



INDIANA COMMISSION *for* HIGHER EDUCATION

AGENDA

Thursday, July 24, 2025

101 West Ohio Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204-4206

www.che.in.gov



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

AGENDA

Indiana Commission for Higher Education Meeting

Thursday, July 24, 2025

Call to Order – 9:00 A.M. ET

Ivy Tech Community College

590 Ivy Tech Drive

BCC 2020

Madison, IN 47250

Join on your computer or mobile app:

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

-or-

Join on your phone (audio only):

DIAL: +1 317-552-1674

PHONE ID: 242 325 483#

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------|
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**Requires Commission Action*

| | | |
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The next meeting of the Commission will be on **September 18, 2025, in Jasper, Indiana.**

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 9:00 a.m. CT at Purdue University Northwest, 2200 169th Street, Hammond, IN 46323.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Members Present: Mike Alley, Dennis Bland, Kathy Cabello, Jud Fisher, Samantha Fleischaker, Larry Garatoni, Nancy Jordan, Molly Kitchell, Kent Kramer, Chad Lochmiller, Pepper Mulherin, and Dan Peterson

Members Absent: Bill Hanna

CHAIR'S REPORT

Thank you. Much appreciated.

Pepper, congratulations. I understand you are with a new grandbaby and not able to be with us today, so congratulations.

Thank you, again, very much to everyone here, and I want to thank Chancellor Holford and his entire team for a wonderful visit so far. Last evening was outstanding. We had a great dinner, presentation, and discussion that he facilitated with Alejandra Castillo, former Economic Development Administration head, who is now a senior fellow here with Purdue Northwest. Some interesting topics around the work they're doing here in the region, if you will, around network and quantum computing, which is very exciting to hear about.

We very much appreciate a lovely evening and your welcoming staff and everyone's been fantastic.

Certainly, interesting times for all of us I think in every sector of the world, both geographically and sector wise. Higher education is no exception to facing some challenging times like we all are, right? I think, just reflecting on those challenging times, I want to actually pick up on a point that the Chancellor referenced yesterday. At the core of all these challenges and opportunities, if you will, the key is still students. Learning in high quality, affordable, available higher education is still the key to potential success for students of all ages. So, I think in that regard, that is our true north, and you did a great job of setting that stage. So, with that said, thank you again. Thank you all for being here.

I also want to reflect upon someone who unfortunately will be leaving us. Dr. Chad Lochmiller has been a fantastic Faculty Commission Member in his two years, and we regret

having to say goodbye to him in that role, but we very much appreciate his work on our behalf and with us. And we do have a resolution honoring his service that we'd like to present.

Whereas, Dr. Chad Lochmiller provided strong faculty representation to the Commission for Higher Education since his appointment on July 1, 2023; and

Whereas, during his service to the Commission, Dr. Lochmiller discharged his duties with distinction and impartially advocated for the students and faculty at Indiana's public institutions of higher education; and

Whereas, he was actively engaged in the Commission's Academic Affairs and Quality Committee, providing thoughtful insight into discussions and review of academic programs; and

Whereas, Dr. Lochmiller was appointed to serve as the Commission's Secretary in 2024, and effectively fulfilled his duties in that role; and

Whereas, he successfully planned and hosted the well-received and attended Faculty Leadership Conference in February of this year entitled "Innovation in the Classroom: Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education;" and

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Commission for Higher Education expresses its deep appreciation to Dr. Chad Lochmiller for his two years of dedicated service as the Faculty Representative to the Commission for Higher Education and to the State of Indiana, and wishes him well as he continues his teaching duties as Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and serving as Chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Indiana University.

Thank you. Congratulations and a round of applause.

R-25-3.1 RESOLVED: The Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the resolution of Dr. Chad Lochmiller's term as Faculty Commission Member. (Motion – Bland, second – Jordan, unanimously approved)

I would now like to invite Chancellor Holford to the dais for his welcoming remarks. Again, thank you so much for having us and we really appreciate you and your staff's hospitality.

Chris Holford, Chancellor of Purdue University Northwest, addressed the group.
Thank you.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES

R-25-3.2 RESOLVED: The Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the minutes of the March 13, 2025, regular meeting. (Motion – Jordan, second – Fleischaker, unanimously approved)

III. BUDGET & FINANCE

A. Budget Update

Brooke Kile presented this item.

B. Tuition and Fees Recommendation*

Brooke Kile and Commissioner Lowery presented this item.

R-25-3.3 RESOLVED: The Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Tuition and Fees Recommendation. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Legislative Update

Greg Harrell and Senator Goode presented this item.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Lowery thanked Chairman Peterson and Purdue University Northwest for hosting the meeting.

Commissioner Lowery reported on the following topics:

2025 Legislative Session

1. Revenue Forecast & Budget
 - i. Indiana's legislature and the administration were challenged with addressing a sharp fall in estimated revenue.
 - ii. The April forecast communicated a \$400 million reduction in revenue during the remainder of FY25 and \$2 billion across the new biennium.
 - iii. To balance the budget, the General Assembly:
 1. Proactively raised revenues;
 2. Responsibly utilized reserves; and
 3. Cut at least 5% to the operating budgets of all state agencies, including the Commission and the public colleges.

Key Takeaways and Highlights

1. Senate Enrolled Act 448
 - i. Agenda bill for Governor Braun
 - ii. Agency bill for Office of Education and CHE
 - iii. Authored by Sen. Greg Goode
2. House Enrolled Act 1001
 - i. Frank O’Bannon and 21st Century Scholars funding remained untouched.

