

DEGREE PROGRAM REVIEW

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

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INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
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TODAY'S AGENDA

- I. Remembering our WHY
- II. Revisiting pre-July 2025 voluntary early actions and commitments
- III. Timeline to today
- IV. Program requests
- V. Full picture: Streamlined totals and the future
- VI. Recommendations for Commission action

REMEMBERING OUR WHY



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COMMISSION STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES: PROGRAM REVIEW

- ▶ Before July 1, 2025, Indiana statute specified that the Commission may **approve or disapprove** the offering of any proposed or existing degree, or program leading to a certificate or other indication of accomplishment. *IC 21-18-9-5*
- ▶ Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 448-2025 turned the Commission's existing power to review degree programs from a may authority to a shall directive.

DEGREE PROGRAM REVIEW REQUIRED BY STATE LAW

Per Indiana statute, state educational institutions must request approval from the **Commission to continue a degree program** if the **average number of students** who graduate over the immediately 3 preceding years from the degree program is fewer than:

- ▶ **10 students** for an **associate degree** program;
- ▶ **15 students** for a **bachelor's degree** program;
- ▶ **7 students** for a **master's degree** program; or
- ▶ **3 students** for a **particular education specialist or doctoral program**.

Per Indiana statute, if the **request is not approved** by the Commission, the **degree program and any associated costs** must be **eliminated** by the state educational institution.

First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or *this style type* reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE ENROLLED ACT No. 1001

AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning state and local administration and to make an appropriation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]

(a) The following definitions apply throughout this act:

(1) "Augmentation allowed" means the governor and the budget agency are authorized to add to an appropriation in this act from revenues accruing to the fund from which the appropriation was made.

(2) "Biennium" means the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Appropriations appearing in the biennial column for construction or other permanent improvements do not revert under IC 4-13-2-19 and may be allotted.

(3) "Equipment" includes machinery, implements, tools, furniture, furnishings, vehicles, and other articles that have a calculable period of service that exceeds twelve (12) calendar months.

(4) "Fee replacement" includes payments to universities to be used to pay indebtedness resulting from financing the cost of planning, purchasing, rehabilitation, construction, repair, leasing, lease-purchasing, or otherwise acquiring land, buildings, facilities, and equipment to be used for academic and instructional purposes.

(5) "Personal services" includes payments for salaries and wages to officers and employees of the state (either regular or temporary), payments for compensation awards, and the employer's share of Social Security, health insurance, life insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, deferred compensation - state match, leave conversion, disability, and retirement fund contributions.

(6) "State agency" means:

(A) each office, officer, board, commission, department, division, bureau, committee,

HEA 1001 — CC 1



INSTITUTIONS' ABILITIES

- ▶ Institutions have ***always*** had the **ability** to eliminate, suspend, or merge/consolidate degree programs through **Routine Staff Action**.
 - ▶ These Academic Program Inventory change requests do not require Commission action.
 - ▶ However, usage varies. For example, between 2020 and June 30, 2025, institutions have exercised this action to eliminate **only 174 degree programs** over the course of 5 years.
- ▶ The statute establishes a **routine review exercise** for institutions to look at their full academic portfolio with **intentionality, ensuring programs maximize student impact and effectively use resources**.
- ▶ Graduate thresholds are the **first opportunity** for institutions to curate programs more intentionally at a **large scale**, ensuring students, parents, and families see a **return on investment**.
- ▶ This is **disciplined governance** paired with **institutional leadership**.

PROGRAM EXCESS



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- ▶ June 2025: **3,400 academic programs** across state institutions, including both certificate and degree programs
 - ▶ **2,300** are degree programs (associate degrees or higher) covered under HEA 1001-2025.
 - ▶ Nationally, and in Indiana, there's been a roughly **40% increase** in the number of bachelor's degree programs and higher since the early 2000s.
- ▶ **Affordability:** High numbers of degree programs may lead to high fixed and variable costs.
- ▶ **Student Navigation:** The sheer number of offerings can **overwhelm students** and their families. Program excess stretches institutional advising resources.
- ▶ **Transfer:** Additionally, that amount of programs makes it difficult for institutions to create **embedded, stackable pathways** which allow students to **earn multiple credentials at once** when completing courses with overlapping requirements. *IC 21-18-9-5*

ALIGNING TO STUDENT INTEREST



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- ▶ Many programs discussed today have very few students currently enrolled.
 - ▶ Many under-threshold programs are not only producing fewer graduates; they are also struggling to **attract new students**.
- ▶ This statutory requirement provides the impetus and the tools to **align program offerings with student interest** and economic demand.
- ▶ **Teach-Outs**: Enrolled students are entitled to an **orderly teach-out** to complete their degree regardless of a program review outcome.

