

## Notification of New Academic Degrees Under Consideration – August 15, 2017

Per THEC Policy A1.0 (New Academic Programs: Approval Process), “upon consideration by an institution to develop a new academic program in excess of 24 SCH and notification to the institutional governing board, the institution may submit a Letter of Notification to THEC.”

The following academic programs are under consideration. Pending the results of feasibility studies, the university may submit Letters of Notification to THEC.

B.S. in Tourism and Hospitality Management – This is the fastest growing sector of the economy in Middle Tennessee and currently no institution offers this degree. We have been approached by representatives from the hospitality industry and tourism organizations in Middle Tennessee requesting this program, indicating strong industry support and employer need/demand. MTSU currently offers a B.S. in Leisure, Sport, and Tourism Studies. This is also a link to a number of Tennessee Transfer Pathways at community colleges, facilitating the Governor’s Drive to 55.

M.S. in TESL (Teaching English as Second Language) – There is no TESL degree in Middle Tennessee while the population of English language learners is exploding. This, along with special education and STEM teachers are the highest demand fields in education. This degree would also draw international students who wish to return to their home country and teach English in schools and universities.

M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies – Trevecca is the only school in the region that offers this degree which is identified as one of the most in demand with graduates entering the workforce at salaries around \$90,000. Health care organizations (e.g., Veterans Administration) are facing a shortage of doctors in the future and looking at PA’s to fill the gap in delivering primary care. The typical format of this type degree program is to admit cohorts each semester and have them proceed through the curriculum in lock-step, meaning that it produces a large and steady stream of graduates. Differential tuition is an option for this type of professional program as it is a high demand allied health profession preparation that leads to high paying positions.

B.S. in Media and Entertainment – This program would offer students an opportunity to gain a broad preparation across several of the programs in the College of Media and Entertainment. For example, a student who wants to combine aspects of the Audio Production major with the Video and Film major. More importantly, it will allow us to retain students who do not meet candidacy requirements in an existing major by providing another option that will allow them to use credits already earned. It is an important strategy to address retention among this large group of students.