- ii. The Commission prioritized protecting Outcomes Based Performance Funding, R&R, and Dual Credit.
- iii. All agencies received at least a 5% cut.
- iv. Fiscal
 - 1. Frank O'Bannon Grant and 21st Century Scholarship preserved, no cuts;
 - 2. Repeals non-reverting status for the Frank O'Bannon Grant, but allows the transfer between funds;
 - 3. 5% cut to operating costs and a 5% withholding factor;
 - 4. 5% cut to some scholarships.
- v. Non-Fiscal
 - 1. Requires a report that examines the utilization of physical
 - 2. facilities that are primarily used for instruction at state educational institutions;
 - 3. Governor's Workforce Cabinet abolished, most duties shifted to the Department of Workforce Development and a few to the Commission;
 - 4. Career Coaching Grant moved to the Department of Education on July 1, 2025;
 - 5. Career Scholarship Accounts moved to the Department of Education on July 1, 2026;
 - 6. Requires a biennially prepared plan for implementing postsecondary CTE programming.

2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- 1. Key Outcomes & Takeaways
 - i. Indiana reached 55% FAFSA filing rate for high school seniors finishing
 - ii. Eighth in the nation by the April 15 state priority deadline.
 - 1. 241 high schools exceeded 60 percent filings.
 - iii. In 2023, Indiana passed the FAFSA filing requirement. This legislation has led to growth in filings.
 - 1. Prior to the requirement, Indiana finished the 23-24 FAFSA cycle at 39th in the nation.
 - iv. The Commission also attributes the increased numbers to partnerships with community organizations and philanthropic support like the RMFF College Matters initiative.
 - v. Indiana's filing goal is 60%.

CHE New Staff

CHE Staff Updates

- 1. Recent Hires
 - i. Director of Finance
 - 1. Cody Robison

V. DISCUSSION ITEM

B. Indiana Pre-Admissions: Your Path to College Update

Victoria Phair and Dr. Michelle Ashcraft presented this item.

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

A. Legislative Update

Dr. Matt Butler presented this item.

VII. STUDENT SUCCESS AND COMPLETION COMMITTEE

A. Purdue University Northwest Presentation

Dr. Marie T. Mora, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Elizabeth Babcock Depew, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Christina Maldonado, Assistant Director of Admissions for Parent, Community, and Early Education, and Catharine Olsen, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor, presented this item.

VIII. BUDGET ITEMS

A. Capital Project for Expedited Action*

Brooke Kile presented this item.

R-25-3.4 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Ball State University New Baseball & Softball Clubhouse Facilities. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

IX. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

B. Academic Programs for Expedited Action*

R-25-3.5 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Forensics to be offered by Indiana State University. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

R-25-3.6 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in Business Analytics to be offered by Ball State University. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

R-25-3.7 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in the Business of Biotechnology to be offered by Indiana University Indianapolis. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

- R-25-3.8 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering to be offered by Indiana University Indianapolis. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)
- R-25-3.9 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry to be offered by Indiana University Indianapolis. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)
- R-25-3.10 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Digital Forensics to be offered by Indiana University Indianapolis. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)
- R-25-3.11 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in Education in Science of Reading to be offered by Indiana University Multi-Campus Collaborative (IUE, IUI, IUK, IUN, IUS, IUSB). (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)
- R-25-3.12 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Doctor of Business Administration to be offered by Purdue University Global. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

C. Interstate Tuition Reciprocity Agreement Adoption - Kentucky*

Ross Miller and Dr. Matt Butler presented this item.

- R-25-3.13 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Interstate Tuition Reciprocity Agreement Adoption - Kentucky. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

D. Interstate Tuition Reciprocity Agreement Adoption - Ohio*

Ross Miller and Dr. Matt Butler presented this item.

- R-25-3.14 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Interstate Tuition Reciprocity Agreement Adoption - Ohio. (Motion – Alley, second – Jordan, unanimously approved)

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action
- B. Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff
- C. Media Coverage

XI. OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 P.M. CT.

Dan Peterson, Chair

Kent Kramer, Secretary

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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STUDENT SUCCESS AND COMPLETION ITEM A:

Ivy Tech Community College Madison Presentation

Background

For the Student Success and Completion Committee meeting, Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana Madison campus will present on their statewide and local initiatives for student success and completion. The presentation will highlight key initiatives with students who are justice involved, the Indiana Course Access Portal, and partnerships with other higher educational institutions. The Madison campus engages students and community through unique statewide innovations and partnerships.

Supporting Document

Ivy Tech Community College Madison slide presentation.

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ITEM A:

Overview of HEA1001 Voluntary Early Actions and Future Commitments

Background

Under House Enrolled Act 1001—2025, effective July 1, 2025, state educational institutions must seek approval from the Commission to continue a degree program in which the rolling three-year average of graduates was under a corresponding statutory threshold for that degree type: 15 graduates for a bachelor's degree; 10 for an associate degree; 7 for a master's; 3 for an educational specialist program; and, 3 for a doctorate. Programs not approved for continuance must be eliminated and their associated resources reallocated.

In early May 2025, the Commission offered institutions an opportunity for voluntary early action to proactively address under-threshold degree programs in June to facilitate post-July 1 statutory implementation. Six institutions chose to exercise this opportunity by filing 'Routine Staff Actions,' such as immediately eliminating zero-enrollment programs, suspending low-enrollment/production programs (Teach-Out), and merging/consolidating programs. Institutions could also submit written commitments to future corresponding staff actions, allowing time for preparations and planning, which would be considered when institutions submit requests to the Commission for approval to continue an under-threshold degree program.

The 408 Voluntary Early Actions were addressed at the Academic Affairs & Quality Committee's June 30, 2025 meeting. Commission staff have continued to collaborate with institutions, given the volume and complexity of the voluntary submissions. A very small number of subsequent corrections and updates have followed, moving the total of Voluntary Early Actions to 404. The first steps of the approval to continue process are underway with institutions.

