

**DATE:** January 29, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Status of Academic Program Inventory

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Information

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Tennessee Higher Education Commission maintains an academic program inventory (API) that track changes in the programmatic activity for public higher education institutions. The API is used for a variety of applications in support of the Commission’s mission, including the student information system, performance funding and the SREB Academic Common Market. Currently, there are 1,297 active program offerings at our public universities and community colleges. A total of 849 or 65 percent of these programs are offered at the pre-baccalaureate and baccalaureate level. This report focuses on the program terminations and approvals by the governing boards and new program approvals by the Commission from 2000 to 2008 as well as overall program productivity.

**Program Approvals and Terminations**

The Commission has the statutory responsibility to review and approve new academic programs. This responsibility is exercised so as to promote academic quality and to fulfill student demand, employer need and societal requirements. The responsibility of program termination lies with the two governing boards, the Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee, although the Commission staff may recommend program termination to the governing boards.

New programs are developed as the needs and demands within the state warrant. Programs are typically terminated or consolidated into other programs to maintain the relevance of program offerings. During 2000 - 2008 a total of 192 new programs were approved by the Commission NS 208 programs were terminated by the governing boards. With this net decline of 16 academic programs, the number of programs has remained essentially constant.

***Program Approvals and Terminations 2000 – 2008***

	<b>New Programs</b>	<b>Terminations</b>	<b>Net Change</b>
TBR - Universities	65	70	-5
UT System	31	25	6
TBR - Community Colleges	96	113	-17
<b>Total Actions</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>-16</b>

Of the 192 new programs that were approved by the governing boards and the Commission since 2000, approximately 50 percent were approved at the pre-baccalaureate level. A total of 30 or 16 percent of new programs were approved at the baccalaureate level. Graduate programs accounted for 35 percent of all new program approvals.

**Program Approvals by Major Taxonomy, 2000 – 2008**

<b>Major Taxonomy</b>	<b>Certificate</b>	<b>Associate</b>	<b>Bachelors</b>	<b>Masters</b>	<b>Doctoral</b>	<b>Total</b>
Agriculture	2	1	0	1	1	<b>5</b>
Architecture	0	0	0	2	0	<b>2</b>
Area Studies	0	0	2	1	0	<b>3</b>
Biological Sciences	0	2	1	2	0	<b>5</b>
Business Management	8	4	2	3	1	<b>18</b>
Communications	1	1	1	1	0	<b>4</b>
Computer Science	3	3	1	2	1	<b>10</b>
Education	0	13	2	2	6	<b>23</b>
Engineering	1	3	6	3	5	<b>18</b>
English Languages	0	1	0	0	1	<b>2</b>
Health Professions	8	11	2	10	10	<b>41</b>
Home Economics	0	0	0	0	2	<b>2</b>
Industrial Arts	0	3	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Law and Legal Studies	0	2	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Liberal Arts and Science	2	2	3	1	0	<b>8</b>
Marketing Operations	1	0	1	0	0	<b>2</b>
Multidisciplinary Studies	0	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
Parks & Recreation	0	0	1	0	2	<b>3</b>
Physical Sciences	2	0	1	0	0	<b>3</b>
Protective Services	0	11	1	4	0	<b>16</b>
Psychology	0	0	0	0	3	<b>3</b>
Social Sciences & History	0	0	3	1	2	<b>6</b>
Trades and Industrial	8	1	0	0	0	<b>9</b>
Visual & Performing Arts	1	0	2	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>192</b>

- Of the 192 new programs approved since 2000, 116 or 60 percent of the programs were in five areas: health, education, engineering, business management and protective services.
- The greatest number of doctoral programs added were in health professions. These new programs responded primarily to changes in accreditation requirements for the Physical Therapy program as well as to the state’s public health initiative.
- Close to 40 percent of the new master’s programs were also in the area of health professions. The Regents On-line Degree Program for Nursing (MSN) was approved in April 2004. This program is available on-line and increases access to graduate nursing education in remote areas of the state and for practicing nurses for whom time and flexibility are critical.
- New baccalaureate programs were approved primarily in the areas of engineering, liberal arts and social sciences. The six (6) new engineering programs were in the areas of biomedical, computer and electrical engineering.
- At the associate’s degree level, the majority of new programs were approved in education and health. Over 60 percent of the new certificate programs at the community colleges were in the fields of trade/industrial, health and business.

