Providing Access without Unnecessary Duplication

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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

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60×30TX   1

Governor John Connally's words remain true today

"The greatest risk you face is an institutionalized system, with each college or university grasping for its own ends **without regard to the needs of the people of the whole state**, and perhaps without being aware of those needs. But over the years in Texas we have come to regard each college or university as a separate institution, striving independently for success. In many cases regarded locally as a boon to the economy, it struggles to be all things to all people, willing to do almost anything that will assure its getting larger---larger in enrollment, larger in buildings, larger in number and level of degrees offered, larger in number of graduates, larger in number of alumni. And it remains in constant danger of mediocrity…"

60×30TX   2

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Texas institutions offer students numerous educational opportunities at a variety of locations

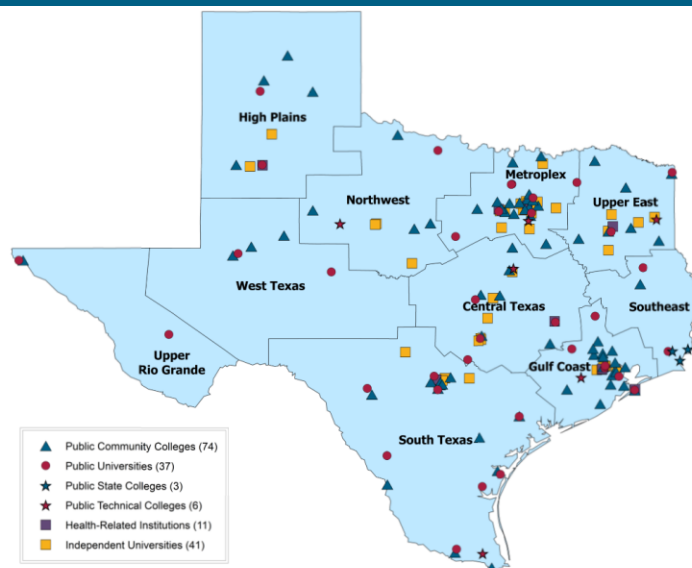Main campuses and off-campus locations

Off-campus locations include:
- Branch campuses
- Multi-Institutional Teaching Centers
- Single system sites
- Single institution sites

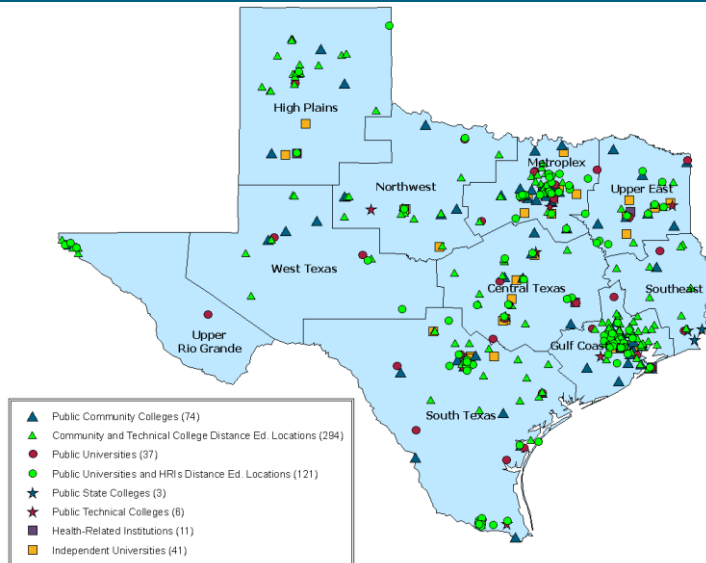Dual credit is offered at hundreds of high schools and other locations

Online programs:
- Hybrid/Blended (51% to 85%)
- Fully Online (up to 15% of course may be face-to-face)
- 100% Online (100%)

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3

Texas has 172 institutions of higher education

- ▲ Public Community Colleges (74)
- ● Public Universities (37)
- ★ Public State Colleges (3)
- ★ Public Technical Colleges (6)
- ■ Health-Related Institutions (11)
- ■ Independent Universities (41)