Supporting Documents

To be distributed:

- *Summary of Voluntary Early Actions and Future Commitments* (UPDATED)
- *Table of Voluntary Early Actions and Future Commitments* (UPDATED)
- *List of Corrections and Updated Actions/Commitments*

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ITEM B:

Academic Affairs & Quality Committee: Mission & Responsibilities Document

Background

Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 448—2025, effective July 1, 2025, requires the Commission to approve or disapprove new academic degree programs and certificate programs proposed by state educational institutions. The Commission must consider newly specified measures and metrics, such as labor market supply and demand, projections for enrollment, completion rate, program cost, student debt, post-graduation wages, and in-state graduate retention, as well as programmatic elements, including work-based/experiential learning requirements and student opportunities for accelerated delivery, credit for prior learning, embedded, stackable credentials, and facilitated connections with employment opportunities. Additionally, the Commission must approve or disapprove a degree or program within 90 days of submission. While the Commission did review and approve degree programs before July 1, the new statutory requirements necessitated a revamp of application documents, approval criteria, and the procedures of the Commission's Academic Affairs & Quality (AA&Q) Committee. The last revision to the Committee's *Mission & Responsibilities* document was in 2014.

The document, as amended and adopted by the Committee at its June 30, 2025 meeting, includes significant revisions to the Commission's preexisting *Practices and Procedures Regarding Approval of New Academic Programs* and *Checklist of Criteria for New Degree Program Proposals*. A new *Checklist of Criteria for Certain Credit Bearing Certificate Programs* was added.

Another key component of SEA 448—2025, the 10-year academic program reviews, will require subsequent additions.

Supporting Documents

To be distributed:

- *Academic Affairs and Quality Committee: Mission & Responsibilities*, as amended and adopted by the AA&Q Committee at its June 30, 2025 meeting.
- *New Degree Program Proposal for Public Institutions 2025-2026* and *New Certificate Program Proposal for Public Institutions 2025-2026* application packets, as currently posted on the Commission's website.

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ITEM C:

Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education approve the following degree programs, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item:

- Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Supervision to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette and Indianapolis (online)
- Bachelor of Arts in Sport Communication to be offered by Indiana State University
- Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington
- Bachelor of Science in Business Intelligence and Data Science to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington

Background

The Academic Affairs and Quality Committee discussed these programs at its May 29, 2025 and June 30, 2025 meetings and concluded that the proposed programs could be placed on the July 24, 2025 agenda for action by the Commission as an expedited action item.

Supporting Document

Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited Action May 29, 2025 and June 30, 2025

**CHE 25-12 Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Supervision to be offered by
Purdue University West Lafayette and Indianapolis (online)**

Proposal received on April 8, 2025

CIP Code: 52.0213

Fifth Year Projected Enrollment: Headcount – 70, FTE – 53

Fifth Year Projected Degrees Conferred: 38

The proposed Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Supervision will be offered online through the Purdue Polytechnic Institute at both Purdue University West Lafayette (PWL) and Indianapolis.

The proposed master's program is a redesign, rebrand, and consolidation of current graduate degree and certificate offerings. A legacy of IUPUI operations, Purdue-Indianapolis has a M.S. in Organizational Leadership Studies. This master's 'Major in Technical Communication' will be sunset and the courses transitioned to the proposed program. Two graduate certificates, 'Human Resource Development' and 'Project Management,' will also sunset and be reconstituted at PWL. PWL's current M.S. in Technology, Leadership, and Innovation will sunset entirely and be reconstituted as the proposed program, incorporating the above features from Indianapolis. Replacing the PWL title with Organizational Leadership and Supervision will assist with student marketing, employer signaling, and better align with the CIP Code for 'Organizational Leadership.' Faculty do not expect duplication or cannibalization across Purdue's offerings, such as MBAs through PWL, Purdue Fort Wayne (PFW), and Purdue Northwest.

The master's degree requires completion of the customary 30 credit hours without a thesis. The program of study is very flexible and customizable, requiring only two core courses (6 credits) with electives satisfying the remaining 24 credits (8 courses). Students can pursue concentrations in 'Project Management,' 'Human Resource Development,' or 'Technical Communication' as well as earn up to two credit-bearing, graduate-level certificates in the corresponding concentration areas, providing embedded stackable credentials. Both preexisting PWL and Indianapolis faculty will teach the program; preexisting PFW faculty will assist with one course per semester. No new facilities are needed. While "blended and residential options" are contemplated, faculty await launch to solidify plans with the intent to facilitate in-person student-employer engagement.

Students may transfer up to 12 credits of prior graduate coursework, but there are no current Credit for Prior Learning options for students, such as individual assessments or portfolio reviews for postgraduate-level learning in the military or professional workforce. While a 4+1 accelerated option for undergraduates is not yet available, Purdue Online is considering whether to build a portfolio of 4+1 master's programs with partners, which would include the proposed M.S. in Organizational Leadership and Supervision.

CHE 25-13 Bachelor of Arts in Sport Communication to be offered by Indiana State University

Proposal received on May 19, 2025

CIP Code: 9.0906

Fifth Year Projected Enrollment: Headcount – 104, FTE – 92

Fifth Year Projected Degrees Conferred: 23

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Sport Communication will be offered on campus by the Department of Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana State University. It requires the customary 120 credit hours to complete.

The proposed program is the evolution of Indiana State University's current 21-credit hour minor in Sport Communication. Since its launch in Fall 2023, it has become the most popular minor among undergraduates pursuing degrees in the Department of Communication and the Department of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport's B.S. in Sport Management with 38 students having declared it. Faculty believe a standalone degree program's signaling power and expanded curriculum will generate new enrollment and more targeted employer interest. Regionally, amongst 15 institutions, completions in sport communication programs have grown markedly, 187% between 2019 and 2023. The current program provider market skews heavily toward smaller private colleges/universities. In-state, only two independent institutions have dedicated undergraduate Sport Communication programs. Two state institutions' main campuses offer baccalaureate degrees in which a concentration (or major) in sport communication is available. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates the sports-related occupational classification to grow 7% nationally (2023-2033) and 8% in Indiana (2022-2032). Other adjacent areas like 'Agents and Business Managers of...Athletes' and 'Public Relations Specialists' expect above average growth. All are categorized as 'Bright Outlook' by BLS' O*Net. Undoubtedly, some will need to rely on transferable skills for non-sports jobs.

