

Council for Education Policy, Research and Improvement

Timeline for Consideration of Community College Bachelor's Degree Proposals

Section 1007.33, F.S., Site-determined baccalaureate degree access, specifies the State Board of Education's 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 timeframe for acceptance and approval of said proposals. Consequently, the State Board and CEPRI have reacted to proposals as they have been received rather than in a planned manner.

With input from CEPRI staff, the Commissioner recommends the following schedule for the acceptance, consideration, and approval of community college proposals for baccalaureate degrees.

Colleges Submit Proposals and CEPRI Reviews

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| June 1 – August 1 | Community college transmits to Commissioner and CEPRI a Letter of Intent to submit a proposal |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 conversations. |
| August 1 | Deadline for proposals to be submitted to Commissioner and CEPRI |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This evaluation action allows CEPRI to take up to three months (August through October) to review, comment, and take action on the proposals. |

SBE Hears Presentations and Considers Recommendations

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| Jan or Feb | SBE hears presentation by community college, takes testimony from CEPRI, considers Commissioner's recommendation(s), and takes action |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The month of December – between when CEPRI provides their comments and when the SBE takes action – provides the Commissioner and his staff an opportunity to develop the Commissioner's recommendations for the State Board. |

- State Board consideration and action during the months of January or February – before the start of legislative session – gives the State Board 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 (aka, “LOAs”, outline specific performance and accountability requirements) are drafted and signed by all appropriate parties based on action of the SBE

- The regular legislative session (and any potential new dollars to support newly-approved degree programs) will end in May.
- The period of time between State Board 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.