

# Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (TACRAO)

*Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner  
Academic and Health Affairs*

July 17, 2024

# Program Approval

# Degree & Cert. Requests Impacted by Rule Revisions

- Planning Notification
- Academic Associate
- Applied Associate
- Embedded Associate (new)
- Bachelor's & Master's
- Doctoral & Professional
- Academic Certificates
- Program Changes

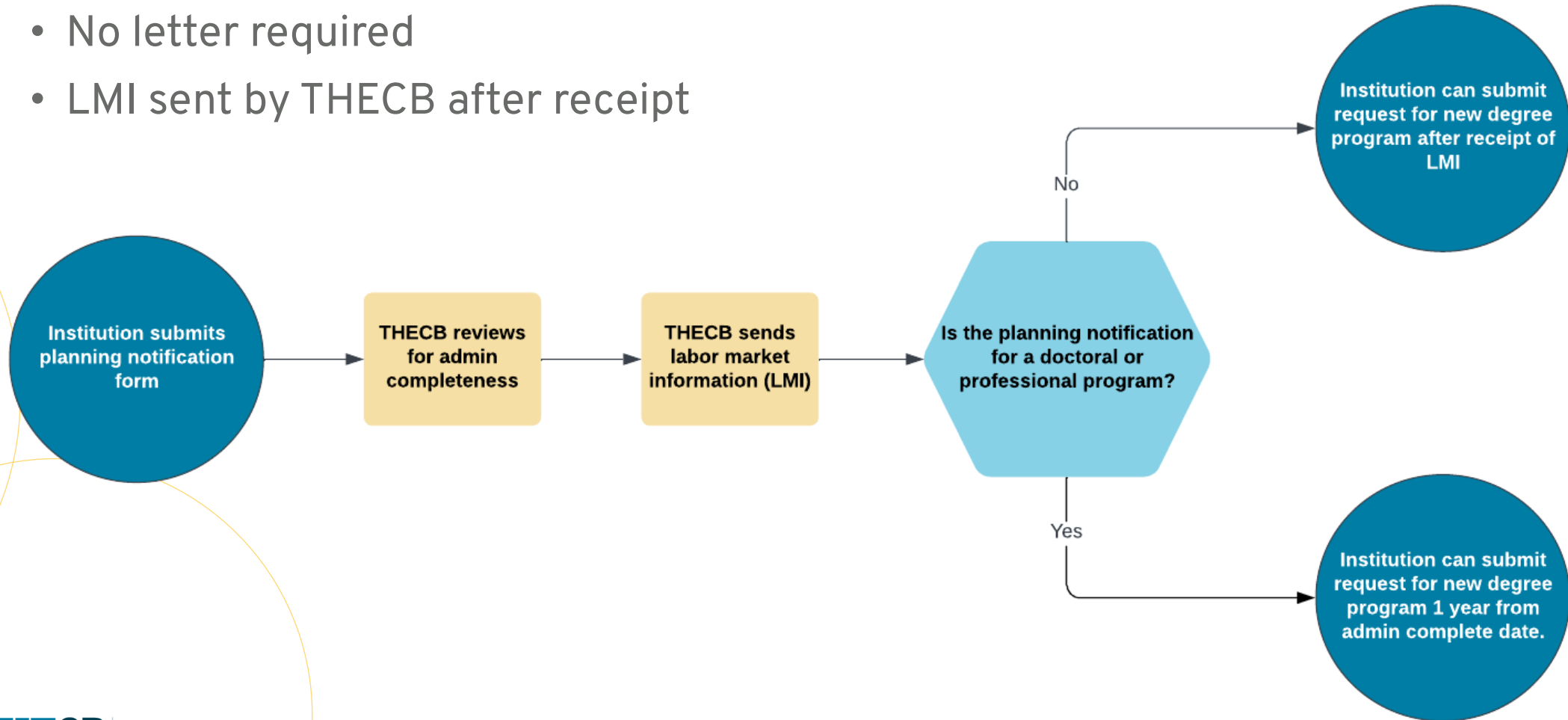
# New Forms

- Online forms with attachments (where applicable)
  - $\geq 50\%$  new content, doctoral/professional, new bachelor's at a community college content will mostly be attachments
- Institutional CAO & board/regent approval certified in the form rather than in letter format

