

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Key Duties and Responsibilities

The Council on Postsecondary Education is charged with guiding the reform efforts envisioned by state policy leaders in the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997. The Council has multiple responsibilities to ensure a well-coordinated and efficient postsecondary education system.

Overview

Among its many responsibilities, the Council:

- Develops and implements a strategic agenda and accountability system for postsecondary education that includes measures of educational attainment, effectiveness, and efficiency.
- Produces and submits a biennial budget request for adequate public funding of postsecondary education.
- Monitors and determines tuition rates and admission criteria at public postsecondary institutions.
- Defines and approves all academic programs at public institutions.
- Licenses non-public postsecondary institutions to operate in the state.
- Coordinates statewide efforts to improve college readiness, access to postsecondary education, and student success, including statewide transfer agreements, adult learner initiatives, KY GEAR UP, and postsecondary work related to SB1 (2009) implementation (college and career readiness legislation).
- Administers Kentucky's Virtual Library, used by all postsecondary, public and K-12 libraries.
- Ensures the coordination and connectivity of technology among public institutions.
- Collects and analyzes comprehensive data about postsecondary education performance.

The listing below provides a more comprehensive overview of statutory duties and responsibilities assigned to the Council.

Postsecondary Education Coordination

- Approve minimum qualifications for college admissions - KRS 164.020(8)
- Define and approve all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions - KRS 164.020(15)

- Eliminate existing programs or make any changes in existing academic programs at the state's postsecondary educational institutions KRS 164.020(16)
- Establish course credit, transfer, and degree components, including a statewide course classification and transfer system to help ensure transferability of credit - KRS 164.020(14), KRS 164.2951
- Ensure an integrated, cooperative postsecondary system - KRS 164.020(5)
- Serve as primary advocate and advisor on matters related to postsecondary education with Governor and General Assembly - KRS 164.013(4)
- Create and manage advisory groups of campus representatives - KRS 164.020(32)
- Receive reports and updates from campuses on the performance of their duties- KRS 164.020(12)
- Implement/manage various funding programs as required by statutory or budget language (i.e. Regional Stewardship, College Level Learning Assessment)
- Manage Kentucky participation in the SREB Academic Common Market
- Make recommendations to the Governor regarding creation of new public universities - KRS 164.020(18)
- Coordinate conferences and professional development around issues of student success and diversity
- Serve as the portal agency for Kentucky colleges and universities seeking to participate in the national State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), which authorizes member institutions to offer distance education courses in member states – KRS 164.540(3)

Planning, Research and Accountability

- Develop and implement strategic agenda and strategic implementation plan for postsecondary education - KRS 164.020(1), (2), KRS 164.0203
- Review, revise and approve institutional missions - KRS 164.020(4)
- Prepare accountability and status reports for Governor and Legislature- KRS 164.020(3), (30)
- Develop planning documents required by federal legislation. The council shall for all purposes of federal legislation relating to planning be considered the "single state agency" - KRS 164.020(7), KRS 158.840(5)
- Conduct research on performance and to determine needs of postsecondary education and adult education in Kentucky- KRS 164.020(6)
- Develop a system of public accountability, monitor performance, evaluate effectiveness of institutions- KRS 164.020(3), KRS 164.095
- Maintain comprehensive database of postsecondary student data- KRS 164.095

- Compile and distribute annually employment and salary data for graduates of public postsecondary institutions, information on high-demand jobs, and information on cost of attendance and student debt. HB 419, 2020 Regular Session

Finance, Budget and Tuition

- Develop and manage strategic investment and incentive funding programs, including “Bucks for Brains” - KRS 164.7911-.7927
- Develop and advance a unified postsecondary education funding recommendation to Governor and General Assembly - KRS 164.020(9), (10)
- Determine annual tuition levels for all public postsecondary institutions - KRS 164.020(8)
- Manage tuition reciprocity agreements for Kentucky residents with border states
- Review and approve all capital projects for postsecondary education, establish capital priorities, and develop biennial recommendation - KRS 164.020(11)
- Maintain comprehensive database of capital projects and conduct capital studies and space utilization analyses as required
- Develop and maintain financial reporting system for public postsecondary institutions - KRS 164.020(26)
- Implement a comprehensive funding model for the allocation of general fund appropriations to public postsecondary institutions – KRS 164.092

Diversity and Equal Opportunity

- Develop state equal opportunity plan for minority students, and monitor implementation and progress through the Council’s Committee on Equal Opportunities - KRS 164.020(19)
- Set equal educational opportunity goals for public postsecondary institutions and postpone academic program approval if goals are not met - KRS 164.020(19)
- KY’s participation in the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program

