



## **Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO)**

Kansas Board of Regents

Curtis State Office Building at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka, Kansas,  
66612

2026-03-11 09:30 - 10:30 CDT

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##### **D. Discuss Opportunities (new degree programs, partnerships, strategic initiatives, etc.) that Universities are Considering or Planning to Pursue in the Future**

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**Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO) Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brent Thomas 9:12 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. The meeting was held at the Board office, Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Ste. 530, Topeka, Kansas. Proper notice was given according to the law.

Members Present:

Jesse Mendez, KSU	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	John Fritch, Washburn
Brent Thomas, ESU	Robert Klein, KUMC	Monica Lounsbery, WSU
Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Susan Bon, PSU	Jennifer Bonds-Raacke, KBOR ( <i>ex officio</i> )

**Approval of Minutes**

Susan Bon moved to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2026, meeting. Jesse Mendez seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Update**

Dr. Rochelle Rowley, Emporia State University’s faculty senate president and Council of Faculty Senate Presidents (CoFSP) Chair, shared that the Council plans to finalize review of IB scores at their meeting today. There have been no suggestions to change cut scores. The Council is also following current legislative activities.

**Adjournment**

Jesse Mendez moved to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Bichelmeyer seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Kansas Board of Regents

**FROM:** Jesse Perez Mendez, Provost and Executive Vice President



**DATE:** February 24, 2026

**RE:** Degree Program Name Change Request

**Request Overview**

We are formally requesting a revision to the title of the Master of Science program within the Department of Special Education, Counseling, and Student Affairs within the College of Education, and a corresponding update to one of its internal subplan tracks. These changes are intended to streamline our offerings and accurately reflect the program's curriculum following recent structural shifts in our department.

**Proposed Changes**

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Current Designation</b>	<b>Proposed Designation</b>
<b>Degree Title</b>	M.S. in Counseling and Student Development	<b>M.S. in Student Affairs Administration</b>
<b>SubPlan Track</b>	Student Affairs Administration	<b>Leadership and Evaluation</b>

**Rationale for Program Title Change**

The transition from **M.S. in Counseling and Student Development** to **M.S. in Student Affairs Administration** is necessitated by a change in the department's degree architecture.

Historically, the M.S. in Counseling and Student Development served as an umbrella for two distinct subplans: *School Counseling* and *College Student Development*. However, the School Counseling subplan is being phased out of this Master's framework due to the creation of the Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree.

As a result, the "Counseling" portion of the title is no longer applicable to the remaining curriculum. Re-titling the degree to **M.S. in Student Affairs Administration** provides:

- **Clarity:** It removes potential confusion for prospective students looking for clinical counseling tracks.
- **Accuracy:** It reflects that the degree now exclusively serves the "College Student Development" discipline.

With the elevation of "Student Affairs Administration" to the overall degree title, the existing subplan of the same name requires a more specific designation to differentiate it from the broader program. We will be renaming this track to Leadership and Evaluation. This new title better describes the specific competency areas students focus on within this track. This update ensures that the transcript clearly indicates the student's specific area of expertise without creating redundant nomenclature within the degree title.

**Conclusion**

These administrative updates will improve the program's marketability and ensure that student credentials accurately reflect their field of study and professional specialization. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

**Kansas Board of Regents**

**APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF MINOR  
WHERE NO BOARD-APPROVED DEGREE PROGRAM EXISTS**

University of Kansas

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**(NAME OF INSTITUTION)**

1450 Jayhawk Blvd #250, Lawrence, KS 66045

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**(ADDRESS)**

785-864-4904

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**(TELEPHONE)**

**TITLE OF MINOR:**

Applied Data Analytics 11.0103

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**(Title and CIP)**

2/24/2026

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**(Date Submitted)**

*Barbara A. Behlmeier*

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**(Signature of Vice-President/or Provost)**

## PROPOSAL FOR MINOR WHERE NO BOARD-APPROVED DEGREE PROGRAM EXISTS

### Kansas Board of Regents

**Submitted by:** University of Kansas

**College of Minor:** School of Professional Studies

**Department of Minor:** Professional Studies

*Minor: A minor is a program of study, with less depth than a major. It is completed to complement, or as an addition to a major. A minor may not exceed 24 credit hours at the baccalaureate level; 12 credit hours at the master's level; and 18 credit hours at the doctoral level.*

*The addition of a new minor in an area of study where no Board-approved degree program exists requires approval by the Council of Chief Academic Officers and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Board of Regents. Action is approved when the campus receives written notice from the Board President and Chief Executive Officer.*

#### I. Describe the Purpose of the Proposed Minor:

The Minor in Applied Data Analytics is designed for undergraduate students seeking to gain entry-level, practical knowledge, and skills to prepare for career pathways in data analytics, operational analytics, big data, and data management.