REVISITING PRE-JULY 2025 VOLUNTARY ACTIONS & COMMITMENTS



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PRE-IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ **April 25, 2025:** Sine Die of the 2025 legislative session
- ▶ **May 5, 2025:** The Commission announced the ‘**Ramp Up Period**’ consideration for newer under-threshold programs and the ‘**Opportunity for Voluntary Early Action.**’
- ▶ **June 13, 2025:** The Commission released ‘**Initial Guidance and FAQ**’ on both voluntary actions/commitments and statutory implementation.
- ▶ **June 30, 2025:** The June Academic Affairs & Quality Committee processed participating institutions’ voluntary actions and commitments before the effective date of the under-threshold review statute.
 - ▶ **Action:** An **immediate** Routine Staff Action that was processed officially on June 30, 2025.
 - ▶ **Commitment:** A promise to merge/consolidate programs by the end of the 2025-2026 academic year.

VOLUNTARY EARLY ACTION OUTCOMES

- ▶ **June 30, 2025:** 6 institutions participated
- ▶ **Total Programs Affected: 372 (Under-threshold)**
 - ▶ Original published number included some above-threshold programs that were a part of merger/consolidation.
- ▶ **Eliminated: 71 (64 with zero enrollments)**
 - ▶ The remainder were concluding their Teach-Outs. In effect, 71 eliminations with **no impact on students.**
- ▶ **Suspended/Commitment to Suspend (with Teach-Out): 92**
- ▶ **Merged/Consolidated: 33**
- ▶ **Commitment to Merge/Consolidate: 176 (Under-threshold)**
- ▶ **REMINDER: Actions/Commitments did NOT require Commission approval.**

TIMELINE TO TODAY



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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN INDIANA[®]



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**



IVY TECH
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY[®]



**INDIANA STATE
UNIVERSITY**



VINCENNES

UNIVERSITY

COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP LED THE WAY



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- ▶ **July 25 - September 19, 2025:** Commission worked with **all seven public institutions** to develop a **Mutual Consensus List** of under-threshold programs for fiscal years **2022, 2023, and 2024.**
 - ▶ Fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024 were selected because they represent the most recent three-year period of available data.
 - ▶ Commission supplied each institution with a **Preliminary Analysis** of institution-submitted data to identify under-threshold degree programs, **both older and newer (in 'Ramp Up Period')**.
 - ▶ Commission **collaborated** with institutions to ensure the list was **accurate**.
 - ▶ List guided institutions in determining their approval to continue requests.
- ▶ **October 6, 2025:** Commission provided a **memo with instructions** for institutions to **request approval to continue** under-threshold programs following the procedures outlined in the June 2025 'Initial Guidance and FAQ.'

COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP LED THE WAY



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- ▶ **November 7, 2025:** All seven public institutions submitted their initial approval to continue requests to the Commission with the intention of having the ability to make modifications as needed.
 - ▶ Commission had *daily* conversations, keeping a constant dialogue open with institutions.
 - ▶ Commission **collaborated** with institutions to clarify any outstanding matters.
- ▶ **Today:** The Commission considers **recommendations** regarding institutions' final approval requests.

INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAM REQUESTS



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UNDER-THRESHOLD PROGRAM REQUESTS

- ▶ **Institutions submitted 1,056 under-threshold programs for approval** based on the following action item categories:
 - ▶ 1) Improvement Plan
 - ▶ 2) Stop-Out or Ramp Up
 - ▶ 3) Merger or Consolidation
 - ▶ 4) Suspension or Elimination
- ▶ The Commission then **responded** to the institutions' submissions.
- ▶ These recommendations include many programs that were committed to streamlining during the voluntary early actions and commitments in June 2025.
 - ▶ Most of the voluntary mergers/consolidations and suspensions that were committed or executed in June 2025 are still under-threshold programs, necessitating approval to continue through **Commission action**.
 - ▶ **104 actions executed in June 2025** are simply information items for today.
- ▶ **A total of 1,160 under-threshold programs** are action or information items.
 - ▶ Accounted for **only 4%** of state institutional graduates in FY2024 (~3,800 students).
 - ▶ Remaining programs serve **96%** of state institutional graduates in FY2024 (~93,000 students)

139 PROGRAMS: IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- ▶ Institutions requesting approval to continue a program submitted an **Improvement Plan**.
 - ▶ The accompanying overview and rationale explained the program's talent pipeline purpose, notable elements of quality, internal/external service.
 - ▶ The rationale also outlined steps to increase enrollment and completions, incorporate student-serving features, improve industry alignment, etc.
- ▶ **139 programs** request to continue under **Improvement Plans**.
 - ▶ Accounted for **0.8%** of state institutional graduates in FY2024.
 - ▶ **Recommendation: Approve** the institutions' requests for these programs to continue.
- ▶ Programs under an improvement plan, will **still require reevaluation**.