# Planning Notification

# Planning Notification

- Notable changes
  - No letter required
  - LMI sent by THECB after receipt



# Planning Notification Changes

Effective June 1, 2023

## Degrees Requiring Planning Notification

- Associate degrees\*
- Bachelor's & master's degrees
- Doctoral & professional degrees (*must be submitted one year prior to submission of full degree program proposal*)

\*Embedded and Multidisciplinary Studies associate degrees are exempt from the planning notification requirement.

# Planning Notification: Form

Effective June 1, 2023

## Institution Planning Notification

ID

2DX4C90R

Request Type

Planning Notification

Institution\*

Proposed CIP Code\*

You DO NOT need to enter the decimal "."

CIP Code Name

Degree Level\*

Proposed Degree Designation (e.g. M.A.)\*

Proposed Degree Program Title (e.g. Psychology)\*

Select a title using the drop down menu or type in a unique degree title.

Anticipated Date of Full Proposal Submission\*

## Certification of Approval

Certification of Approval\*

I certify that this planning notification has been approved by the Chief Academic Officer or designee.

Submitter Name\*

Submitter Email\*

Proposal Contact Name\*

Proposal contact will receive labor market information when sent by THECB staff.

Proposal Contact Email\*

Submit

Save as Draft

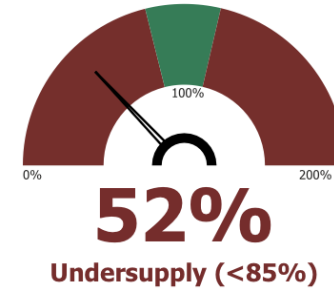


# Planning Notification: Labor Market Information

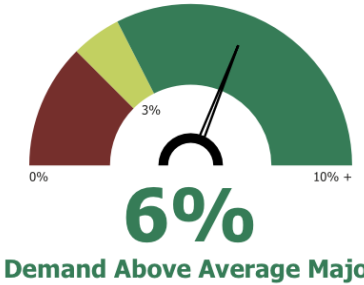
Effective June 1, 2023

Are we supplying enough graduates to meet demand?

Supply/Demand for Graduates, One Year of Experience



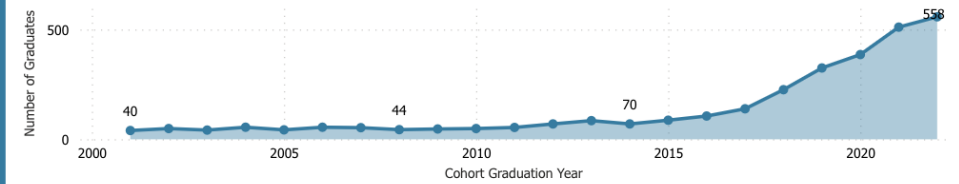
Open Jobs for Graduates of Selected Major as a Percent of All Majors at Selected Degree Level



Graduates in 2022

558

Graduates by Year (2001-2022)

