



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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June 18, 2026

Lesley Reid, Ph.D.
Provost
The University of Alabama
PO Box 870114
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Dear Dr. Reid:

At its meeting on June 12, 2026, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education approved the following academic items for The University of Alabama:

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

- Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Public Policy (CIP 44.0501)
- Master of Public Policy (MPP) in Public Policy (CIP 44.0501)

In addition, the following information items were accepted by the Commission:

IMPLEMENTATION OF FOR-CREDIT NON-DEGREE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:

- Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Autism (CIP 13.1001, Level 6)
- Short-Term Certificate in Paralympic Sports (CIP 13.1314, Level 1b)
- Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Clinical and Behavioral Health (CIP 44.0701, Level 6)
- Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Child Welfare (CIP 44.0702, Level 6)
- Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Policy and Advocacy (CIP 44.0799, Level 6)
- Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Substance Use and Addiction (CIP 51.1501, Level 6)

CHANGES TO THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM INVENTORY:

- CIP Change: CIP ~~09.0903~~ 09.0900 Advertising & Public Relations, MA
- CIP Change: CIP ~~09.0903~~ 09.0900 Digital Communication, Post-Baccalaureate
- Nomenclature Change: CIP 13.1312 Music Education, BSED
BME
- Title Change: CIP 52.1301 Operations Management, MS
Supply Chain Analytics

CURRICULAR MODIFICATIONS FOR EXISTING DEGREE PROGRAMS:

- Addition of the following Concentrations within the existing BME in Music Education (CIP 13.1312)
 - a. Instrumental Music
 - b. Vocal/Choral Music
- Addition of the following Concentrations within the existing MS in Rural Community Health (CIP 51.2208)
 - a. Rural Dental Scholars
 - b. Rural Occupational Therapy Scholars
 - c. Rural Physical Therapy Scholars
- Addition of a Concentration in Italian within the existing MA in Romance Languages (CIP 16.0900)

UPDATES TO ACADEMIC UNITS REQUIRING NOTIFICATION ONLY:

- Change in the name of the Department of Mathematics to the Department of Mathematical Sciences within the Barefield College of Arts and Sciences
- Reorganization of the Department of Music Education within the College of Education to close the department and relocate the Music Education program to the School of Music within the Barefield College of Arts and Sciences
- Reclassification of the following Academic Units:
 - a. Digital Media Center reclassified as a Unit of Administration
 - b. Education Policy Center reclassified as a Unit of Public Service
 - c. English Language Institute reclassified as a Unit of Administration
 - d. Human Resources Institute reclassified as a Unit of Public Service
 - e. Regional In-Service Education Center reclassified as a Non-Academic Unit
 - f. Speech and Hearing Center reclassified as a Unit of Public Service
 - g. University of Alabama Public Television and Radio reclassified as a Unit of Public Service
 - h. CLE Alabama reclassified as a Non-Academic Unit

IMPLEMENTATION OF DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

- MS in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102)
- PhD in Computer Science (CIP 11.0701)
- Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Book Arts (CIP 50.0799)

A record of these items is available on the Commission website for your reference: https://ache.edu/?page_id=16173. For your convenience, we have enclosed the post-implementation conditions for the programs that were approved at this meeting.

We look forward to working with you and your staff on matters related to Alabama higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin E. McGill".

Robin E. McGill, Ph.D.
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Enclosures

CC: Dr. Tonjanita Johnson
Dr. Chris Coleman
Dr. Chelsea Fancher
Ms. Shirrell Perryman
Ms. Kristan White

DECISION ITEM: The University of Alabama, Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy (CIP 44.0501)

Staff Presenter: Dr. Robin McGill
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Staff Recommendation: That the Commission approve the proposed Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Public Policy.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Fall 2027. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 1, 2029, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning 2028-29 will be at least 9.4, based on the Commission's "Operational Policy on the Approval of New Programs of Instruction and Requirements for Post-Implementation Monitoring" (Administrative Code §300-2-1-.04).
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2028-29 through 2033-34 (six-year average) will be 7.5, based on the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
3. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program be provided, particularly as related to objectives stated in the proposal, also including data on related employment and/or pursuit of graduate study.

The University of Alabama (UA) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2034.

Background: The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8 (c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting plans for the new unit or program to the Commission for its review, evaluation, and approval.

DECISION ITEM: The University of Alabama, Master of Public Policy in Public Policy (CIP 44.0501)

Staff Presenter: Dr. Robin McGill
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Staff Recommendation: That the Commission approve the proposed Master of Public Policy (MPP) in Public Policy.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Fall 2027. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 1, 2029, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning 2028-29 will be at least 4.7, based on the Commission's "Operational Policy on the Approval of New Programs of Instruction and Requirements for Post-Implementation Monitoring" (Administrative Code §300-2-1-.04).
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2028-29 through 2033-34 (six-year average) will be 3.75, based on the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
3. That the existing Master of Public Administration (MPA) in Public Administration (CIP 44.0401) will maintain viability in keeping with the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
4. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program be provided, particularly as related to objectives stated in the proposal, also including data on related employment and/or pursuit of doctoral study.

The University of Alabama (UA) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2034.

Background: The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8 (c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not