53 PROGRAMS: STOP-OUT

- ▶ These **student-serving** options enable eligible students to still **earn a credential** if they withdraw from certain degree programs, e.g.:
 - ▶ An associate embedded in a bachelor's program
 - ▶ A master's embedded in a doctoral program
 - ▶ An educational specialist program (Ed.S.) embedded in a doctoral program
- ▶ Stop-out degree programs act as an “**all or something**” opportunity instead of “all or nothing.”
 - ▶ The Commission encourages *all* institutions to embed stop-out programs within pathways.
- ▶ Stop-out degree programs **do not directly admit and actively recruit students**, so they **will rarely meet** the statutory graduate thresholds.
- ▶ **53 programs** are stop-out programs.
 - ▶ Accounted for **0.2%** of state institutional graduates in FY2024.
 - ▶ **Recommendation: Approve** the institutions' requests for these programs to continue.

RAMP UP PERIOD: COMMON-SENSE POLICY



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- ▶ **The Commission created Ramp Up Periods** to give newer programs time to meet the statutory requirements.
- ▶ Newer degree programs will need **multiple years to enroll and produce graduates** for at least 3 consecutive years.
- ▶ **Newly approved programs will not be immediately at risk** but must still request approval to continue if under-threshold.
- ▶ Ramp Up Periods were addressed with initial guidance provided to institutions in **May and June 2025** before they submitted programs for voluntary early action decisions.
 - ▶ **Approval to continue is for the duration of the Ramp Up Period.**
- ▶ At a minimum, programs have **7 fiscal years** to meet graduate thresholds.
 - ▶ Commission can monitor programs during the Ramp Up Period **and** institutions have the ability to modify programs still in Ramp Up Period.
 - ▶ Institutions submitted some programs in the Ramp Up Period for suspension, elimination, merger, or consolidation.

RAMP UP PERIOD

Degree Level	Formula			Ramp Up Period
	Start Period	Time to Completion Period	Maturation Period	
Associate	First FY (program approval date)	3 FY	3 FY	7 Years
Bachelor's		6 FY		10 Years
Master's		3 FY		7 Years
Education Specialist		3 FY		7 Years
Doctorate		8 FY		12 Years

Details of Ramp Up Periods were presented at the July 2025 Commission meeting, along with additional details.

280 PROGRAMS: RAMP UP PERIOD TOTALS

- ▶ **280 programs** are in their Ramp Up Period.
 - ▶ Includes **25 newly consolidated degrees** added *so far* in response to under-threshold review.
 - ▶ Also includes newer degree programs approved by the Commission's normal approval process since Spring 2025.
 - ▶ **Recommendation: Approve** the institutions' requests for these programs to continue for the duration of the Ramp Up Period.

206 programs submitted for merger

85 programs are from voluntary early commitments (pre-July 2025)

168 programs submitted for consolidation

91 programs are from voluntary early commitments (pre-July 2025)

Total merged and consolidated programs (action and info items) accounted for only 1.6% of state institutional graduates in FY2024.

374 PROGRAMS: MERGERS AND CONSOLIDATIONS

- ▶ A **merger** involves merging one or more programs into an adjacent, pre-existing degree program.
 - ▶ The absorbed programs are accommodated through concentrations/tracks in the absorbing (or continuing) program.
- ▶ A **consolidation** involves two or more programs consolidating into a new degree program.
 - ▶ The consolidated programs are typically accommodated through concentrations/tracks in the newly consolidated degree.
- ▶ **79** above-threshold programs were also involved in requested mergers and consolidations.
- ▶ **Recommendation: Approve** the institutions' requests for these programs to merge or consolidate.

171 programs submitted for suspension

92 programs are from voluntary early commitments (pre-July 2025)

39 programs submitted for elimination

Total suspended and eliminated programs (action and info items) accounted for only 0.6% of state educational graduates.

210 PROGRAMS: SUSPENSION AND ELIMINATION

- ▶ **Suspended programs** will stop admitting new students not later than fall 2026 (Academic Year 2026-2027).
 - ▶ Admitted and enrolled students will be provided an orderly Teach-Out which can take several years.
 - ▶ Once all students are taught out, transferred to another program, or otherwise exited, it can be eliminated by a subsequent, separate Routine Staff Action.
- ▶ **Eliminated programs** will have provided (any) enrolled students with an orderly Teach-Out.
- ▶ **Recommend: Approve** the institutions' requests for these programs to be suspended or eliminated.

