

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why did we take the ‘early action’ option provided by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE)?** The new state law, HEA 1001 – 2025, clearly outlined the consequences of not meeting the established thresholds – CHE would determine if the program would be eliminated, suspended, or merged/consolidated. We decided that we wanted to be in control of outcomes for our programs. By taking advantage of the ‘early action’ we were able to make decisions that best meet our students’ needs.
2. **What were the consequences of *not* taking early action?** As mentioned above, not taking early action meant that the CHE would determine program outcomes. Members of the commission have stated publicly that there are too many programs in the state and too much duplication across institutions. Thus, it seems clear that they would enact their statutory right to eliminate or suspend programs.
3. **Why weren’t we given time to build up to the new thresholds?** The state law did not allow for such a period. HEA 1001 – 2025 was passed on the last day of the legislative session and the thresholds were enforced beginning on July 1, 2025.
4. **What are the benefits of the approach we took to making programmatic changes?** Current programs were consolidated under broader categories to simplify our degree offerings and create greater curricular efficiencies for units. All currently existing majors remain, reflecting our commitment to meeting the needs of Northeast Indiana and our students.
5. **When will the HEA 1001 – 2025 and ‘early changes’ go into effect?** All changes will be implemented beginning in Fall 2026.
6. **How do these changes impact current students?** We eliminated one program, Master of Public Administration, which did not have any enrolled students.

Students can stay on their current degree plan. To provide equitable treatment of students, timelines for completing the program will be communicated. This practice parallels what we’ve done in the past with other similar curriculum/program changes.

Of course, student can choose to change their program of study to a newly consolidated degree program, if desired. They will want to investigate all other changes that might impact this decision (e.g., General Education program for 2025).

Per PFW Admission policies, if a student stops out of their current plan of study, they can apply for ‘re-entry’ to the university and will be automatically placed in the Catalog at time of re-entry.

7. **How do these changes impact future students?** Student admitted from Fall 2026 forward will be admitted into a new consolidated degree program where they will pick a major. As

mentioned above, all prior majors remain available to students; they were just consolidated under broader categories to simplify our degree offerings and create greater curricular efficiencies for units.

8. **Will the diploma change for merged/consolidated programs?** It depends. In most cases, the diploma will not change. For example, programs that were Bachelors of Arts and remain a Bachelor of Arts will not change. In other cases, a named degree (e.g., B.S. in Electrical Engineering, B.S.E.E.) will change to a B.S. in Engineering (i.e., B.S.E.).
9. **Will the transcript still include the name of my major?** Yes. Transcripts will continue to list the degree (e.g., Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Engineering) and the major (e.g., English, Physics, Computer Engineering). Other program options such as Certificates or minors will be listed as appropriate.