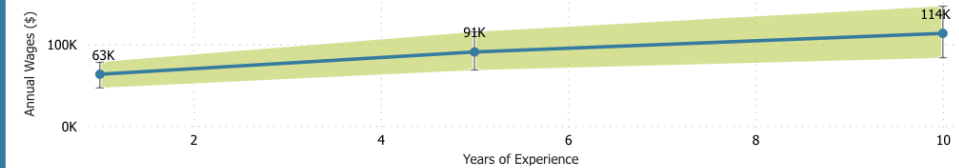


Median Wage of Full-Time Employed Graduates Following Graduation

63K

Median Wages of Graduates 1, 5, and 10 Years Post Graduation

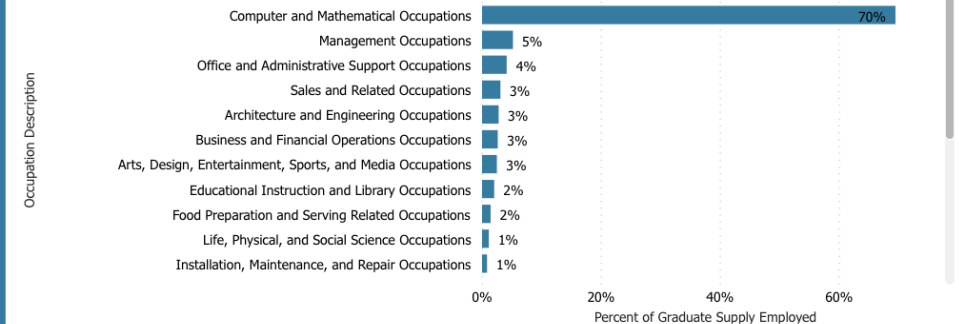
Upper Band = 75th Percentile, Lower Band = 25th Percentile



Number of Occupations Employing Graduates

22

Top Occupations Employing Graduates



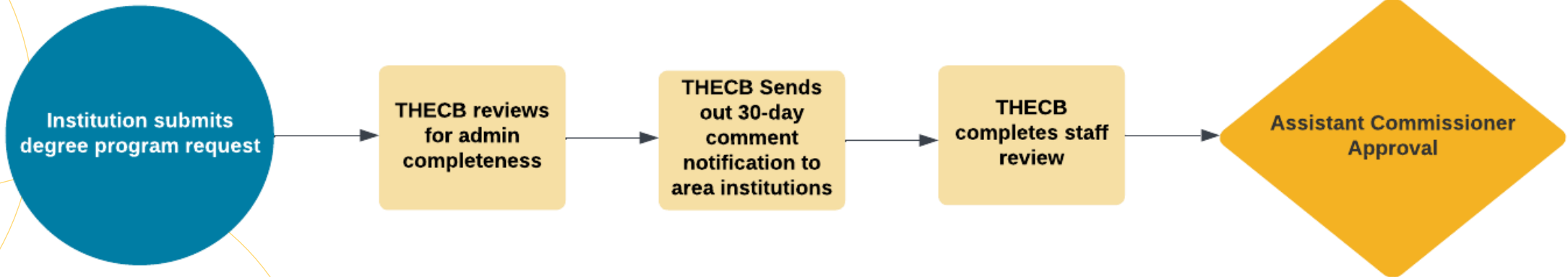
# Program Approval Key Changes

# Approval Levels

Request Type	Approval Level
Embedded Associate	Assistant Commissioner
Digital modality requests/changes (all levels)	Notification Only
Planning Notification	Notification Only
New Assoc, Bach, Master's less than 50% new content	Assistant Commissioner
New Assoc, Bach, Master's 50% or more new content	Commissioner
Doctoral & Professional	Board
New degree programs equal to a level change for institution	Board
Substantive changes to doctoral, professional or programs approved by the Board after September 1, 2023	Board
Other substantive and non-substantive changes	Assistant Commissioner
Program Closure	Notification Only
New Academic Certificate (any SCH or level)	Notification Only