The proposed curriculum spans preexisting programs in Sport Management, Digital Communication and Media, Journalism, and Public Relations. It will not require new courses, faculty, or facilities, all of which contribute to the current minor. The major requires 51 credit hours of which 21 are electives to provide customization. At least 9 credit hours must be in 'Professional Development Core' coursework scaffolded across the plan of study to ensure relevant career exposure and experience through practica and internships. Faculty posit preexisting employer relationships with collegiate departments, sports media (ESPN, etc.), and professional teams will help advance graduate retention.

The program can be offered as a structured Degree-in-3 baccalaureate. The program has relevant accelerated master's (4+1) options, e.g., an M.A. in Communication or M.S. in Sports Management. Faculty anticipate offering Credit for Prior Learning options to students with career experience in the field as well as media/studio production.

CHE 25-14 Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette

Proposal received on June 6, 2025

CIP Code: 30.2501

Fifth Year Projected Enrollment: Headcount – 100, FTE – 100

Fifth Year Projected Degrees Conferred: 25

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science will be offered on campus by the Department of Philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) at Purdue University West Lafayette (PWL). It requires the customary 120 credit hours to complete.

The proposed degree program builds upon the department's recent faculty and programmatic investments in cognitive science and computational philosophy, including the recent launch of a B.A. in Artificial Intelligence (AI), the addition of a Cognitive Science Concentration to the B.A. in Philosophy, and growing interdisciplinary partnerships with departments like Computer Science and Psychology. Faculty posits the interdisciplinary plan of study will prepare graduates for various roles in AI, computing, software development, bioscience, counseling, mental health support, and preparation for professional mental health graduate programs. The mandatory work-based or experiential learning requirement presents opportunities in those professional areas as well as experimental research in preparation for graduate school or a career. Nationwide completions in Cognitive Science degree programs have grown 32% between 2019-2023. Within Indiana, only one state institution's main campus and one private institution offer a similar program of study.

The program of study requires 45 credit hours: 21 credits in foundational Cognitive Science spanning multiple disciplines; 6 credits in restricted philosophy electives; 3 credits in non-Philosophy, mainly science restricted electives; 3 credits in work-based or experiential learning ("Philosophy Practicum"); and, 12 credits in one of six restricted elective 'Focus Areas'—Biology, Computer Science, Economics, Linguistics, Psychology, or Statistics. The program utilizes PWL's 'Degree Plus,' a framework to provide streamlined, four-year dual degrees in which the CLA core is waived. Faculty believe biology, economics, or computer science majors, for example, will already or can easily satisfy the respective 'Focus Area' requirements while assuming the remaining Philosophy components through general education and elective requirements. Faculty posit intentionally pairing a curated 'Focus Area' with another degree should complement a career path, such as ethical and theoretical considerations for AI design and usage.

The program can be offered as a structured Degree-in-3 baccalaureate. In addition to the four-year dual degree pathways ('Degree Plus') mentioned above, the proposed program has relevant accelerated master's (4+1) options and faculty are looking to build more. The program adheres to PWL's credit for prior learning policies, including options through military Joint Service Transcript crosswalks and professional experience.

CHE 25-15 Bachelor of Science in Business Intelligence and Data Science to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington

Proposal received on June 9, 2025

CIP Code: 11.0802

Fifth Year Projected Enrollment: Headcount – 244, FTE – 244

Fifth Year Projected Degrees Conferred: 49

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Business Intelligence and Data Science will be offered on campus jointly by the Kelly School of Business and Luddy School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering at Indiana University Bloomington (IUB). It requires the customary 120 credit hours to complete.

In response to growing student interest and business demand, the curriculum was jointly developed to combine a firm knowledge of the business domain with the advanced, latest techniques of data science. Since Fall 2022, over 1,200 IUB undergraduates pursued Kelly School's co-major in Business Analytics. Meanwhile, Luddy School students in the current B.S. in Data Science and other programs were pursuing business courses. Despite interest, a dual degree track between the Kelly and Luddy schools is impractical and too long (5-6 years). The state has approximately 40 Business Analytics, Data Analytics, or Data Science baccalaureate programs spanning public and independent institutions. However, most have just one disciplinary home.

The program of study is built around three rigid cores to ensure adequate, comprehensive knowledge of the respective domain: business (33 credit hours), data science (19 credit hours), and mathematics/statistics (16 credit hours). Students must also complete 18 credit hours from prescribed electives in both business (9) and computational subjects (9). The latter in combination with the mathematics/statistics core is particularly rigorous and a noteworthy distinction of the curriculum. The business electives allow for further specialization, such as accounting, finance, or supply chain coursework. Artificial Intelligence is incorporated throughout the program of study. Multiple instances of project-based learning are required, but there is no work-based learning or experiential learning requirement per se. However, faculty expect most students to obtain competitive, paid internships and graduates to secure remunerative employment, facilitated by their work-based learning and the employer partnerships of Kelley/Luddy.

Faculty believe this area of study is fertile ground for embedded credit-bearing certificates but anticipate offering these to non-majors. The coursework does not allow for a realistic structured Degree-in-3 option. While IUB has multiple (4+1) accelerated master's programs ("AMP") options, faculty anticipate most graduates will immediately enter the workforce. Credit for Prior Learning options are on a case-by-case basis.

**CHE 25-16 Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering to be offered by Indiana University
Bloomington**

Proposal received on June 9, 2025

CIP Code: 14.0901

Fifth Year Projected Enrollment: Headcount – 203, FTE – 196

Fifth Year Projected Degrees Conferred: 50

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering will be offered on campus by the Department of Intelligent Systems Engineering in the Luddy School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering at Indiana University Bloomington (IUB). It requires the customary 120 credit hours to complete.