**Program Terminations by Major Taxonomy, 2000 - 2008**

<b>Major Taxonomy</b>	<b>Certificate</b>	<b>Associate</b>	<b>Bachelors</b>	<b>Masters</b>	<b>Doctoral</b>	<b>Total</b>
Agriculture	1	0	0	1	2	<b>4</b>
Architecture	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Area Studies	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Biological Sciences	0	0	2	0	1	<b>3</b>
Business Management	11	9	5	3	0	<b>28</b>
Communications	1	0	1	0	0	<b>2</b>
Computer Science	10	5	1	0	0	<b>16</b>
Education	0	0	6	14	4	<b>24</b>
Engineering	8	19	2	1	1	<b>31</b>
English Languages	1	1	1	0	1	<b>4</b>
Foreign Languages	0	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Health Professions	6	6	4	3	0	<b>19</b>
Home Economics	2	0	5	0	0	<b>7</b>
Industrial Arts	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Law and Legal Studies	1	3	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
Liberal Arts & Science	3	0	2	0	0	<b>5</b>
Marketing Operations	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Mathematics	0	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
Multidisciplinary Studies	0	0	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
Parks & Recreation	0	0	4	4	1	<b>9</b>
Personal Improvement	3	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Physical Sciences	0	2	2	1	0	<b>5</b>
Protective Services	2	9	0	1	0	<b>12</b>
Psychology	0	0	1	0	1	<b>2</b>
Social Sciences & History	0	2	4	2	2	<b>10</b>
Trades and Industrial	5	5	0	0	0	<b>10</b>
Visual & Performing Arts	1	2	3	0	0	<b>6</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>208</b>

- Of the 208 programs terminated by the governing boards, 57 percent of the programs were in the areas of engineering, business, education, health professions and computer science.
- Of all programs terminated, 31 percent were at the associate degree level.
- The majority of programs terminated at both the baccalaureate and master's level were education programs.
- The majority of doctoral programs terminated were Ed.D. and D.A. degree designations. All of the Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) degrees were terminated at UT Knoxville. The Doctorate of Arts (D.A.) degree in four disciplines was terminated at Middle Tennessee State University. The D.A. degree has diminished in recognition on a national level and the new program approvals reflect the conversion of these programs to the traditional Ph.D. research degree.

### **Program Productivity**

One commonly used measure of program viability is the number of graduates produced annually. The benchmarks traditionally used in higher education for program viability are an average of 10 graduates per year over a five year period for bachelor's, associate, and certificate programs; 5 graduates for masters and specialist degrees; and 3 graduates for doctoral programs. Of the approximately 1300 active academic degree programs offered by institutions in the Tennessee Board of Regents and University of Tennessee systems, approximately 1000 (80 percent) successfully meet the benchmarks for a sufficient number of graduates for program viability. For institution-specific information, please refer to page 7 of this report.

#### ***Summary of Active and Low Producing Programs***

	<b>Active</b>	<b>Low Productivity</b>	<b>% Low Productivity</b>	<b>% Productive Programs</b>
TBR - Universities	539	75	14%	86%
UT System	383	87	23%	77%
TBR - Comm Colleges	375	101	27%	73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1297</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>80%</b>

#### ***Low Producing Programs by Major Taxonomy and Level***

Of the 263 programs identified as low-producing, approximately one-third of the programs are in the areas of health, education, and engineering. By program level, 27 percent of pre-baccalaureate programs, 21 percent of baccalaureate programs and 10 percent of master's programs did not meet their perspective benchmarks. Of particular concern is that 21 percent (26 of 121) doctoral degree programs did not meet their productivity threshold.

The profile of low producing programs by major taxonomy and level is provided on page 6. The following trends by program level are identified below:

#### **Pre-Baccalaureate Degree Programs**

Number of Active Certificate and Associate Degree Programs – **375**

Number of Low Producing Pre-Baccalaureate Programs – **101**

Percentage Low Producing Pre-Baccalaureate Programs – **27%**

- Of the 136 certificate programs, 54 or 40% are low producing
- Of the 239 Associate degree programs, 47 or 20% are low producing
- Top low producing program by major taxonomy:
  - Home Economics (Early Childhood Education) – 16 programs
  - Health Professions – 15 programs
  - Engineering – 13 programs
  - Protective Services – 10 programs
  - Trade and Industrial – 10 programs
  - Business Management – 10 programs
  - Agriculture – 7 programs
  - Computer and Information Systems – 6 programs

## **Baccalaureate Programs**

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Number of Active Baccalaureate Programs – **468**

Number of Low Producing Baccalaureate Programs – **100**

Percentage Low Producing Baccalaureate Programs – **21%**

- 23 Education programs (majority at UT Martin)
- 9 Engineering or Engineering Technology programs
- 9 Foreign Language programs
- Philosophy low-producing program at 5 universities
- Physics low-producing program at 8 universities
- Economics low-producing program at 6 universities
- Medical Technology low-producing at both UT Knoxville and Tennessee State University

## **Master's Degree Programs**

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Number of Active Master's Programs – **305**

Number of Low Producing Master's Programs – **32**

Percentage Low Producing Master's Programs – **10%**

- Six (6) Education programs
- Mathematics program at three universities (MTSU, TSU, and TTU)
- Chemistry program at three universities (UTK, TSU and TTU)

## **Educational Specialist Degree Programs**

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Number of Active Educational Specialist Programs – **14**

Number of Low Producing Educational Specialist Programs – **3**

Percentage Low Producing Educational Specialist Programs – **21%**

- Two programs at UT Knoxville and one program at Tennessee State University

## **Doctoral Degree Programs**

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Number of Active Doctoral Programs – **121**

- All doctoral programs at UT Chattanooga, East Tennessee and Tennessee Tech produce on average 3 graduates per year and meet benchmarks.

