docket Material:

Program Approval

Senate Bill 3 allows community colleges to offer applied baccalaureate degrees if approved to do so by the HECC. For each applied baccalaureate program a community college wants to offer, the law requires the college to submit to HECC:

- (a) A description of the program to be offered;
- (b) The method by which the program will be created, including any necessary accreditation by the relevant accrediting agency;
- (c) Documentation of local unmet workforce needs that would be addressed by offering the program; and
- (d) Documentation that the community college has the expertise, resources and student interest necessary to make the program successful.

The Commission shall approve a proposed applied baccalaureate program if the college submits all of the necessary documentation, and if the commission determines that the criteria set forth in ORS 350.075 (3)(g) are met. Those criteria are that programs:

- (a) Are consistent with the mission statement of the community college or public university;
- (b) Do not unnecessarily duplicate academic programs offered by Oregon's other community colleges or public universities;
- (c) Are not located in a geographic area that will cause undue hardship to Oregon's other community colleges or public universities; and
- (d) Are allocated among Oregon's community colleges and public universities to maximize the achievement of statewide needs and requirements.

Key Issues for Consideration

At the first meeting of the RAC, several issues were identified that need to be addressed in the rulemaking and program approval processes. These include: when and how community colleges will give notice of their intent to develop an applied baccalaureate program, when and how community colleges will seek input from other institutions, how workforce demand (current and future) will be demonstrated, how undue hardship to other institutions will be defined (which will need to include competition for clinical sites for health science programs, and specificity about definition and structure for applied baccalaureate programs. HECC staff will propose approaches for addressing all of these issues in advance of the second meeting of the RAC.

Rules Development Process

A timeline for rule development and program approval is below. HECC has created a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) to provide input on the new rules. The RAC is comprised of representatives from OCCA (1), Oregon Council of Presidents (1), Alliance of Independent Colleges (1), OHSU (1), public universities (1), community colleges (1 urban, 1 rural), a workforce board member (1), and a private higher education institution (1). At this point, we anticipate three meetings of the RAC before rules are submitted to Secretary of State.

Month	OAR Development	Staff Review and Approval Process
August 2019	HECC staff begin review of community college applied baccalaureate approval policies in other states	HECC staff begin review of community college applied baccalaureate review procedures in other states
October 2019	Rules Advisory Committee formed to propose OAR and discuss fiscal impact. First meeting took place October 30.	Develop then implement project plan with IT staff and CCWD team for program approval system.
November 2019	Development of program approval process outline	
December 2019	Second meeting of RAC will be December 3, 2019. Begin development of rule language	
January 2020	Third meeting of RAC to discuss proposed rule language	Program review procedures under development
February 2020	Submit rules to Secretary of State	Program review procedures near final
March 2020	Public hearing held between March 15 and March 21, 2020. Rules finalized	
April 2020	OAR adopted by HECC on April 9, 2020	Applied Baccalaureate programs may be submitted to HECC staff for review
May 2020		Applied Baccalaureate program eligible for approval by HECC at May 14, 2020 Commission meeting

Staff Recommendation:

This is an informational and discussion item only.