



# **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**June 5, 2026**

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**WKU Innovation Campus Microgrid Project**

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**REQUEST:**

Approve authorization to proceed with the WKU Innovation Campus Microgrid Project with a total project cost not to exceed \$2,000,000, funded entirely through non-general fund sources.

**FACTS:**

Western Kentucky University (WKU) proposes to implement a microgrid at the Innovation Campus to enhance energy resilience, ensure continuity of critical operations, and support community emergency response capabilities. The Innovation Campus currently relies on the local utility grid with some backup generation. Past severe weather events—including the December 2021 tornado and regional windstorms—have demonstrated the vulnerability of campus operations to extended power outages. The proposed microgrid will integrate:

- Approximately 300 kW of solar photovoltaic generation
- A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (~300 kWh capacity)
- Existing backup generators
- Advanced microgrid controls for islanding and load management

This system will enable some areas within the Innovation Campus to operate independently from the utility grid during outages, maintaining power to critical infrastructure and supporting regional emergency response. The project aligns with Kentucky's energy security and resilience objectives and serves as a pilot model for distributed energy systems across the Commonwealth. It also supports WKU's institutional goals related to sustainability, operational efficiency, and student engagement.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:**

The total project cost is approximately \$2,000,000, supported through external funding sources, including grant funding and institutional non-general funds. No General Fund appropriations will be used for this project.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends approval of interim authorization for the WKU Innovation Campus Microgrid Project.

**MOTION:**

Approval for authorization for the WKU Innovation Campus Microgrid Project.

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**SUSPENSION OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN KINESIOLOGY**

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**REQUEST:**

Approval for suspension for the following academic program: **Master of Science in Kinesiology**.

**FACTS:**

Recent shifts in the job market and changing professional standards have prompted the faculty in the Kinesiology program to restructure their curriculum. To ensure future offerings translate directly to professional success for graduates, the graduate faculty and program coordinator have decided to suspend the Kinesiology master's program.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:**

Suspending this program will have minimal impact on the university budget, as faculty will continue to teach in other programs within the School of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport.

**RECOMMENDATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends approval of the suspension of the **Master of Science in Kinesiology** to be implemented Fall 2026.

**MOTION:**

Approval to suspend the following program: **Master of Science in Kinesiology** with implementation in Fall 2026.

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## SUSPENSION OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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### REQUEST:

Approval for suspension for the following academic program: **Bachelor of Science in Geological Sciences**.

### FACTS:

The faculty of the Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences at Western Kentucky University made the decision to suspend the BS in Geological Sciences. The BS in Geological Science and the BS in Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies are being merged into a single academic program—Environmental, Earth, & Sustainability Sciences (EESS). As such, the Geological Sciences program is now redundant.

### BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:

Closing this academic program to new admissions will have minimal impact on the University Budget, as many of the existing courses will continue to be offered and faculty will be utilized in the new EESS program.

### RECOMMENDATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends approval of the suspension of the **Bachelor of Science in Geological Sciences** to be implemented Fall 2026.

### MOTION:

Approval to suspend the following program: **Bachelor of Science in Geological Sciences** with implementation in Fall 2026.

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**SUSPENSION OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL,  
SUSTAINABILITY, AND GEOGRAPHIC STUDIES**

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**REQUEST:**

Approval for suspension for the following academic program: **Bachelor of Science in Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies**

**FACTS:**

The faculty of the Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences at Western Kentucky University made the decision to suspend the BS in Earth, Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies. The BS in Geological Science and the BS in Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies are being merged into a single academic program—Environmental, Earth, & Sustainability Sciences (EESS). As such, the Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies program is now redundant.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:**

Closing this academic program to new admissions will have minimal impact on the University Budget, as many of the existing courses will continue to be offered and faculty will be utilized in the new EESS program.

**RECOMMENDATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends approval of the suspension of the **Bachelor of Science in Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies** to be implemented Fall 2026.

**MOTION:**

Approval to suspend the following program: **Bachelor of Science in Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies** with implementation in Fall 2026.

