

MEDIA CONTACT:

Emily Price at eprice@che.in.gov or (463) 261-7397 Allison Kuehr at akuehr@che.in.gov or (317) 232-1016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 30, 2025

Indiana Public Institutions Streamline More Than 400 Degree Programs to Better Align with Student and Industry Demand

(INDIANAPOLIS) –The <u>Indiana Commission for Higher Education</u> (Commission) today announced that six of the state's public higher education institutions voluntarily submitted more than 400 degree programs for elimination, suspension, or merger/consolidation. The institutions elected to proactively identify degree programs with zero-to-low enrollments and completions ahead of the July 1, 2025 effective date of House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1001-2025, which set statutory average graduate thresholds for all degree programs.

"During the most recent legislative session, one of our top agenda items included ensuring that Indiana's higher education institutions are preparing students for career opportunities in the most in-demand fields of today and the future," said Governor Mike Braun. "Just in the past month, our state institutions have taken bold, proactive steps to increase the value of higher education for both students and families, first, through keeping tuition flat, and today, by beginning the process to streamline degree offerings. This will help students make more informed decisions about the degree they want to pursue and ensure there is a direct connection between the skills students are gaining through higher education and the skills they need most."

In total, there are approximately 3,400 academic programs across state institutions, including both certificate and degree programs. Approximately 2,200 of all academic programs are degree programs (associate degrees or higher), meaning roughly 19 percent of all degree programs statewide were voluntarily eliminated, suspended, or merged/consolidated by institutions either immediately or as a future commitment. Students currently enrolled in any eliminated or suspended degree program will have the opportunity to complete their studies through an orderly teach-out.

In preparation for HEA 1001-2025, the Commission provided each institution with a preliminary analysis of underthreshold degree programs. Institutions voluntarily decided to eliminate 75 programs at both main and regional campuses, 68 of which had zero enrollments. In addition, 101 programs were suspended, and 232 programs were merged/consolidated by immediate actions and future commitments.

An overview of impacted programs by institution includes:

Ball State University: 51

Indiana State University: 11

Indiana University (all campuses): 249

Ivy Tech Community College: 10

Purdue University (all campuses): 83

University of Southern Indiana: 4

"Indiana's institutions have set a national example," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "The thoughtful, voluntary review and reduction conducted by Indiana's public institutions demonstrates their commitment to improving quality, cost, and delivery while strategically allocating resources. Our institutions want to ensure the programs they're offering are responsive to student demand and fit the needs of Indiana's evolving economy. The primary beneficiaries of this work will be students, who face an overwhelming number of degree programs as they make their educational and career decisions."

After July 1, 2025, state educational institutions must seek approval from the Commission to continue underthreshold degree programs. For more information regarding HEA 1001-2025, please visit the Commission's website.

###

About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE, Commission) is the State's coordinating agency, driven to improve economic and social mobility for fellow Hoosiers through higher education, and is a part of Governor Mike Braun's Office of Education. The Commission's HOPE (Hoosier Opportunities & Possibilities through Education)

Agenda serves as the agency's strategic plan and mission through 2030, providing seven goals around enrollment, completion, and graduate retention efforts. The Commission also administers Indiana's state financial aid programs, including 21st Century Scholars, which celebrates 35 years in 2025.