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4

Public institutions offer educational opportunities at 415 additional locations

- ▲ Public Community Colleges (74)
- ▲ Community and Technical College Distance Ed. Locations (294)
- ● Public Universities (37)
- ● Public Universities and HRIs Distance Ed. Locations (121)
- ★ Public State Colleges (3)
- ★ Public Technical Colleges (6)
- ■ Health-Related Institutions (11)
- ■ Independent Universities (41)

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5

Lots of physical locations, but not all locations offer all programs
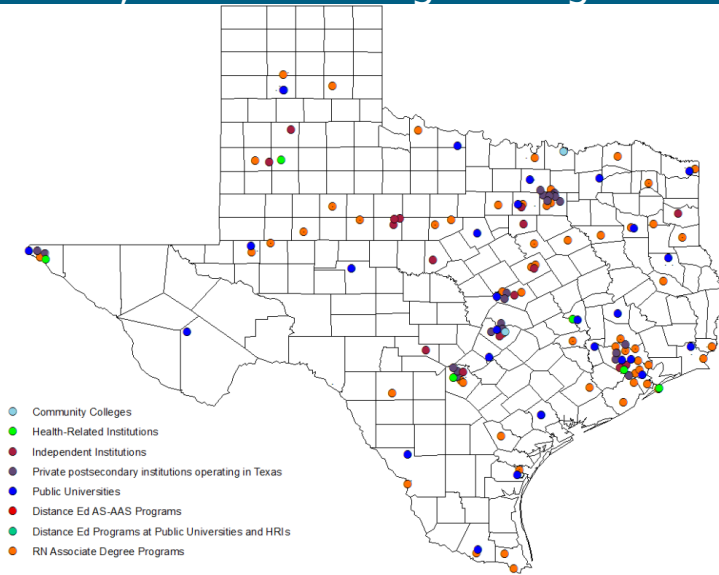
THECB Program Inventory lists 8,937 certificates and programs
- 1,265 are offered 100 percent online (no face-to-face requirement)
- 638 are offered fully online (students may be required to complete up to 15% of instructional time face-to-face)
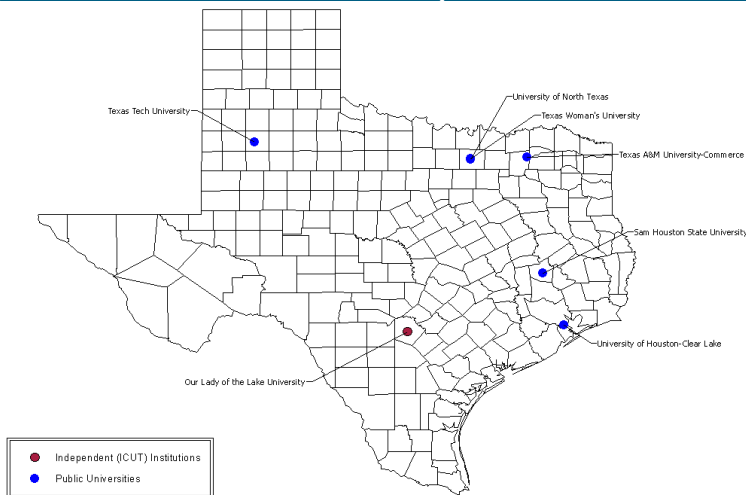
Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) - national taxonomy that identifies degree and certificate programs
- Texas certificate and degree programs align with the national taxonomy on CBM reports and inventories, including programs, courses, and declared majors
- Requests for new degree programs identify the CIP code aligned with the proposed program

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6

Example: Nursing programs are offered in many locations and modalities, but the nursing shortage continues

Legend:
- Community Colleges
- Health-Related Institutions
- Independent Institutions
- Private postsecondary institutions operating in Texas
- Public Universities
- Distance Ed AS-AAS Programs
- Distance Ed Programs at Public Universities and HRIs
- RN Associate Degree Programs

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7

Example: Master's programs in Library Science are offered in few locations, but meet current and predicted workforce need

Texas Tech University
University of North Texas
Texas Woman's University
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Sam Houston State University
University of Houston-Clear Lake
Our Lady of the Lake University

Legend:
- Independent (ICUT) Institutions
- Public Universities

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8

50-Mile Rule: Area Institutions Receive Notification

- Public institutions within a 50-mile radius of a proposed instructional site have the opportunity to provide feedback on a proposal.
- Area institutions have 30 days from the time of notification to submit an objection.
- If no objection is submitted, staff continues the program review.