# 5009: ENVIRONMENTAL, SUSTAINABILITY, AND GEOGRAPHIC STUDIES, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

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## In Workflow

1. GEO Approval (leslie.north@wku.edu)
2. SC Dean (cathleen.webb@wku.edu; stuart.burris@wku.edu; jennifer.anderson@wku.edu)
3. Provost (robert.fischer@wku.edu; rheanna.plemons@wku.edu)
4. Board of Regents (all)
5. SACSCOC (rheanna.plemons@wku.edu)
6. Program Inventory (jennifer.hammonds@wku.edu; jessica.dorris@wku.edu)

## Approval Path

1. Wed, 06 May 2026 17:14:14 GMT  
Leslie North (leslie.north): Approved for GEO Approval
2. Wed, 06 May 2026 17:40:45 GMT  
Stuart Burris (stuart.burris): Approved for SC Dean
3. Sat, 16 May 2026 03:33:12 GMT  
Rheanna Plemons (rheanna.plemons): Approved for Provost

## History

1. May 26, 2021 by Rheanna Plemons (rheanna.plemons)
2. Sep 27, 2021 by Jennifer Hammonds (jennifer.hammonds)
3. Feb 27, 2023 by Amy Nemon (amy.nemon)
4. Jan 19, 2024 by Jessica Dorris (jessica.dorris)
5. Jul 1, 2024 by Ryan Wilson (ryan.wilson)
6. Dec 13, 2024 by Leslie North (leslie.north)
7. Oct 16, 2025 by Zachary Miller (zachary.miller)

## Program Suspension

Date Submitted: Wed, 06 May 2026 17:12:15 GMT

**Viewing: 5009 : Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies, Bachelor of Science**

**Last approved: Thu, 16 Oct 2025 17:02:05 GMT**

**Last edit: Wed, 06 May 2026 17:12:14 GMT**

Changes proposed by: lsl92391

### Proposed Action

Suspended

### Contact Person

Name	Email	Phone
Leslie North	leslie.north@wku.edu	270-745-5982

### Term of Implementation

2026-2027

### Program Reference Number

5009

### Review Type

Expedited

### Academic Level

Undergraduate

### Program Type

Major

**Degree Types**

Bachelor of Science

**Department**

Geography & Geology

**College**

Science and Engineering

**Program Name (eg. Biology)**

Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies, Bachelor of Science

**Rationale**

**Rationale for the program proposal?**

This program is being merged into the new Environmental, Earth, & Sustainability Sciences Program launching in Fall 2026.

**SACSCOC must approve the closure before it can be deactivated from WKU's program inventory**

**Program Closure Template:** [https://www.wku.edu/academicaffairs/pd/program\\_changes.php](https://www.wku.edu/academicaffairs/pd/program_changes.php)

**Teach Out Plan**

teachout-plan-10-2025\_ESGS.docx

Key: 335

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**SUSPENSION OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ADVERTISING**

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**REQUEST:**

Approval for suspension for the following academic program: **Bachelor of Arts in Advertising.**

**FACTS:**

The faculty of the School of Media & Communication at Western Kentucky University made the decision to suspend the BA in Advertising. The BA in Advertising and BA in Public Relations are being merged into a single academic program—Integrated Advertising and Public Relations. As such, the Advertising program is now redundant.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:**

Closing this academic program to new admissions will have minimal impact on the University Budget, as many of the existing courses will continue to be offered and faculty will be utilized in the new Integrated Advertising and Public Relations program.

**RECOMMENDATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends approval of the suspension of the **Bachelor of Arts in Advertising** to be implemented Fall 2026.

**MOTION:**

Approval to suspend the following program: **Bachelor of Arts in Advertising** with implementation in Fall 2026.