Through this program, students will learn how to collect, analyze, and interpret large datasets using powerful tools and techniques. The curriculum provides hands-on experience with statistical methods, data visualization, and predictive modeling. Students will also develop critical thinking and communication skills, allowing them to effectively translate complex data into actionable insights that drive decision-making in any organization.

Applied data analytics involves analyzing data sets to uncover trends, patterns, and actionable insights that can help solve real-world problems. Professionals in this field use various tools and techniques, including statistical analysis, data visualization, and machine learning algorithms, to turn raw data into valuable information.

II. Provide Curriculum for the Minor (extend course listing as needed):

<b>Course Type</b>	<b>Course Name &amp; Number</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
Core Courses	ITEC 302 Python, Algorithms, and Data Structures	3
	ITEC 314 Fundamentals of Applied Data Analytics	3
	ITEC 316 Database Applications	3
	ITEC 404 Fundamentals of Data Visualization	3
	ITEC 406 Data Mining and Intelligence	3
	ITEC 412 Predictive Analytics and Forecasting	3
<b>Total Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>18</b>

III. Faculty resources:

A. Number of FTE Faculty who will teach in the new minor: 1.0

B. Rank of Faculty (indicate number of faculty for each ranking):

Prof.: 0      Assoc. Prof: 0    Asst. Prof.: 0

Instr.: 2      GTAs: 0

C. Preparation of Faculty (indicate number of faculty for each degree level):

Bachelor: 0      Masters: 1      Doctorate: 1

February 25, 2026

Jennifer M. Bonds-Raacke, PhD  
Vice President,  
Academic Affairs,  
Kansas Board of Regents  
1000 SW Jackson St.,  
Suite 520,  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Re: PhD Program in Biomedical Sciences

Dear Dr. Bonds-Raacke,

The University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) respectfully requests approval from the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) to merge nine existing biomedical science Ph.D. programs into a single, consolidated Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Sciences (CIP Code 26.0102).

Currently, both domestic and international students interested in pursuing biomedical research begin their training in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (IGPBS)—a long-standing, non-degree-granting program that delivers the first-year core curriculum and provides students with opportunities to explore research areas and identify potential faculty mentors. After selecting a research advisor, students transition from IGPBS into one of the nine individual Ph.D. programs listed below.

A primary impetus for this request is a recent ruling from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which would prohibit international graduate students from moving from a non-degree program (IGPBS) into a degree-granting Ph.D. program. Without a structural change, this ruling would severely restrict KUMC's ability to recruit and train international students, an essential component of our biomedical research enterprise. Consolidation into a single Ph.D. program will allow all admitted students to begin and remain within the Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences, ensuring continued access for exceptional international and domestic applicants.

Additionally, a unified program will significantly strengthen our academic oversight and program review efforts. Under the current structure, program review occurs for each discipline separately, which obscures the overall depth, quality, and interdisciplinary strength of biomedical research training at KUMC. A consolidated program will enable more comprehensive, integrated evaluation and planning.

Importantly, this merger will require no changes to curriculum, no changes to departmental structure, and no additional financial resources. Instruction, mentoring, and research training will continue without interruption. Students currently enrolled in the individual Ph.D. programs will be taught out under their existing degree plans.

Current Ph.D. Programs to be Consolidated:

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Cancer Biology  
Cell Biology and Anatomy  
Microbiology  
Molecular and Integrative Physiology  
Neuroscience  
Pathology  
Pharmacology  
Toxicology

Respectfully submitted,



Robert M. Klein, PhD, FAAA  
KUMC Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs  
Chancellor's Club Professor

CC: Matthew C. Schuette, PhD  
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, MS