The recommendation is for the Commission to approve all institutional requests.

For mergers, consolidations, suspensions, and eliminations, institutions will determine how to reallocate resources to best serve students.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Institutions can **maintain their commitments** to admitted and currently enrolled students.

- ▶ This implementation has overlapped with an admissions cycle for fall 2026 that started August 1, 2025.
- ▶ Implementation related to ceasing admissions for fall 2026 admissions **varies across institutions.**
- ▶ All of the pre-July voluntary actions have already been executed or will be executed by the end of AY 2025-2026, so **there would be no newly admitted students for fall 2026 and beyond.**
- ▶ All requests made after the statute became effective July 1, 2025, will have AY 2026-2027 to execute if needed, so there would be no newly admitted students for fall 2027 and beyond. There may be fall 2026 and spring 2027 admits, depending on the institution.

STREAMLINING TOTALS AND THE FUTURE



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- ▶ Info Items do not require action.
- ▶ Out of the previous 2,300 programs, roughly 1,100 programs were under-threshold.
 - ▶ Serves only 4% of postsecondary graduates
- ▶ **110 (9.5%)** under-threshold programs are/will be eliminated without impacting enrolled students.

Action and Information Items		Under-Threshold Programs
Improvement Plan	Post-July	139 (12.0%)
Ramp Up	Post-July	280 (24.1%)
Stop-Out	Post-July	53 (4.6%)
Merge	Post-July	121 (10.4%)
	Pre-July	85 (7.3%)
<i>Merged (Info Item)</i>	<i>Summer</i>	<i>26 (2.2%)</i>
Consolidate	Post-July	77 (6.6%)
	Pre-July	91 (7.8%)
<i>Consolidated (Info Item)</i>	<i>Summer</i>	<i>7 (0.60%)</i>
Suspend with Teach-Out	Post-July	79 (6.8%)
	Pre-July	92 (7.9%)
Eliminate with Teach-Out	Post-July	39 (3.4%)
<i>Eliminated (Info Item)</i>	<i>Summer</i>	<i>71 (6.1%)</i>
Grand Total		1,160

PROGRAMMATIC IMPACTS

When voluntary institutional decisions already executed in June 2025 are included with today's Commission approval ($104 + 1,056 = 1,160$), a total of **1,279 programmatic impacts: 1,160 under-threshold; 86 above-threshold; and, 33 forthcoming newly consolidated programs.**

Programmatic impacts by institution include:

- ▶ Ball State University: 127
 - ▶ Indiana State University: 83
 - ▶ Indiana University (all campuses, including): 605
 - ▶ Ivy Tech Community College: 47
 - ▶ Purdue University (all campuses, including): 274
 - ▶ University of Southern Indiana: 64
 - ▶ Vincennes University: 79
-
- ▶ **661 programs – 634 under-threshold and 27 above-threshold – will be streamlined by the end of the 2026-2027 academic year** after implementing all voluntary actions, commitments, and approval requests.
 - ▶ 57.5% are mergers/consolidations
 - ▶ 25.9% are suspensions with teach-out
 - ▶ 16.6% are eliminations

REMAINING PROGRAMS

- ▶ Note the under-threshold review includes 25 newly consolidated degrees and 33 still forthcoming consolidated degrees; and, since spring 2025, 35 degrees have been added outside of under-threshold review.
- ▶ Once all revisions take effect by the end of the 2026-2027 academic year, Indiana's public institutions will continue to offer **over 1,700 degree programs**. At least:
 - ▶ 292 programs in Arts and Humanities
 - ▶ 218 programs in Business and Communication
 - ▶ 173 programs in Education
 - ▶ 291 programs in Health
 - ▶ 198 programs in Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Services
 - ▶ 471 programs in STEM
 - ▶ 104 programs in Trades
- ▶ Institutions may continuously update their academic portfolios by **voluntarily merging/consolidating, suspending, and eliminating** programs and may also **propose new, responsive degree programs** for Commission approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMISSION ACTION



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RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Action Category 1: Improvement Plans (139 programs)
 - ▶ **Recommendation: Approve** the institutions' requests to continue these programs.
- ▶ Action Category 2: Stop-Out or Ramp Up (333 programs)
 - ▶ **Recommendation: Approve** the institutions' requests to continue these programs.
- ▶ Action Category 3: Merger or Consolidation (374 programs)
 - ▶ **Recommendation: Approve** the institutions' requests to merge or consolidate these programs.
- ▶ Action Category 4: Suspension or Elimination (210 programs)
 - ▶ **Recommendation: Approve** the institutions' requests to suspend or eliminate these programs.

Questions?



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