# 727P, 727: ADVERTISING, BACHELOR OF ARTS

## In Workflow

1. SOMC Approval (ron.demarse@wku.edu; angela.jerome@wku.edu)
2. AR Dean (merrall.price@wku.edu)
3. Provost (robert.fischer@wku.edu; rheanna.plemons@wku.edu)
4. Board of Regents (all)
5. SACSCOC (rheanna.plemons@wku.edu)
6. Program Inventory (jennifer.hammonds@wku.edu; jessica.dorris@wku.edu)

## Approval Path

1. Thu, 31 Oct 2024 22:15:57 GMT  
Angela Jerome (angela.jerome): Approved for SOMC Approval
2. Mon, 04 Nov 2024 17:33:45 GMT  
Merrall Price (merrall.price): Approved for AR Dean
3. Tue, 10 Dec 2024 16:21:23 GMT  
Merrall Price (merrall.price): Rollback to Initiator
4. Wed, 29 Apr 2026 15:40:02 GMT  
Angela Jerome (angela.jerome): Approved for SOMC Approval
5. Tue, 05 May 2026 19:07:34 GMT  
Merrall Price (merrall.price): Approved for AR Dean
6. Sat, 16 May 2026 03:33:23 GMT  
Rheanna Plemons (rheanna.plemons): Approved for Provost

## History

1. May 25, 2021 by Rheanna Plemons (rheanna.plemons)
2. Sep 27, 2021 by Jennifer Hammonds (jennifer.hammonds)
3. May 10, 2022 by Holly Payne (holly.payne)
4. May 10, 2022 by Jessica Dorris (jessica.dorris)
5. Jul 14, 2022 by Ryan Wilson (ryan.wilson)
6. Mar 2, 2023 by Holly Payne (holly.payne)
7. Jun 29, 2023 by Ryan Wilson (ryan.wilson)
8. Jul 6, 2023 by Jessica Dorris (jessica.dorris)
9. Jul 6, 2023 by Jessica Dorris (jessica.dorris)
10. Jul 25, 2023 by Jessica Dorris (jessica.dorris)
11. May 23, 2024 by Ryan Wilson (ryan.wilson)

## Program Suspension

Date Submitted: Wed, 29 Apr 2026 15:38:44 GMT

**Viewing: 727P, 727 : Advertising, Bachelor of Arts**

**Last approved: Thu, 23 May 2024 16:57:34 GMT**

**Last edit: Wed, 29 Apr 2026 15:38:43 GMT**

Changes proposed by: ang16236

### Proposed Action

Suspended

### Contact Person

Name	Email	Phone
Angie Jerome	angela.jerome@wku.edu	270-745-2881

### Term of Implementation

2026-2027

### Program Reference Number

727P, 727

**Review Type**

Expedited

**Academic Level**

Undergraduate

**Program Type**

Major

**Degree Types**

Bachelor of Arts

**Department**

Media & Communication, School of

**College**

Arts & Letters

**Program Name (eg. Biology)**

Advertising, Bachelor of Arts

**Rationale**

**Rationale for the program proposal?**

We are combining the existing AD and PR majors into one, integrated major with a new CIP code and major code.

**SACSCOC must approve the closure before it can be deactivated from WKU's program inventory**

**Program Closure Template: [https://www.wku.edu/academicaffairs/pd/program\\_changes.php](https://www.wku.edu/academicaffairs/pd/program_changes.php)**

**Teach Out Plan**

WKU\_AD\_Teachout\_Final.docx

**Reviewer Comments**

**Merrall Price (merrall.price) (Tue, 10 Dec 2024 16:21:23 GMT):** Rollback: As requested.

Key: 143

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**SUSPENSION OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC RELATIONS**

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**REQUEST:**

Approval for suspension for the following academic program: **Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations**.

**FACTS:**

The faculty of the School of Media & Communication at Western Kentucky University made the decision to suspend the BA in Public Relations. The BA in Advertising and BA in Public Relations are being merged into a single academic program—Integrated Advertising and Public Relations. As such, the Public Relations program is now redundant.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:**

Closing this academic program to new admissions will have minimal impact on the University Budget, as many of the existing courses will continue to be offered and faculty will be utilized in the new Integrated Advertising and Public Relations program.

**RECOMMENDATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends approval of the suspension of the **Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations** to be implemented Fall 2026.

**MOTION:**

Approval to suspend the following program: **Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations** with implementation in Fall 2026.