Private Colleges

- License private postsecondary education institutions to operate in the state, monitor ongoing compliance with state regulations, and review and facilitate resolution of student complaints - KRS 164.945, 164.922
- Perform a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools-like accreditation review of out-of-state campuses seeking eligibility to participate in the Kentucky tuition grant program - KRS 164.785(7)
- Ensure maximum cooperation and limited duplication between public and private systems - KRS 164.020(13), (31)

P-20 Partnerships and Teacher Quality

- Develop and lead implementation of a unified strategy to improve college readiness and improve college completion rates, in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)- KRS 164.020(35)
- Coordinate all postsecondary work surrounding Senate Bill 1 (2009) to revise academic content standards in K-12 education - KRS 164.302 (1),(2), 164.020(35)
- Develop guidelines and regulations for awarding dual credit and Advanced Placement - KRS 164.098,13
- Approve all teacher education programs that comply with standards set by the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB). KRS 164.020(21)
- Coordinate federal and state programs to assure student achievement in reading and mathematics (i.e. Center for Math Achievement, Collaborative Center for Literacy Development) - KRS 164.525, KRS 158.840(5)
- Coordinate educational leadership program redesign, in partnership with EPSB – initiated by HJR14, 2006
- Coordinate teacher professional development redesign, in partnership with KDE, to align with new Senate Bill 1 (2009) readiness standards. - KRS 164.020(36)
- Coordinate and facilitate work of local P-16 councils - KRS 164.033
- Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide standardized articulation agreement between public colleges and universities and the Kentucky Department of Education for each approved high school career pathway that leads to a postsecondary credential, certification, license or degree. SB 101, 2020 Regular Session
- Administer Kentucky’s federal GEAR UP program, with direct outreach and support services to lower income middle and high school students
- Manage Kentucky’s participation in the “Know How to Go” college readiness campaign

Technology Support and Coordination

- Develop and implement statewide technology plan to ensure coordination and connectivity of technology among campuses - KRS 164.020(20)
- Collect and maintain student level, finance, and facilities data from Kentucky’s postsecondary institutions
- Partner with the Office for Education and Workforce Statistics in activities supporting the Kentucky Longitudinal Data System. KRS 164.020(37) and KRS 151B.131-.134
- Coordinate and facilitate Kentucky postsecondary involvement in state and national technology initiatives (KyRON, Internet 2, Connect Kentucky, Commonwealth Tech Council, Distance Learning Advisory Committee, etc) - KRS 164.020(20), KRS 164.800

- Manage joint purchasing technology agreements
- Develop and manage the Kentucky Virtual Campus (and on-line academic programs for K-12 students, Adult Education providers, and teacher educators) - KRS 164.800
- Manage the Kentucky Virtual Library. Membership includes all postsecondary and K-12 school, public libraries and private colleges (includes KY digital library, statewide, interlibrary loan program, and virtual library databases) - KRS 164.800

Educating Adult Kentuckians

- Facilitate partnership with CCLD, KDE, KCTCS, Workforce Investment Board, and other organizations to assess the need for technical assistance, training, and other support to assist in the development of adult education and workforce development - KRS 164.035
- Coordinate Kentucky's "Project Graduate" program – located on all public and several private college campuses – to encourage adults to return to college and complete degrees

Other Key Duties

- Promulgate regulations as required by statute - KRS 164.020(29)
- Provide annual report to LRC on AIDS education on Kentucky public campuses - KRS 164.020(24), KRS 164.351
- Develop and maintain state repository for alternative format textbooks for disabled students - KRS 164.477
- Coordinate annual reporting and institutional compliance with the campus safety (Minger) act - KRS 164.948-.9495
- Maintain information regarding designated receiver of student records for closed institutions and respond to student requests - KRS 164.020(23)
- Review and approve sites for interpreter training programs for deaf and hard of hearing students - KRS 164.478-.4785
- Administer Equine Revolving Trust Fund and staff advisory committee - KRS 138.510
- Contract with state university to operate State Autism Training Center; receive/evaluate annual report - KRS 164.9811
- Develop a comprehensive orientation and education program for members of KCTCS and university boards comprising six hours of instruction delivered in person and electronically - KRS 164.020(25)
- Investigate and make non-binding recommendations to the Governor regarding the removal of individual institutional board members and full institutional boards for cause – KRS 164.020(38)
- Respond to postsecondary education-related information requests from the legislature, governor, media and other organizations, and to consumer complaints/questions that have not been resolved by the attending campus