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9

50-Mile Rule: Objection Resolution

- If an objection is submitted, the proposing institutions are encouraged to resolve disputes on their own.
- If such a resolution is not possible, the Commissioner or designee is authorized to resolve disputes between institutions and may approve or disapprove the proposed program.
- The Board may hear appeals to approvals or disapprovals.

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10

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HERC Process: Regional Institutions Receive Notification

- Each Higher Education Regional Council (HERC) has oversight over many, but not all, off-campus lower-division courses and programs offered by public institutions of higher education.
- Each public institution of higher education notifies the affected HERCs of their proposed off-campus lower-division course and program offerings for the upcoming academic year.
- The HERC reviews all off-campus lower-division courses and programs for approval except:
  - o Courses and programs offered by a community college within its service area;
  - o Dual credit courses; and
  - o Off-campus out-of-service area clinical courses that meet certain conditions.

60×30TX 11

THECB review includes analysis of access and unnecessary duplication

Different process by level of proposed program
- New bachelor's and master's programs may use a streamlined process, or if needed, submit a full proposal
- New doctoral programs include a desk review and site visit by out-of-state experts in the field

Access to high-quality degree programs
- Population of Texas rapidly increased
- Need for programs geographically

Ensure against unnecessary duplication
- Capacity of existing programs
- Workforce demand

60×30TX 12

Unnecessary duplication of programs defined in rule

- The proposed program must not unnecessarily duplicate an existing program at another institution serving the same regional population.
- The offering of basic liberal arts and sciences courses and degree programs in public senior institutions is not considered unnecessary duplication.
- A proposed program to be offered through distance education must demonstrate that there is unmet workforce need and student demand for the program that cannot be met by existing online programs offered by Texas public institutions.

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Analyzing Unnecessary Duplication

- What is the workforce and student demand for the proposed program?
- What is the capacity of existing programs?
- What are the enrollment and graduation trends by 2-digit Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)/discipline/level?
- Are there any challenges posed by trends and growth over time/duplication maximum?

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Analyzing Unnecessary Duplication

Workforce Demand is evaluated using:
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Texas Workforce Commission
- EMSI
- Job postings
- Professional journals
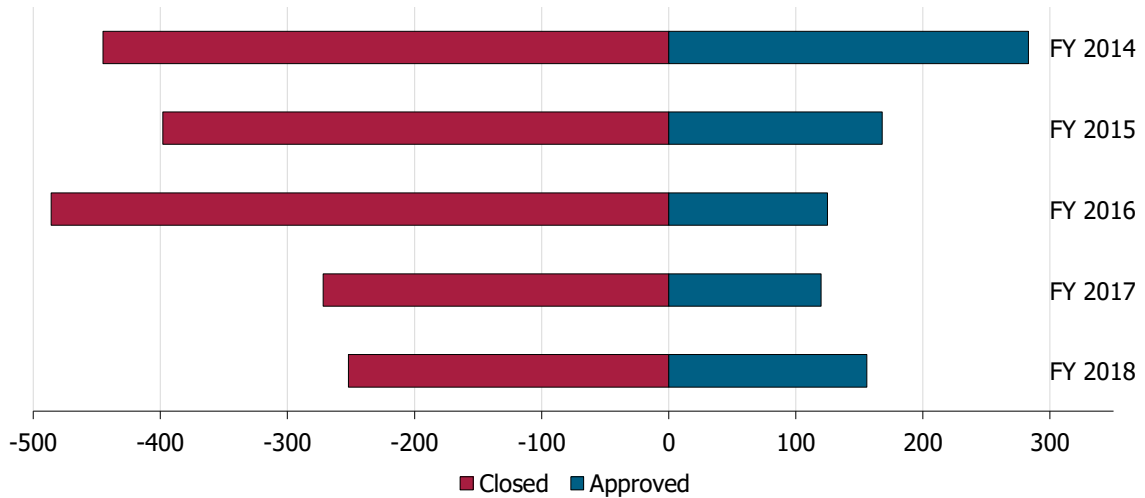
Student Demand is evaluated through:
- Institutional student surveys
- Professional associations' surveys
- Enrollment trends