In response to growing student and industry demand as well as the university's strategic emphasis on both computing and engineering, the program of study was developed relatively quickly but from several firm foundations: The department's current Computer Engineering/Cyber-Physical Systems concentration for the B.S. in Intelligent Systems Engineering (ISE), which far eclipses other concentrations in popularity. The faculty worked from the current ISE program's ABET accreditation for general engineering, the Computer Engineering-specific accreditation standards of ABET, and the preexisting suite of Computer Engineering coursework to round out the curriculum for a standalone degree program. (The Luddy School intends to pursue Computer Engineering-specific accreditation after the first cohort graduates in Spring 2030.) The faculty will focus intentionally on Luddy's strengths, such as Artificial Intelligence, next generation computing, robotics, and software engineering, which they posit distinguishes them from long-established, legacy Computer Engineering programs.

The curriculum requires 20 credit hours in mathematics, 10 credit hours in physics, 3 credit hours in computer science, and 28 credits in core engineering courses plus another 27 credits hours in prescribed engineering electives. A faculty advisory committee for each student will help guide the intentional selection of electives, providing multiple touchpoints for faculty-student mentorship. In years 2 and 3, students must also complete scaffolded engineering career courses: Professionalization and Ethics (1 credit hour) followed by Career Development (1 credit hour). During the fourth year, students must also complete 6 credit hours through a two-course capstone sequence: Engineering Capstone Design I and II. Credit-bearing internships can count toward technical electives.

IUB is revising its approach to credit-bearing microcredentials and the proposed program envisions the potential of creating new certifications for undergraduates and external workforce development audiences. The program has relevant accelerated (4+1) master's programs ("AMP") options at IUB. Credit for Prior Learning is on a case-by-case basis, but faculty believe the granularity of forthcoming microcredentials should assist in the future awarding credit.

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, July 24, 2025

DISCUSSION ITEM A:

Commission Bylaws

Background

The Commission's bylaws, last adopted on May 9, 2024, outline the governance structure of the Commission in addition to the parameters set by Indiana Code.

The Commission's Chief Operating Officer will present the following proposed changes:

- Article I: Offices and Organization – Alter terms for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary to align with current practice. Alter the timing of presenting a slate of officers for election given the change in cadence of Commission Meetings.
- Article II: Meetings – Specify that meetings will be held at public locations in Indiana. Correct grammar and formatting. Add new sections regarding live transmission of meetings to comply with legislation.
- Article III: Committees – Remove the prohibition on the Chair and Vice Chair participating in committees to align with current practice. Correct grammar and formatting.
- Article IV: Minutes – Indicate an effective date for keeping official minutes. Correct grammar and formatting.
- Article V: Order of Business – Correct grammar and formatting.
- Article VI: Reports – Correct grammar and formatting.
- Article VII: Add committee meetings as eligible for per diem and mileage. Add that Senior Associate Commissioners must be approved by the Commission to align with current practice.

Supporting Document

To be distributed.

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, July 24, 2025

BUDGET & FINANCE ITEM A:

Commission for Higher Education Fiscal Year 2026 Spending Plan

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education approve by consent the Commission for Higher Education Fiscal Year 2026 Spending Plan.

Background

Article VIII Section 1 of the Commission for Higher Education's Bylaws require the Commissioner to present a recommended budget showing anticipated revenues from all sources and expenditures for the next fiscal year no later than the first month of each fiscal year. The Commissioner has delegated this responsibility to Finance staff. Staff have developed a spending plan that reflects appropriations made by the Indiana General Assembly in addition to other sources of revenue. The annual operating budget is functionally characterized by program: administration, student financial aid, private grants and federal grants. The Budget & Productivity Committee reviewed this spending plan on July 10, 2025. Staff requests authorization to work with the State Budget Agency to finalize and implement necessary management reserves and other budget policies for Fiscal Year 2026.

Supporting Documents

Previously distributed.

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, July 24, 2025

BUDGET ITEM B-1:

Ivy Tech Community College South Bend, Dental Lab Renovation

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education recommends approval to the State Budget Agency and the State Budget Committee of the following project:

- Ivy Tech Community College South Bend, Dental Lab Renovation

Background

By statute, the Commission for Higher Education must review all projects to construct buildings or facilities costing more than two million dollars (\$2,000,000), regardless of the source of funding. Each repair and rehabilitation project must be reviewed by the Commission for Higher Education and approved by the Governor, on recommendation of the Budget Agency, if the cost of the project exceeds two million dollars (\$2,000,000) and if any part of the cost of the project is paid by state appropriated funds or by mandatory student fees assessed all students. Such review is required if no part of the project is paid by state-appropriated funds or by mandatory student fees and the project cost exceeds two million dollars (\$2,000,000). A project that has been approved or authorized by the General Assembly is subject to review by the Commission for Higher Education. The Commission for Higher Education shall review a project approved or authorized by the General Assembly for which a state appropriation will be used. All other non-state-funded projects must be reviewed within ninety (90) days after the project is submitted to the Commission.

Supporting Document

Ivy Tech Community College South Bend, Dental Lab Renovation

Ivy Tech Community College South Bend, Dental Lab Renovation

Thursday, July 23, 2025

D-1-25-1-02: Ivy Tech Community College South Bend, Dental Lab Renovation

Ivy Tech Community College South Bend Campus plans to renovate approximately 4,267 square feet facility located in the vacated space of old campus bookstore. The space will become a new Dental Hygiene Suite that will support the increased enrollment growth of the Dental Hygiene Program. The project will enable the campus to meet the needs of the community and students in the School of Health Sciences. The new space will fuel student employment opportunities and further partnership with healthcare industry as well as community partners.

