

# **New Program Approvals at Virginia Four-Year Institutions**

**Senate Finance Committee – May 31, 2017**

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**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA**

# **§ 23.1-203. Duties of Council.**

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**5. Review and approve or disapprove all new undergraduate or graduate academic programs that any public institution of higher education proposes.**

# SCHEV Policy (updated 2016)

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## Program Description:

- Program Background
- Mission
- Admission Criteria
- Target Population
- Curriculum
- Student Retention Plan
- Faculty
- Program Administration
- Student Assessment
- Employment Skills/Workplace Competencies
- Program Assessment
- Expansion of Existing Programs
- Relationship to Existing Degree Programs
- Compromising Existing Degree Programs
- Collaboration or Standalone

# SCHEV Policy (updated 2016)

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## Program Justification:

- **Response to Current Needs (Specific Demand)**
- **Employment Demand**
- **Student Demand**
- **SCHEV Student Projected Enrollment Chart**
- **Duplication**
- **Projected resources for the proposed program**
- **Resources Needs: explain resource needs to initiate and operate the program**
- **Resource Needs: Part A form, Part B and C form, and Part D: Certification Statement(s)**

# *Integration of Justification – 1*

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- **Response to Current Needs (Specific Demand)**
  - Objective research supporting state and/or national need
- **Employment Demand**
  - Labor market info (BLS, Va. Workforce Connection)
  - Job ads (specific to degree subject and level)
  - Curriculum has to match workplace competencies

# *Integration of Justification – 2*

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- **Student Demand**

- Surveys
- Expressions of interest

- **Duplication**

- Existence of similar programs
- Factors: degree of need (employment demand), institutional mission, locale, differences between similar programs, differences in institutional selectivity

# Other Relevant Policy Factors

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- **Substantial institutional autonomy to revise programs (e.g., add options, tracks, majors).**
- **“Facilitated Approval” for high need, low duplication programs.**
- **Program Productivity Review (5 years).**
  - **2014: 113 programs reviewed; 33 closed; 6 continued with conditions.**

**A (virtually) universal law:  
enrollment growth drives growth  
in academic programs.**



# It's complicated....

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- ***External pressures:*** as institutions grow, students and communities expect more from them.
- ***Internal pressures:*** growth can create opportunities for efficiency that practically *require* new programs.
- ***Where you start from makes a difference:*** growth up to about 5,000 is more about realizing viability/efficiency than expanding programs.

### Degree Programs Approved, 2002-12

	Institution	Programs	Note:
1	GMU	87	63 graduate programs (24 doctoral)
2	VCU	43	20 doctoral (13 health, 3 engineering)
3	VT	30	16 in engineering/technology/architecture-design/agriculture
4	JMU	22	10 in health disciplines, 14 graduate level
5	ODU	13	Nine doctoral (2007 or before)
6	VSU	12	All 2007 or before.
7	UVA	10	
8	NSU	7	
9	Longwood	6	
10	Radford	6	
11	CNU	4	
12	UVAW	4	
13	UMW	2	
14	CWM	1	
15	VMI	0	

**Enrollment Growth, 4-yr Institutions, 1992-2012 (Fall Headcount)**

	Institution	1992	2012	Δ	%
1	GMU	20,829	32,961	12,132	+58.0
		2016	[35,189]	[2,228]	[+6.8]
2	VCU	21,939	31,752	9,813	+44.7
3	JMU	11,343	19,927	8,584	+75
		2016	[21,270]	[1,343]	[+6.7]
4	ODU	16,507	24,670	8,163	+49.4
5	VT	26,003	31,087	5,084	+19.6
		2016	[33,107]	[2,020]	[+6.5]
6	UVA	21,535	23,907	2,372	+11.0
7	VSU	4,435	6,208	1,773	+40.0
		2016	[4,584]	[-1624]	[-26.1]
8	Longwood	3,287	4,834	1,547	+47.1
9	UMW	3,696	5,093	1,397	+37.8
10	UVAW	1,839	2,420	581	+31.6
11	CWM	7,766	8,258	492	+6.3
12	VMI	1,265	1,664	399	+31.5
13	CNU	4,880	5,186	306	+6.3
14	Radford	9,470	9,573	103	+1.1
15	NSU	8,624	7,100	-1,524	-17.8
		2016	[5,421]	[-1,679]	[-23.6]
	ALL	163,418	214,640	51,222	+31.3

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# Thoughts?