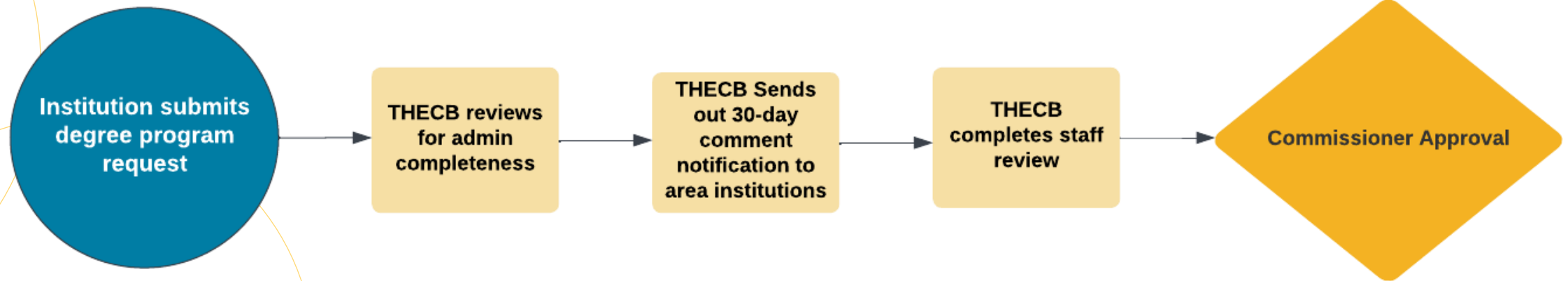
# Associate, bachelor's and master's less than 50% new content

- Notable changes
  - No 50-mile notification required prior to submission
  - Alignment with SACSCOC new content threshold to determine how much information needs to be submitted



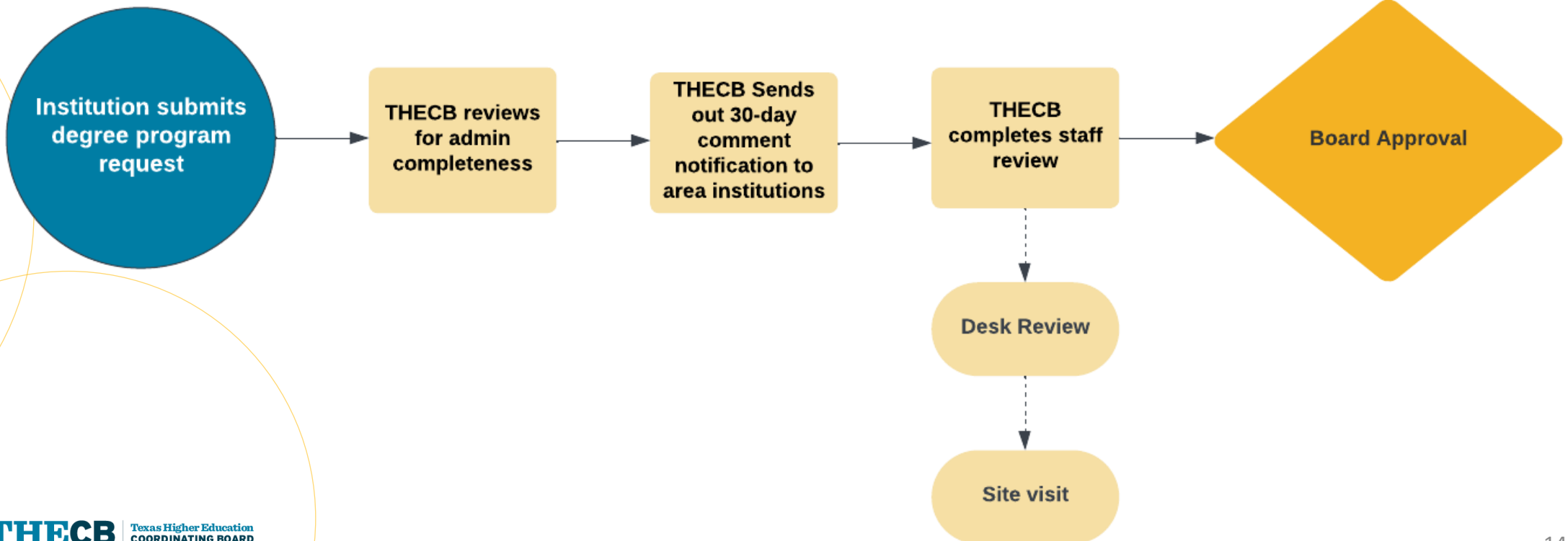
# Associate, bachelor's and master's 50% or more new content

