

Timeline for Community College Bachelor's Degrees

Authority

Section 1007.33, F.S., Titled “ Site-determined baccalaureate degree access”

Background Information

Section 1007.33, F.S., Specifies the State Board of Education's (SBE) authority to approve community college Baccalaureate degrees. The Statute further speaks to the involvement of the Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement (CEPRI) in reviewing and commenting on the proposals. The statute does not, however, speak to a time frame for acceptance and approval of said proposals. The following timeline was approved by the State Board of Education on April 15, 2003.

Colleges Submit Proposals and CEPRI Reviews

June 1

Community College transmits to commissioner and CEPRI a letter of Intent to submit a proposal

- This planning action gives the SBE and CEPRI an early idea of potential proposals and new programs that may need to be considered in agenda and budget development

August 1

Deadline for proposals to be submitted to Commissioner and CEPRI

- This action establishes a fixed deadline date by which all final proposals must be officially received.

November 1

Deadline for CEPRI to transmit completed review and comments to commissioner.

- This evaluation action allows CEPRI to take up to 3 months (August through October) to review, comment and take action on the proposals.

SBE Hears Presentations and Considers Recommendations

Jan or Feb

SBE hears presentation by community college, takes testimony from CEPRI, considers Commissioner's recommendation(s), and takes action

- The month of December – between when CEPRI provides their comments and when the SBE takes action – provides the commissioner and his staff and opportunity to develop the Commissioner's recommendations for SBE
- State Board Consideration and action during the months of January or February – before the start of legislative session

– gives the SBE time to amend a budget request or build a legislative agenda item in response to action on community college proposals, if so desired.

Funds released Based on Approved “Letters of Agreement”

June 30

Letters of Agreement (a.k.a., “LOAs”, outline specific performance and accountability requirements) are drafted and signed by all appropriate parties.

- The Regular Legislative Session (and any potential new dollars to support newly-approved degree programs) will end in May.
- The period of time between SBE action (Jan/Feb) and the start of a new fiscal year (July 1) allows the commissioner and respective community colleges and universities to develop Letters of Agreement that reflect State Board Action and potentially any appropriated dollars provided during Session.

July 1

First day of fiscal year when appropriated funds may be transmitted to institutions based on status of LOAs.

The proposed process provides a planning guideline for activities that need to occur when community colleges submit proposals to grant baccalaureate degrees. The process provides for CEPRI review and comment prior to State Board action, a window of State Board action during the months of January or February, and flexibility for legislative action and/or budget revision.