

expedited academic program approval. A response will be provided to approve, disapprove, or require additional information.

If approved, the proposed program will be posted on the THEC website for a 10 calendar day period for comment by interested parties. At the close of the 10 calendar day comment period, THEC will review all comments and documents in order to identify issues relative to criteria identified in Sections 1.0.2A1 "Criteria for Review" and 1.0.2A2 "No Unnecessary Duplication" in accordance with THEC Academic Policy A 1.0: New Academic Programs: Approval Process. The 10 calendar day public comment period may be extended to a maximum of 20 calendar days per the discretion of THEC staff.

1.6.5A

Expedited New Academic Program Proposal (ENAPP).

In accordance with THEC Academic Policy A 1.0: New Academic Programs: Approval Process, institutions are responsible for quality academic program development. The ENAPP is to be submitted in entirety to THEC at the time the campus seeks to request an external review and should follow guidelines as outlined on the checklist for Expedited Academic Programs posted on the THEC website. Once the ENAPP is submitted to THEC, the institution may initiate the site visit for the proposed program.

1.6.6A

External Reviewers. External reviewers will be required to serve as expert evaluators for all proposed academic programs. THEC will select reviewers from the proposed institutional external reviewer list. Individuals used in the development stage as external consultants may not serve as external reviewers. In keeping with the SACSCOC's Ethical Obligations of Evaluators policy statement, external reviewers should ideally:

- be a subject matter expert in the proposed field;
- be a tenured faculty member with associate or higher academic rank, teaching and a record of research experience;
- no prior relationship with either the institution or close personal or familial relationship with the potential faculty involved in the proposed academic program.

- not have any other relationship that could serve as an impediment to rendering an impartial, objective professional judgment regarding the merits of the proposed academic program.

In the event no external reviewers proposed by the institution are available or acceptable, THEC staff reserve the right to approve an exception or propose alternative external reviewers and may opt,

recommendations will be forwarded to the Education Committees of the General Assembly.

1.6.11A

Policy will be reviewed every five years unless changes in the evaluation process are warranted.

Source: THEC Meeting: July 23, 2020