# 763P, 763: PUBLIC RELATIONS, BACHELOR OF ARTS

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## In Workflow

1. SOMC Approval (ron.demarse@wku.edu; angela.jerome@wku.edu)
2. AR Dean (merrall.price@wku.edu)
3. Provost (robert.fischer@wku.edu; rheanna.plemons@wku.edu)
4. Board of Regents (all)
5. SACSCOC (rheanna.plemons@wku.edu)
6. Program Inventory (jennifer.hammonds@wku.edu; jessica.dorris@wku.edu)

## Approval Path

1. Tue, 01 Oct 2024 19:17:17 GMT  
Angela Jerome (angela.jerome): Rollback to Initiator
2. Thu, 31 Oct 2024 22:16:07 GMT  
Angela Jerome (angela.jerome): Approved for SOMC Approval
3. Mon, 04 Nov 2024 17:49:33 GMT  
Merrall Price (merrall.price): Approved for AR Dean
4. Tue, 10 Dec 2024 16:21:34 GMT  
Merrall Price (merrall.price): Rollback to SOMC Approval for AR Curriculum Committee
5. Thu, 06 Feb 2025 20:22:16 GMT  
Angela Jerome (angela.jerome): Rollback to Initiator
6. Wed, 29 Apr 2026 15:40:05 GMT  
Angela Jerome (angela.jerome): Approved for SOMC Approval
7. Tue, 05 May 2026 19:07:43 GMT  
Merrall Price (merrall.price): Approved for AR Dean
8. Sat, 16 May 2026 03:33:26 GMT  
Rheanna Plemons (rheanna.plemons): Approved for Provost

## History

1. May 25, 2021 by Rheanna Plemons (rheanna.plemons)
2. Sep 27, 2021 by Jennifer Hammonds (jennifer.hammonds)
3. May 10, 2022 by knn15978
4. Jun 29, 2023 by Ryan Wilson (ryan.wilson)
5. Jul 6, 2023 by Jessica Dorris (jessica.dorris)
6. Jul 25, 2023 by Jessica Dorris (jessica.dorris)
7. Mar 19, 2024 by knn15978

## Program Suspension

Date Submitted: Wed, 29 Apr 2026 15:39:47 GMT

**Viewing: 763P, 763 : Public Relations, Bachelor of Arts**

**Last approved: Tue, 19 Mar 2024 18:00:54 GMT**

**Last edit: Wed, 29 Apr 2026 15:39:45 GMT**

Changes proposed by: ang16236

### Proposed Action

Suspended

### Contact Person

Name	Email	Phone
Angie Jerome	angela.jerome@wku.edu	270-745-2881

### Term of Implementation

2026-2027

### Program Reference Number

763P, 763

**Review Type**

Expedited

**Academic Level**

Undergraduate

**Program Type**

Major

**Degree Types**

Bachelor of Arts

**Department**

Media & Communication, School of

**College**

Arts & Letters

**Program Name (eg. Biology)**

Public Relations, Bachelor of Arts

**Rationale**

**Rationale for the program proposal?**

We are combining the AD and PR majors into one, integrated major with new CIP and major codes

**SACSCOC must approve the closure before it can be deactivated from WKU's program inventory**

**Program Closure Template: [https://www.wku.edu/academicaffairs/pd/program\\_changes.php](https://www.wku.edu/academicaffairs/pd/program_changes.php)**

**Teach Out Plan**

WKU\_PR\_Teachout.docx

**Reviewer Comments**

**Angela Jerome (angela.jerome) (Tue, 01 Oct 2024 19:17:17 GMT):** Rollback: KP pulled the proposal.

**Merrall Price (merrall.price) (Tue, 10 Dec 2024 16:21:34 GMT):** Rollback: As requested.

**Angela Jerome (angela.jerome) (Thu, 06 Feb 2025 20:22:16 GMT):** Rollback: Waiting for another revision

Key: 148

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**EMERITUS APPOINTMENTS**

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**REQUEST:**

Approval of faculty emeritus status for Dr. Amy Cappiccie and Dr. Larry Owens

**FACTS:**

Listed below are faculty members who have been recommended by tenured faculty, department chair and college dean to be awarded emeritus status. They have served the university for at least ten years and have had distinguished records of achievement and service.

*College of Health and Human Services*

*Amy Cappiccie, Professor of Social Work, Emeritus*

*Larry Owens, Professor of Social Work, Emeritus*

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:**

No funds needed.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends awarding the above individuals emeritus status.

**MOTION:**

**Approval of emeritus status awarded for the recommended individuals.**