In St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties, employment opportunities for dental hygienists are projected to grow 9% from 2023 to 2033, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. The median annual wage for dental hygienists was \$87,539 in 2023. Ivy Tech Dental Hygiene Program is a limited enrollment due to current space capacity. The new state-of-the-art Dental Hygiene Suite will improve the quality of education and increase enrollment in a steady pace. The Dental Hygiene program is currently admitting 16 per class (2 classes- a first year and a second year at a time). The renovation project will allow the program to admit up to 32. Pending Commission on Dental Accreditation approval, the campus would be able to increase to 24 potential per class for a total of 48 between the two cohorts. Ivy Tech South Bend currently has a waiting list for this program; for the most recent class that started in Fall 2024, 57 students who were qualified for the program could not be offered spots due to space limitations. This project will allow the campus to increase enrollments upon completion of the new space, currently anticipated for the Fall 2026 term.

Funding: The estimated cost of this project is \$2,639,000 and will be financed from private foundation funding and existing campus funds.

Additional Staff Notes: Staff recommends approval of the project.

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, July 24, 2025

DISCUSSION ITEM B:

Collegiate Purple Star

Senate Bill 384 (2023) tasked CHE and the Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) with establishing and implementing the Higher Education Purple Star Designation, known as the Collegiate Purple Star Award of Indiana (CPSI).

MISSION: Recognize an eligible postsecondary institution that has successfully demonstrated a supportive environment for its United States military affiliated student population from application to graduation.

- 28 Institutions received a Tier
 - 6 Received Tier 1
 - 16 Received Tier 2
 - 6 Received Tier 3

Supporting Document

To be distributed.

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, July 24, 2025

DISCUSSION ITEM C:

Credentials of Value and CTE Student's Journey

Background

This presentation follows the release of the Credentials of Value (COV) list and memo by the Indiana Department of Education on May 30. Members of the CTE team at CHE worked with interagency colleagues in completing the list.

The presentation will introduce the methodology used in determining scores for both postsecondary and industry credentials with a scoring example of a specific credential. Additionally, the presentation will include a walkthrough of how a hypothetical student can use CTE Programs of Study, Credentials of Value, and the new Indiana diploma seals to maximize their high school experience and their career and postsecondary education options.

Supporting Document

To be distributed.

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, July 24, 2025

INFORMATION ITEM A: Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action

| | <u>Title of Program</u> | <u>Institution/Campus/Site</u> | <u>Date</u> <u>Received</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|----|--|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01 | Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Supervision | Purdue University West Lafayette and Indianapolis | 4/8/2025 | On CHE Agenda for Action |
| 02 | Bachelor of Science in Sport Communication | Indiana State University | 5/19/2025 | On CHE Agenda for Action |
| 03 | Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science | Purdue University West Lafayette | 6/6/2025 | On CHE Agenda for Action |
| 04 | Bachelor of Science in Business Intelligence and Data Science | Indiana University Bloomington | 6/9/2025 | On CHE Agenda for Action |
| 05 | Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering | Indiana University Bloomington | 6/9/2025 | On CHE Agenda for Action |

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, July 24, 2025

INFORMATION ITEM B-1:**Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff**

| | <u>Title of Program</u> | <u>Institution/Campus/Site</u> | <u>Date Received</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 01 | C.P.C. in Advanced Manufacturing - General Automation Technology | Vincennes University | 4/22/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 02 | C.P.C. in Welding Technology | Vincennes University | 4/22/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 03 | C.P.C. in Construction Technology | Vincennes University | 4/22/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 04 | C.P.C. in Advanced Manufacturing - General Robotics Technology | Vincennes University | 4/22/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 05 | C.P.C. in HVAC Technology | Vincennes University | 4/22/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 06 | C.P.C. in Collision Repair | Vincennes University | 4/22/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 07 | C.P.C. in Machining Fundamentals | Vincennes University | 4/22/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 08 | C.P.C. in Aviation Maintenance General | Vincennes University | 4/22/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 09 | B.S. in Graphic Design Studies | Ball State University | 4/28/2025 | Changing the name |
| 10 | B.A./B.S. in Graphic Communications Management | Ball State University | 4/28/2025 | Changing the name |
| 11 | B.A. in Art/B.F.A. in Studio Art | Ball State University | 4/28/2025 | Changing the name |
| 12 | B.A./B.S. in Medical Lab Science | Ball State University | 4/28/2025 | Changing the name |
| 13 | Post-Master's Nurse Educator Certificate | Ball State University | 4/28/2025 | Adding a certificate |

| | <u>Title of Program</u> | <u>Institution/Campus/Site</u> | <u>Date Received</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|----|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 14 | Fundamentals of Sport Management Post-Baccalaureate Certificate | Purdue University West Lafayette | 5/1/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 15 | Digital Data Acquisition for Natural Resources Post-Baccalaureate Certificate | Purdue University West Lafayette | 5/1/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 16 | Technology Integration for Learning - Post-Baccalaureate Certificate | Purdue University West Lafayette | 5/1/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 17 | C.P.C. in Web Publishing and Design | Vincennes University | 5/12/2025 | Suspending a program |
| 18 | C.P.C. in Clerical-General | Vincennes University | 5/12/2025 | Suspending a program |
| 19 | Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Certificate | Vincennes University | 5/12/2025 | Changing the credit hours |
| 20 | C.P.C. in Web Site Development for e-Commerce | Vincennes University | 5/12/2025 | Suspending a program |
| 21 | C.P.C. in Construction and Skilled Trades Technology | Vincennes University | 5/12/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 22 | C.P.C. in Web Programming | Vincennes University | 5/12/2025 | Suspending a program |
| 23 | T.C. in Entrepreneurship | Ivy Tech Community College | 5/15/2025 | Suspending a location |
| 24 | M.S. in Engineering Technology Management | Indiana State University | 5/16/2025 | Changing the name |
| 25 | Ph.D. in Educational Psychology | Ball State University | 5/19/2025 | Changing the CIP code |
| 26 | School Administration and Supervision - Initial License Post-Master's Certificate | Indiana State University | 5/19/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 27 | Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Data Science | Indiana University Indianapolis | 5/20/2025 | Changing the CIP code |
| 28 | B.A. in Classical Civilization | Indiana University Bloomington | 5/20/2025 | Suspending a program |
| 29 | B.A. in Classical Studies | Indiana University Bloomington | 5/20/2025 | Changing the name |