- Notable changes
  - No 50-mile notification required prior to submission
  - Alignment with SACSCOC new content threshold to determine how much information needs to be submitted
  - Elevated to new approval level (Commissioner)



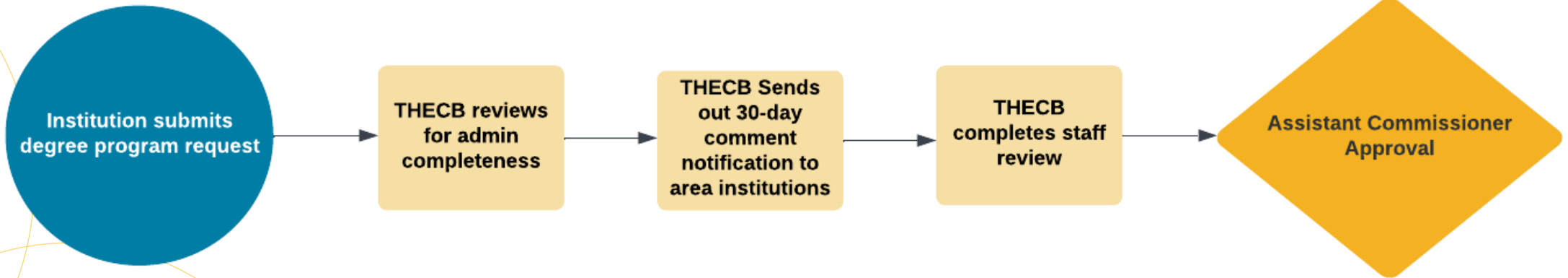
# Doctoral & Professional

- Notable changes
  - No 50-mile notification required prior to submission
  - 1-year waiting period after planning notification admin complete date for doctoral degrees