Number of Low Producing Doctoral Programs – **26**

Percentage Low Producing Doctoral Programs – **21%**

- Six (6) Biological Sciences programs
- Five (5) Engineering programs including the Biomedical Engineering dual program offered at both University of Memphis and UT Memphis Health Sciences Center
- History Ph.D. programs at both UT Knoxville and University of Memphis do not meet benchmarks

For additional information on program productivity, the following reports are posted on the THEC website:

- University of Tennessee System:

[http://state.tn.us/thec/Divisions/AcademicAffairs/productivity\\_ut/UT\\_Program\\_Productivity\\_Report\\_Jan\\_2009.pdf](http://state.tn.us/thec/Divisions/AcademicAffairs/productivity_ut/UT_Program_Productivity_Report_Jan_2009.pdf)

- Tennessee Board of Regents:

[http://state.tn.us/thec/Divisions/AcademicAffairs/productivity\\_tbr/TBR\\_Program\\_Productivity\\_Report\\_Jan\\_2009.pdf](http://state.tn.us/thec/Divisions/AcademicAffairs/productivity_tbr/TBR_Program_Productivity_Report_Jan_2009.pdf)

The governing boards are asked to respond by May 1, 2009 regarding institutional decisions to retain, consolidate, or terminate programs identified as low producing. At the July 2009 Commission meeting, THEC staff will provide a follow-up report on the 263 low producing programs.

***Low Producing Programs by Major Taxonomy and Level***

<b>Major Taxonomy</b>	<b>Certificate</b>	<b>Associate</b>	<b>Bachelors</b>	<b>Masters</b>	<b>Educational Specialist</b>	<b>Doctoral</b>	<b>Total</b>
Agriculture	4	3	1	1	0	1	<b>10</b>
Architecture	0	0	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Area Studies	0	0	2	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Biological Sciences	0	0	0	5	0	6	<b>11</b>
Business Management	8	3	3	1	0	1	<b>16</b>
Computer Science	5	1	0	0	0	1	<b>7</b>
Education	0	0	23	6	2	0	<b>31</b>
Engineering	6	6	9	1	0	5	<b>27</b>
English Languages	1	0	0	0	0	1	<b>2</b>
Foreign Languages	0	1	9	1	0	0	<b>11</b>
Health Professions	8	7	8	4	0	4	<b>31</b>
Home Economics	5	11	0	1	0	0	<b>17</b>
Industrial Arts	0	4	0	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
Law and Legal Studies	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Liberal Arts and Science	0	0	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Mathematics	0	0	3	3	0	0	<b>6</b>
Multidisciplinary Studies	0	0	3	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Personal & Misc Services	2	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Personal Improvement	2	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Philosophy	0	0	6	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
Physical Sciences	0	0	14	4	0	2	<b>20</b>
Protective Services	2	7	1	0	0	1	<b>11</b>
Psychology	0	0	0	1	1	0	<b>2</b>
Social Sciences & History	1	1	9	2	0	3	<b>16</b>
Trades and Industrial	8	2	0	1	0	0	<b>11</b>
Visual & Performing Arts	2	1	7	1	0	1	<b>12</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>263</b>

**Program Productivity**

	<b>Active Programs</b>	<b>Low Productivity Programs</b>	<b>% Low Productivity</b>	<b>% Productive Programs</b>
<b>Austin Peay</b>	55	5	9%	91%
<b>East Tennessee</b>	107	13	12%	88%
<b>Middle Tennessee</b>	105	12	11%	89%
<b>Tennessee State</b>	70	17	24%	76%
<b>Tennessee Tech</b>	64	9	14%	86%
<b>Univ of Memphis</b>	138	19	14%	86%
<b>TBR Universities</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>UT Chattanooga</b>	72	14	19%	81%
<b>UT Knoxville</b>	224	35	16%	84%
<b>UT Martin</b>	53	24	45%	55%
<b>UT Memphis</b>	34	14	41%	59%
<b>UT System</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>87</b>	23%	77%
<b>Total Universities</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Chattanooga</b>	44	8	18%	82%
<b>Cleveland</b>	18	4	22%	78%
<b>Columbia</b>	23	6	26%	74%
<b>Dyersburg</b>	18	7	39%	61%
<b>Jackson</b>	21	6	29%	71%
<b>Motlow</b>	11	2	18%	82%
<b>Nashville</b>	40	11	28%	73%
<b>Northeast</b>	32	12	38%	63%
<b>Pellissippi</b>	20	2	10%	90%
<b>Roane</b>	32	7	22%	78%
<b>Southwest</b>	56	17	30%	70%
<b>Volunteer</b>	29	6	21%	79%
<b>Walters</b>	31	13	42%	58%
<b>Total Community Colleges</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1297</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>80%</b>