| | <u>Title of Program</u> | <u>Institution/Campus/Site</u> | <u>Date Received</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|----|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 30 | M.A./M.S. in Social Work | Indiana University Northwest | 5/20/2025 | Changing the credit hours |
| 31 | Master of Social Work | Indiana University South Bend | 5/20/2025 | Changing the credit hours |
| 32 | Graduate Certificate in Arts Administration | Indiana University Bloomington | 5/20/2025 | Changing the name |
| 33 | Graduate Certificate in Spanish | Indiana University Kokomo | 5/20/2025 | Eliminating a program |
| 34 | B.A./B.S. in Geography | Indiana University Bloomington | 5/20/2025 | Changing the CIP code |
| 35 | Master of Social Work | Indiana University Bloomington | 5/20/2025 | Changing the credit hours |
| 36 | Master of Social Work | Indiana University Indianapolis | 5/20/2025 | Changing the credit hours |
| 37 | Games, Narrative, and eSports | Purdue University West Lafayette | 5/22/2025 | Adding a certificate |

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, July 24, 2025

INFORMATION ITEM B-2:**Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff**

| | <u>Title of Program</u> | <u>Institution/Campus/Site</u> | <u>Date Received</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 01 | Early Childhood Education Transition to Teaching | Indiana State University | 5/27/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 02 | Unmanned Systems Certificate | Indiana State University | 6/16/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 03 | Global Scholar Mirco-Credential | Purdue University Global | 5/29/2025 | Eliminating a program |
| 04 | B.S. in Multidisciplinary Technology | Purdue Polytechnic Statewide | 6/17/2025 | Adding a Location |
| 05 | B.S. in Multidisciplinary Technology | Purdue Polytechnic Statewide | 6/17/2025 | Adding a location |
| 06 | Certificate in Hospitality Management | Indiana University Indianapolis | 6/23/2025 | Eliminating a program |
| 07 | Certificate in Food and Beverage Operations | Indiana University Indianapolis | 6/23/2025 | Changing name |
| 08 | Certificate in Computational Science | Indiana University Indianapolis | 6/23/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 09 | Certificate in Food and Beverage Operations | Indiana University Indianapolis | 6/23/2025 | Changing the credit hours |
| 10 | Executive Doctor of Business Administration | Indiana University Bloomington | 6/23/2025 | Splitting a program |
| 11 | Ph.D. in Business | Indiana University Bloomington | 6/23/2025 | Changing the name |
| 12 | Ph.D. in Business | Indiana University Bloomington | 6/23/2025 | Changing the CIP code |
| 13 | Certificate in Gerontology Studies | Indiana University Indianapolis | 6/23/2025 | Changing the credit hours |
| 14 | Certificate in Medical Coding | Indiana University Indianapolis | 6/23/2025 | Changing the credit hours |

| | <u>Title of Program</u> | <u>Institution/Campus/Site</u> | <u>Date Received</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|----|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 15 | Bachelor of Music Education | Ball State University | 6/25/2025 | Changing the credit hours |
| 16 | Advanced AI and Cybersecurity Applications Post-Baccalaureate Certificate | Purdue University West Lafayette | 6/22/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 17 | Business and Technology Post-Baccalaureate Certificate | Purdue University West Lafayette | 6/22/2025 | Adding a certificate |
| 18 | Business and Technology Post-Baccalaureate Certificate | Purdue University in Indianapolis | 6/22/2025 | Adding a certificate |

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, July 24, 2025

INFORMATION ITEM C: **Media Coverage**

Staff has selected a compilation of recent media coverage related to the Commission from June. Please see the following pages for details.

Forbes

Indiana's Public Colleges & Universities Freeze Tuition For Two Years

Michael Nietzel

June 24, 2025

All of Indiana's public higher education institutions, including Purdue University, have agreed to a two-year tuition freeze for resident undergraduates.

At the request of Governor Mike Braun, all 15 of Indiana's public colleges and universities have committed to freezing their tuition and mandatory fees for in-state undergraduate students for the next two academic years.

The decision came in response to the Governor's request and a unanimous recommendation by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education in May that resident tuition and mandatory fees be held flat at the state's public higher education institutions for academic years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

The Commission is charged in state law to recommend tuition rates for the state's colleges every two years. An institution wanting to charge more than the recommended amount must present a formal justification to the State Budget Committee.

"A month ago, we challenged our state's public higher education institutions to find efficiencies, eliminate redundancies and identify ways to streamline services without compromising quality," said Braun in a news release from his office. "The commitment made by all of Indiana's public colleges and universities puts students and parents first and demonstrates to the rest of the country that Indiana is a leader in providing a high quality education at an affordable price."

According to the Governor's office, this is the first time since at least 2010 that more than two of the state's public colleges and universities have simultaneously held tuition flat, and it's the first time ever that all of the institutions have agreed to do so.

"While the Commission, along with our institutions and other partners, have leveraged policies, programs, and partnerships to keep our colleges and universities affordable, we all recognize the economic challenges our fellow Hoosiers have faced over the past several years," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery, according to the *Indiana Capital Chronicle*. "In the spirit of seeking to maintain Indiana's national leadership in affordability, the Commission is in full support of Gov. Braun's recommendation for a 0% tuition increase."