# Embedded Associate

- New degree program option
- Exempt from planning notification requirement



# 50% Content Threshold

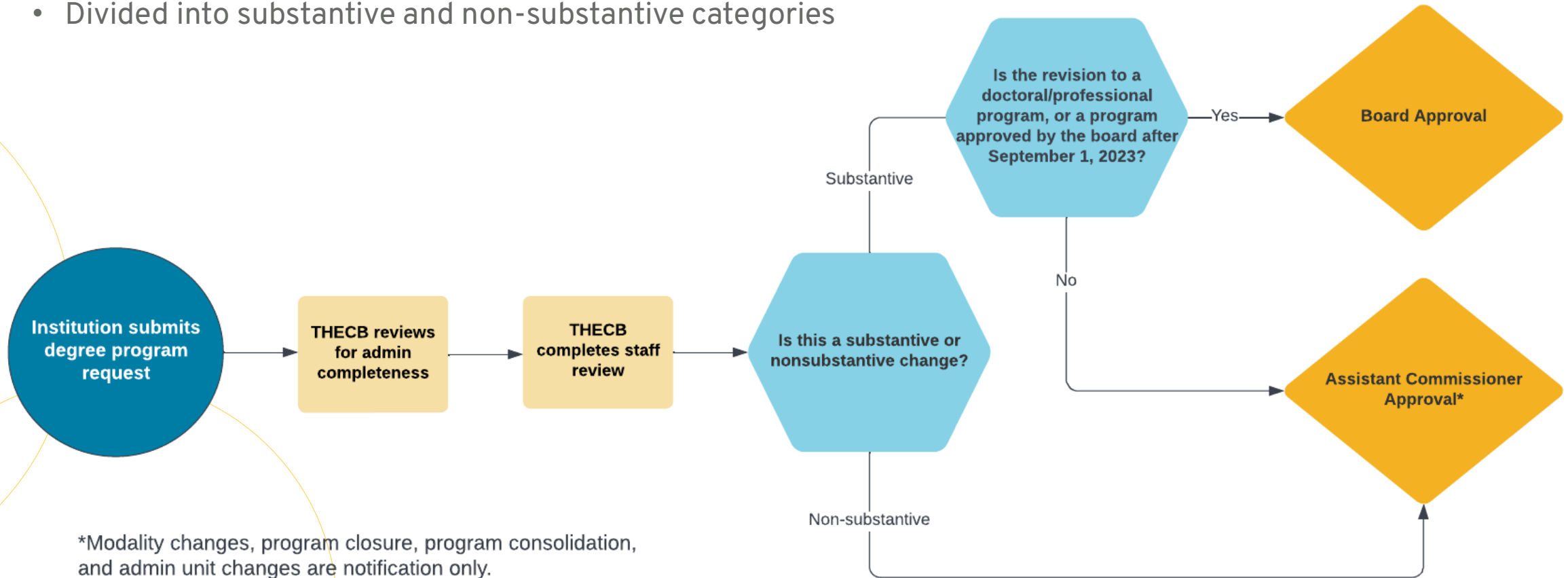
Effective September 1, 2023

- Designed to align with SACSCOC requirements.
- Institution will determine what constitutes 50% or more new content for submission purposes.
- Less than 50% content form will request number of *new* major-specific courses and *new* faculty FTE required.



# Degree Program Changes

- Notable changes
  - Modality changes are now notification only for all degree levels
  - Divided into substantive and non-substantive categories



\*Modality changes, program closure, program consolidation, and admin unit changes are notification only.

# Degree Program Changes

Effective September 1, 2023

## Non-Substantive

SCH Change

CIP Code Change

Degree Name or Designation  
Change

Program Consolidation

Off-Campus Requests

Other non-substantive revisions

## Substantive

Location Change:  
Closing the program in one location and  
moving it to a second location.

Funding Model Change:  
Changing the funding model from self-  
supported to formula-funded or vice  
versa.

Other substantive revisions

# Degree Program Changes Form

- Currently designed for public universities & HRIs; we are working to determine if it can also be used for CTCs.
- Requests included in the form:
  - CIP Code Change
  - SCH Change
  - Degree Title/Designation Change
  - Modality Change/Addition
  - Off-campus Change/Addition (*no rule changes*)
  - Funding Model Change
  - Admin Unit Change
  - Program Consolidation
  - Program Closure
  - “Other”

# Discontinuing 50-Mile Notification

Effective September 1, 2023

- No 50-mile notification required prior to submission to THECB.
- After submission, THECB will have a 30-day comment period during the proposal review process and will notify area institutions.

# Distance Education Updates

Effective May 18, 2023

- Digital modality requests for all degree programs are notification only.
- Doctoral programs delivered through distance education will no longer need to be reviewed by LTAC prior to approval.
  - Institutions will no longer need to submit the full Distance Education Doctoral Proposal Form for new or changes to doctoral programs related to distance education.

# Distance Education

## Effective December 1, 2023

Distance Education--The formal educational process that occurs when students and instructors are in separate physical locations for the majority (more than 50 percent) of instruction.

Distance Education Course--A course in which a majority (more than 50 percent) of the instruction occurs when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations. The definition of distance education course does not include courses with 50 percent or less instruction when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations. Two categories of distance education courses are defined:

100-Percent Online Course--A distance education course in which 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations. Requirements for on-campus or in-person orientation, testing, academic support services, internships/fieldwork, or other non-instructional activities do not exclude a course from this category.

Hybrid Course--A distance education course in which more than 50 percent but less than 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations.

Distance Education Degree or Certificate Program--A program in which a student may complete a majority (more than 50 percent) of the credit hours required for the program through distance education courses. The definition of a Distance Education Degree or Certificate Program does not include programs in which 50 percent or less of the required credit hours are offered through distance education. Two categories of distance education programs are defined:

100-Percent Online Program--A degree program in which students complete 100 percent of the credit hours required for the program through 100-Percent Online Courses. Requirements for on-campus or in-person orientation, testing, academic support services, internships/fieldwork, or other non-instructional activities do not exclude a program from this category.

Hybrid Program--A degree program in which students complete more than 50 percent but less than 100 percent of the credit hours required for the program through Distance Education Courses.