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15

Analyzing Unnecessary Duplication

Production capacity is evaluated using:
- Accountability Data
  - Declared majors
  - Degrees awarded
  - Other programs
- National Center for Educational Statistics
  - Degrees awarded
  - Existing programs

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16

Institutions closed more programs than THECB approved in Fiscal Years 2014-18
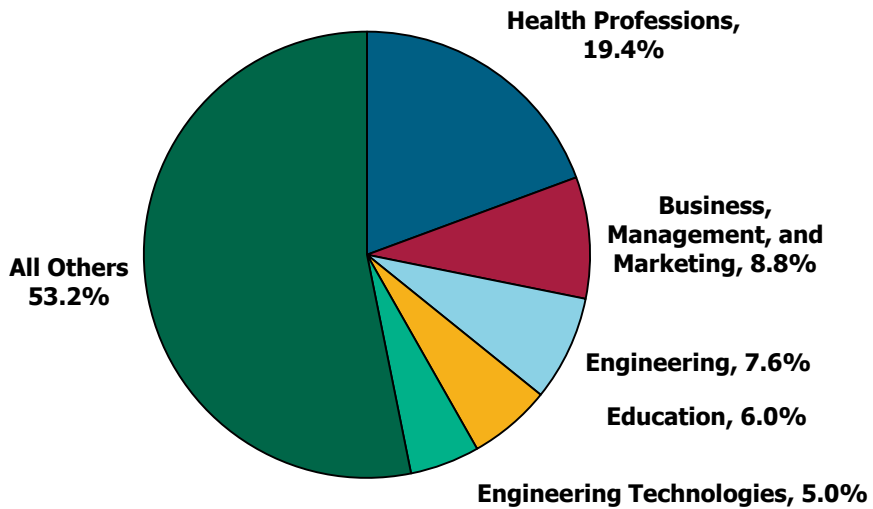

Legend: ■ Closed ■ Approved

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17

Program closures occur in response to a dynamic environment

Program closure requests are often in response to:
- Industry and workforce needs
- Available institution resources
- Consolidation or reorganization of disciplines
- Low-producing programs
- Alignment with industry and professional standards

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18

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Five disciplines account for almost half of all programs approved in Fiscal Years 2014-18

Health Professions, 19.4%

Business, Management, and Marketing, 8.8%

Engineering, 7.6%

Education, 6.0%

Engineering Technologies, 5.0%

All Others 53.2%

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20

CIPs with the Most Online Offerings, All Levels

CIP	Program Name	Number of Fully Online Programs	Number of 100% Online Programs
52.0201	Business Administration and Management	59	185
11.0101	Computer and Information Sciences	35	82
43.0104	Criminal Justice/Safety Studies	20	52
52.0401	Administrative Assistant and Secretarial Science	28	44
52.0301	Accounting	27	35
24.0102	General Studies	27	30
13.0401	Educational Leadership and Administration	11	26
52.0101	Business/Commerce	17	26
11.0301	Data Processing and Data Processing Technology/Technician	12	25
24.0101	Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies	17	24
13.1210	Early Childhood Education and Teaching	15	20
19.0706	Child Development	13	16

Note: Fully Online programs may have face-to-face sessions totaling no more than 15 percent of the instructional time.

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21

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When do we need more than one online program?

Geographic accessibility
- Students may prefer programs within a reasonable proximity
- Students may take an online course in addition to traditional face-to-face courses
- In fall 2017, 36 percent of undergraduates took at least one online course

Institutional capacity
- Technology infrastructure
- Faculty
- Professional development
- Support services

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22

Concluding Remarks

When there are already many programmatic options including face-to-face and online, determining state need for a particular program at a particular location becomes more challenging.

The proliferation of so many educational locations makes it difficult to coordinate the Texas educational landscape.

The proposed legislation that would include the THECB in the approval of off-campus sites would allow better coordination statewide.

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23

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