The following campuses have committed to the tuition freeze:

- Ball State University,
- Indiana State University
- Indiana University Bloomington,
- Indiana University East,
- Indiana University Indianapolis,
- Indiana University Kokomo,
- Indiana University Northwest,
- Indiana University South Bend,
- Indiana University Southeast,
- Ivy Tech Community College,

- Purdue University West Lafayette,
- Purdue University Fort Wayne,
- Purdue University Northwest,
- University of Southern Indiana and
- Vincennes University

Samantha Fleischaker, the student representative and a student at the University of Southern Indiana, praised the tuition decision. “Keeping tuition flat keeps the door open for students of all backgrounds, all ZIP codes, and all walks of life,” she said. “It sends the message that education is not just for one demographic - it’s for all people. It’s not just a number. It’s the difference between opportunity and what feels impossible.”

Chicago Tribune | Post-Tribune
Area students win state teaching scholarships
 June 20, 2025

Thirteen Northwest Indiana students have received a Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. They’re among 300 winners across the state, according to a release.

Through a competitive application process based on academic achievement and additional criteria, the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship provides recipients with a renewable scholarship of up to \$10,000 per year or up to \$40,000.

In exchange, students agree to teach for five years at an eligible Indiana school or repay the corresponding, prorated amount of the scholarship.

“The Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship is a key strategy to build Indiana’s future teacher workforce with high-quality talent. The students selected for this opportunity have the passion and determination to make a difference in classrooms across the state,” said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery.

To qualify for the scholarship, students must graduate in the top 20 percent of their high school class, earn a score in the 20th percentile on the SAT or ACT, or have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

To continue earning the scholarship in college, students must earn a 3.0 GPA and complete at least 30 credit hours per year.

Local scholarship winners and their chosen colleges include:

Lake County: Alexandra Magallanes, Bishop Noll Institute, St. Mary’s College; Miles Verpooten, Crown Point High School, Ball State University; Charles Ganske, Hobart High School, Butler University; James Hairston, Hobart High School, Calumet College of St. Joseph; Emily Bantsolas, Illiana Christian High School, Anderson University; Joshua Wooge, Lake Central High School, Purdue University Northwest; Claire Benton, Lowell High School, Huntington University; Tionna Hall, Merrillville High School, Ball State University.

Porter County: Myah Donovan, Hebron High School, Western Governors University Indiana; Juliana Guerrero, Chesterton High School, Purdue University Northwest; Olivia Miller, Kouts High School, Purdue University; Guinevere Lay, Portage High School, Ball State University; Noelle Gapinski, Valparaiso High School, Ball State University.

IndyStar

Indiana public colleges cut or merge a fifth of degree programs, more could come

Kayla Dwyer

June 30, 2025

A handful of Indiana's public colleges have proactively decided to cut or "consolidate" about a fifth of the state's degree programs ahead of a new state law, introduced at the very end of the legislative session, that takes effect July 1.

That's roughly 400 of the 2,200 degree programs across state institutions on the chopping block, the Commission for Higher Education announced June 30, because they don't have enough students enrolled in them. This is being billed as part of a Gov. Mike Braun agenda item to direct students to the most "in-demand" fields.

"This will help students make more informed decisions about the degree they want to pursue and ensure there is a direct connection between the skills students are gaining through higher education and the skills they need most," Braun said in a press release.

The language dictating this change joined a slew of other directives added to the state budget the day before the legislative session concluded, from adding "productivity" reviews to the tenure process to giving Braun appointing power over the entire Indiana University board of trustees. This particular provision about degree programs allots a student enrollment quota they must meet in order to be continued automatically, or else they need an exemption from the Commission.

The quota is a three-year average of 10 students for an associate's degree program, 15 for a bachelor's degree program, seven for a master's degree program and three for a doctorate program.

The Commission announced that six public institutions have "voluntarily submitted" 400 degrees for "elimination, suspension, or merger/consolidation," either immediately or for a future promised date. Students in degree programs targeted for eventual elimination will get the opportunity to finish their studies, guidance from the commission states.

These 408 degrees are merely what colleges have decided to take "early action" on, before the new state law must be implemented. In its guidance to institutions, the commission said it didn't expect this voluntary round to encapsulate all "under-threshold" programs.

An analysis of publicly available data conducted by IndyStar indicates that a strict application of the quotas could lead to significantly more degrees being cut. For example,

more than half the bachelor programs didn't meet the threshold, including a nationally renowned soil science program at Purdue.

Which degree programs have been eliminated?

The six institutions that voluntarily submitted plans to cut or consolidate programs are the following, along with the number of programs affected:

- Ball State University: 51
- Indiana State University: 11
- Indiana University (all campuses): 249
- Ivy Tech Community College: 10
- Purdue University (all campuses): 83
- University of Southern Indiana: 4

Among these, 75 programs are being eliminated, 68 of which had zero enrollments this year; 101 programs are being suspended, which means they will be taught only until the students currently in them are done and will then be eliminated; and 232 programs will be merged or consolidated.

Merging or consolidating means a college could opt to absorb under-performing degree programs into other existing degree programs, or it could merge two or more under-performing degree programs into a consolidated new program.

The list of degrees slotted for elimination range from the niche, like dance at IU Bloomington and recreation therapy at Indiana State University, to seemingly in-demand fields like a masters in software engineering at Ball State and a bachelor's in biotechnology at IU Indianapolis.

Language and fine arts degrees feature heavily on the list, as do education-related degrees. Bachelor's degrees comprise the largest category on the list.

The Commission says it previously gave each state institution a list of degree programs that are "under-threshold." After July 1, colleges will have to seek approval from the Commission to continue any degree programs on that list that they haven't already voluntarily cut.

Chris Lowery, head of the commission, said in a statement that this move is an effort to improve quality and cost of institutions' offerings.

"Our institutions want to ensure the programs they're offering are responsive to student demand and fit the needs of Indiana's evolving economy," he said. "The primary beneficiaries of this work will be students, who face an overwhelming number of degree programs as they make their educational and career decisions."

The picture may be more complicated at small or regional campuses that have fewer students in general, even though they offer what are typically viewed as high-demand fields, like STEM.

The language in the state budget was not subject to public testimony during the legislative session.