Definitions located in TAC Chapter 2, Subchapter J, Rule 2.202

# IPDE - Updates

- Based on the Principles of Good Practice for Distance Education (PGP)
  - Board-approved standards/criteria for distance education delivered by Texas public institutions
  - mapped to SACSCOC, Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC), Quality Matters, Online Learning Scorecard, SUNY Online Course Quality Review Rubric (OSCQR)
- Aligned with Accrediting Agency Reaffirmation cycle
  - no later than one year after receiving final disposition of the institution's comprehensive renewal of accreditation report from their institutional accreditor or
  - no later than ten years after the approval of their last IPDE to the Coordinating Board

# Academic Certificates

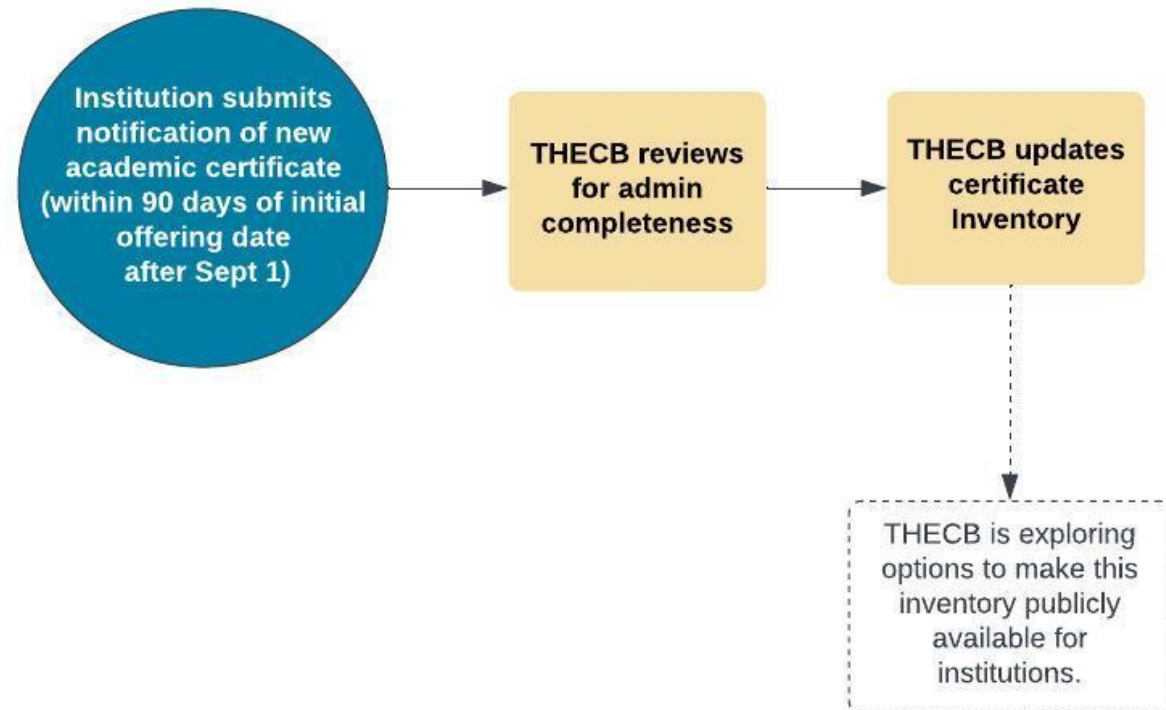
Effective September 1, 2023

- No 50-mile notification or THECB approval required prior to delivery of academic certificates regardless of SCH or level.
- THECB is developing an online certificate notification form that should be available by August.
  - Not required to be embedded in a degree program



# New Academic Certificates

- Notable changes
  - No 50-mile notification required prior to submission
  - No approval required before offering of certificates
  - No SCH or level threshold



# Program Review

(no immediate changes)

