



DIRECTIVE

September 2020

Re: ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROGRAM UNDER WHICH A COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TECHNICAL COLLEGE OR STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAY APPLY TO THE CHANCELLOR FOR AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER APPLIED BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS.

Section 3333.051 of the Ohio Revised Code, enacted pursuant to Amended Substitute House Bill 49 of the 132nd General Assembly, directs the chancellor of higher education to establish a program under which community colleges, technical colleges and state community colleges may apply to offer applied bachelor's degrees. The chancellor may approve programs under this section that demonstrate all of the following:

1. Evidence of an agreement between the college and a regional business or industry to train students in an in-demand field and to employ students upon their successful completion of the program;
2. That the workforce need of regional business or industry is in an in-demand field with long-term sustainability based upon data provided by the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation;
3. Supporting data that identifies the specific workforce need the program will address;
4. The absence of a bachelor's degree program that meets the workforce need addressed by the proposed program that is offered by a state university or private college or university; and
5. Willingness of an industry partner to offer workplace-based learning and employment opportunities to students enrolled in the proposed program.

The chancellor may also seek any other information deemed relevant, which may include, but is not limited to: evidence that the institution has appropriate faculty, financial, and physical resources to support the program.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education ("ODHE") may periodically issue a Request for Information ("RFI") or otherwise initiate an application process for institutions. The application process may have a specified end date or may be open continuously at the Chancellor's discretion. The forms that will be used in the application process shall be prescribed by ODHE and made available to eligible applicants. The details of the application process shall be published on the ODHE website, located at www.ohiohighered.org. The chancellor may post all application submissions for public comment following the specified end date of the application process, or upon receipt if the Chancellor chooses to keep the application process open continuously.

The chancellor will consult with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, the Inter-University Council of Ohio, the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio before approving an institution to seek an applied bachelor's degree program or programs. After approval by the chancellor, a college will then submit the approved program or programs for a full review through the program approval process and accreditation approval process.

ODHE will periodically study the applied bachelor's degree programs created pursuant to ORC section 3333.051 to assess the extent to which the programs are fulfilling the needs of students and local industry.