

## Your Question:

You inquired about state policies and processes to review, approve and revise postsecondary institutional missions. You also asked about states that designate institutions with a statewide mission.

## Our Response:

Our response focuses on states with statewide coordinating boards, since their role might be similar with respect to approving institutional missions.

These states include: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Washington. In addition, we included information for the Kansas Board of Regents, which governs three universities and serves a coordinating role for the other public institutions.

*Note:* State statute does not designate a role for the Illinois Board of Higher Education to approve or review institutional missions. New Mexico’s statewide coordinating agency does not have an affiliated board, and Ohio’s coordinating board serves an advisory role to the coordinating agency and the executive director. Both states have a very decentralized postsecondary system, and it appears that neither of the agencies review or approve institutional missions.

We provided state statute citations for sections related to coordinating boards’ role in approving and reviewing institutional missions. The descriptions range from providing single sentences to more extensive and specific details about board responsibilities and actions.

State	Coordinating Board	Institutional Mission Approval and Review Policy	Website
Alabama	Alabama Commission on Higher Education	Ala. Code § 16-5-10(5-7, 14) (No direct link, see Notes)	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
Arkansas	Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board	Ark. Code Ann. §6-61-207 (No direct link, see Notes)	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
Colorado	Colorado Commission on Higher Education	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. <a href="#">§23-18-306</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
Indiana	Indiana Commission on Higher Education	Ind. Code Ann. <a href="#">§21-18-8-1 and 3</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
Kansas	Kansas Board of Regents	Kan. Stat. Ann. <a href="#">§74-3202c. (3)</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>

## Additional Resources

[High-Level Summary of State Postsecondary Governance Models](#). (Education Commission of the States, May 2019)

[State Postsecondary Governance Structures](#). The [data visualization](#) also provides access to state profiles and a 50-State Comparison. (Education Commission of the States, March 2019)

<b>Kentucky</b>	Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. <a href="#">§164.020(5)</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
<b>Louisiana</b>	Louisiana Board of Regents	La. Stat. Ann. <a href="#">§17:3128</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
<b>Maryland</b>	Maryland Higher Education Commission	1.) Md. Code Ann., Educ. <a href="#">§11-206.1</a> 2.) Md. Code Ann., Educ. <a href="#">§11-302</a> 3.) Md. Code Ann., Educ. <a href="#">§11-303</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Massachusetts Board of Higher Education	1.) Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. <a href="#">ch. 15A, §7</a> 2.) Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. Ch. 15A, <a href="#">§7a(a &amp; f)</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
<b>Missouri</b>	Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education	Mo. Ann. Stat. <a href="#">§173.030</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
<b>Nebraska</b>	Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education	1.) Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. <a href="#">§85-1413(1-5)</a> 2.) Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. <a href="#">§85-1414</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education	Okla. Stat. Ann. <a href="#">tit. 70, §4706(A)</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
<b>Oregon</b>	Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission	1.) Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. <a href="#">§350.014</a> 2.) Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. <a href="#">§350.075(e)(A)</a> 3.) Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. <a href="#">§352.002</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
<b>South Carolina</b>	South Carolina Commission on Higher Education	S.C. Code Ann. <a href="#">§59-103-15</a> & <a href="#">§59-103-45(6)</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
<b>Tennessee</b>	Tennessee Higher Education Commission	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-7-202 (e) (No direct link, see Notes)	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
<b>Texas</b>	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	1.) Tex. Educ. Code Ann. <a href="#">§61.051(a-5)</a> 2.) Tex. Educ. Code Ann. <a href="#">§61.0512</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
<b>Virginia</b>	State Council of Higher Education for Virginia	VA Code Ann. <a href="#">§23.1-203(2)</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>
<b>Washington</b>	Washington Student Achievement Council	RCWA <a href="#">28B.77.080</a>	Link to <a href="#">website</a>

## Notes

**Alabama:** The [state code](#) sections can be accessed through a general webpage.

Ala. Code § 16-5-10(5-7, 14): The commission shall exercise the following powers and duties in addition to those otherwise specified in this article:

(5) To develop and publish criteria which may be used by the Legislature as a basis:

- a. For changing the classification of any public institution of higher education; and
- b. For determining the need for new public junior colleges, public senior colleges, universities or university systems.

Any proposed statute which would establish an additional institution of higher education may be submitted, either prior to introduction or by the standing committee considering same to the commission for its opinion as to the need for the state therefore, and the commission shall report its findings to the Governor and the Legislature.

(6) To cause studies to be made for the purpose of classifying and prescribing the role and scope for each public institution of higher education in Alabama and to recommend such changes in classification or role and scope for such institutions as it deems necessary and which may be agreed to by the governing board of the institution. In making studies and recommendations for the purpose of classifying and prescribing the role and scope of

institutions, the commission shall do so without regard for race and traditional role of the institution, provided, however, that in the absence of compelling reasons to the contrary the commission shall give priority to institutions having seniority in years of operation in the service area. When making recommendations for the elimination of duplication of educationally unnecessary programs, absent justifiable reasons to the contrary, the commission shall recommend the replacement of such programs and/or services with programs and/or services that will strengthen and enhance the role of the institution affected.

(7) To hear applications from the institutions for changes in classification or role and scope and to recommend to the Legislature for clarification such classifications in role or scope which may not be agreed to by the governing board of any institution.

**Arkansas:** Ark. Code Ann. §6-61-207:

(a)(1) In order to promote a coordinated system of higher education in Arkansas and to assure an orderly and effective development of each of the publicly supported institutions of higher education, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall have the power and duty to establish, in consultation with college and university personnel, appropriate role and scope designations within which boards of trustees must operate the institution or institutions under their jurisdiction.

(2) The board shall establish such role and scope designations by January 1, 1990. The designations may be changed at any time as determined by the board. They shall be fully reviewed at least once every five (5) years.

(3) Prior to their establishment of or making a change in role and scope designations, the board shall carefully study the change in consultation with institutional personnel, announce the intent to consider a change, and publicly reveal the change that is being proposed at a regular quarterly meeting, with the vote to come no sooner than the next regular quarterly meeting.

**Nebraska:** Institutional review and approval policy also are enshrined in the state Constitution ([Ne. Rev. St. CONST. Art. VII, § 14](#))

**Oregon:** The Legislative Assembly provides definitions for both mission statements and institution type.

**Tennessee:** The [state code](#) sections can be access through a general webpage.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-7-202 (e): “Concurrent with the adoption of each revised master plan and in consultation with the respective governing boards, the commission shall approve institutional mission statements. Submitted by state institutions, an institutional mission statement shall characterize distinctiveness in degree offerings and shall address institutional accountability for the quality of instruction, student learning, and, where applicable, research and public service to benefit Tennessee citizens. Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit any institution from pursuing research and related activities that are consistent with the institution's mission.”