## Current Processes

- Progress Reports
- Low Producing Programs
- Graduate Program Reviews

## Future Goals

- More utilization of THECB data resources
- More targeted reviews

# Data Submission Portal Update

# Updates

- Doctoral/professional and academic certificate form scheduled to be completed by the end of the month
  - External testing of doctoral form should begin shortly
  - Program changes form to follow
- List of improvements/updates scheduled to begin once all forms are completed (some may be done prior, depending on urgency)

# New & Amended Rules

# Applied Associate Degree Programs

Effective September 1, 2024

**NOTE: This slide was updated since the meeting.**

- The new subchapter ensures requests for new applied associate degree programs are held to the same criteria and standards as all other degree programs.
- An institution seeking approval for an applied associate degree will be required to submit a Planning Notification.
- ~~• A proposed applied associate degree with less than 50% new content is subject to Assistant Commissioner Approval. Proposed programs with more than 50% new content require Commissioner approval.~~
- A proposed applied associate degree is subject to Assistant Commissioner approval.

# Career and Technical Education Certificates

## Effective September 1, 2024

- The new section provides the approval process for a career and technical education certificates that may be developed by institutions.
- The rule also outlines the several categories of certificates already in longstanding use as well as new categories.
- The rules specify the purpose of each certificate type, requirements, prerequisites, and thresholds for certificate lengths where relevant.

# Chapter 2 Amendments

- Institutions no longer pay for site visits/desk reviews
- The “funding model change” clarified to include funding model addition in program changes
- Updated to align with Comptroller regions
- Option to extend program implementation time limit (requires Commissioner Approval)



# Texas Transfer Framework

# Texas Transfer Rules

In March 2021, the Board adopted the revised Transfer Rules, which implemented the new Texas Transfer framework and revised the Texas Transfer Field of Study Curriculum.



# THECB Texas Direct

Texas Education Code Sec.61.834.

“TEXAS DIRECT ASSOCIATE DEGREE.

A public junior college, public state college, or public technical institute shall award a student a "Texas Direct" associate degree and include an appropriate notation on the student's transcript if the student completes a field of study curriculum developed by the board under Section 61.823 and: (1) the college's core curriculum; or (2) an abbreviated core curriculum related to a specific approved field of study curriculum transferable to one or more general academic teaching institutions.”

# Alternative Framework

## Amend Rule 4.32 Field of Study

- Amendments to the rules are designed to allow for two different framework structures for field of study curricula as approved by the Texas Transfer Advisory Committee (TTAC).
- The alternative field of study curriculum has a limit of 30 semester credit hours for the core to allow for more major-specific content to be taken in the first two years. The transfer student would then complete the core curriculum after transferring to the receiving institution.

# Current Status of Revised Fields of Study

Revised FOS	Status of Implementation
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Business Administration</li> <li>2. Criminal Justice</li> <li>3. Sociology</li> <li>4. Social Work</li> <li>5. Political Science</li> <li>6. Psychology</li> <li>7. Nursing</li> <li>8. History (BS Only)</li> <li>9. Education – 4-8</li> <li>10. Education – EC-6</li> <li>11. Education – EC-3</li> </ol>	<p>Approved.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Biology*</li> </ol>	<p>The subcommittee will reconvene based upon the revision of rules and development of the alternative framework.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Exercise Science</li> </ol>	<p>This subcommittee will reconvene in the fall since the necessary courses have been added to the ACGM.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. English*</li> </ol>	<p>The subcommittee met and decided to pause work until the alternative framework workgroup completes its work.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Communications</li> </ol>	<p>Approved by TTAC and the agency is working to collect directed electives from universities.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. Computer and Information Sciences*</li> <li>17. Engineering*</li> <li>18. History (BA Only)</li> </ol>	<p>These subcommittees were established by TTAC and will meet to develop a recommended revised FOS after the alternative framework workgroup completes its work.</p>



# Texas Higher Education

**COORDINATING BOARD**

[www.highered.texas.gov/TalentStrong](http://www.highered.texas.gov/TalentStrong)