

## COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, October 8, 2010

**DECISION ITEM C:**                    **Policy on Approving New Degree Programs for Ivy Tech  
Community College**

**Staff Recommendation**                    That the Commission for Higher Education adopt the *Policy on Approving New Degree Programs for Ivy Tech Community College*, September 30, 2010.

**Background**                                    This change in policy is proposed to streamline and make more efficient – for both the College and the Commission – the approval of new sites for existing Ivy Tech degree programs. A net result of this change will be to give the College more flexibility, so it can respond quickly to workforce demands. Another consequence will be to re-direct College and Commission attention, through an annual report made by the College, to larger questions related to statewide and local workforce needs – as reflected in emerging employment, licensure, and certification trends – and how the College is responding to these trends, as exhibited in program enrollments and degrees conferred. The annual report should provide a more strategic, statewide consideration of these questions than is currently possible.

If approved by the Commission, the policy would go into effect immediately.

**Supporting Document**                    *Policy on Approving New Degree Programs for Ivy Tech Community College*, September 30, 2010

## **Policy on Approving New Degree Programs for Ivy Tech Community College**

September 30, 2010

1. Degree programs that are proposed for new academic fields, which have never been offered previously by the College, will still need to go through the normal approval process for new academic degree programs, which includes the submission of a full new degree program proposal by the College, placement of a decision item on the Commission for Higher Education's meeting agenda by the staff, and action by the Commission.
2. Once a new program has been authorized by the Commission for an initial location or set of locations, the College may simply request authorization to offer that same degree program at other locations, which the Commission may approve through routine staff action.
3. Delivery of academic degree programs statewide through distance education technology will still need to go through the Commission's normal approval process for distance education programs.
4. The addition of an Associate of Science degree to an existing Associate of Applied Science degree, and vice versa, may be approved through routine staff action.
5. Associate of Science programs may be offered anywhere in the state, irrespective of whether or not there is a local articulation available for a related baccalaureate degree program.
6. As with any change affecting an academic degree program that is requested through routine staff action, the College may need to submit additional information before the action is taken.
7. Each year, Ivy Tech will make a report to the Commission on its statewide and regional program plans. The report will include:
  - a. Workforce data from relevant sources, e.g. Department of Workforce Development;
  - b. Program plans for the year (recognizing that the College could always bring programs that were not included in the plans, if circumstances warrant it);
  - c. Demand for graduates for both existing and new programs;
  - d. Program enrollment and degree trends; and
  - e. A summary of articulation agreements that are in place, as well as gaps where articulation agreements are needed.