

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David W. Blackwell, Provost



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY UNIVERSITY

PROVOST REPORT

ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAMS

New academic program proposals must address many requirements, including the following:

- Program objectives
- Intended student learning outcomes
- Target audience
- Evidence of employer demand or discipline needs
- Employment prospects for program graduates

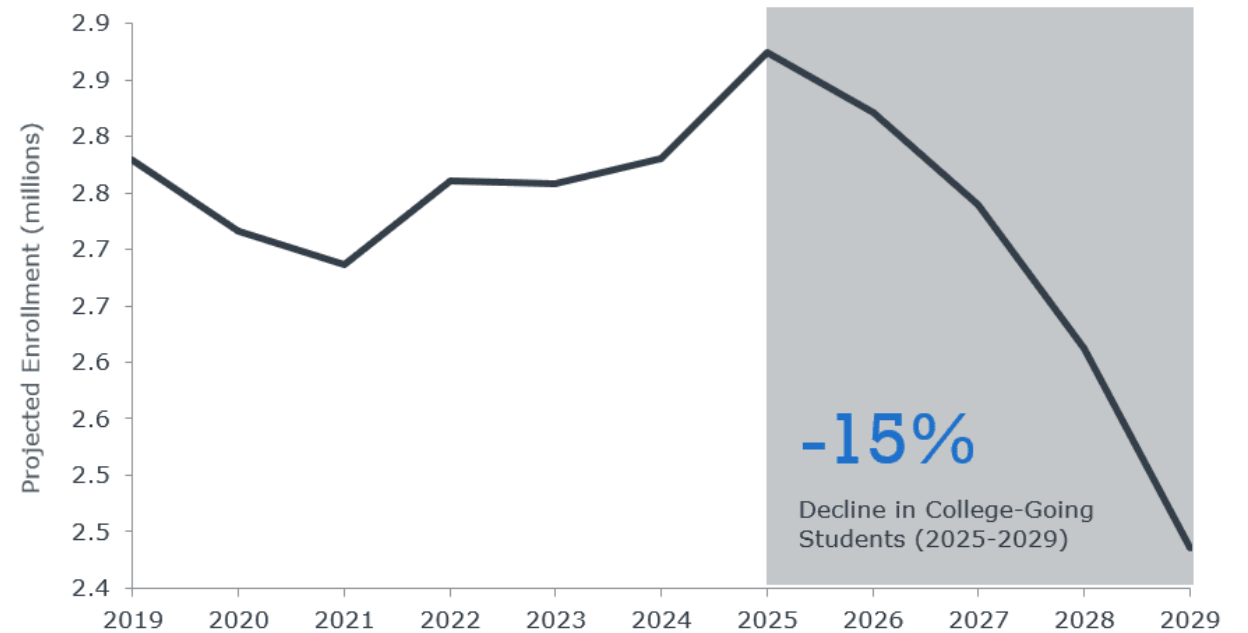
HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT CLIFF

According to EAB (2019), “between 2025 and 2029, the number of college-going students will decline by 15% -- that’s over 400,000 fewer students in a span of four years. What’s more, the profiles of our students are changing.”

We must address student needs for long-term, lifelong learning, including a focus on adult, non-traditional students, especially focusing on career advancement.

Enrollment Projected to Drop Sharply After 2025

Forecasted Number of College-Going Students in the U.S. (millions), by Year of High School Graduation



EAB (2019): <https://eab.com/insights/expert-insight/enrollment/what-the-looming-demographic-storm-means-for-your-state/>

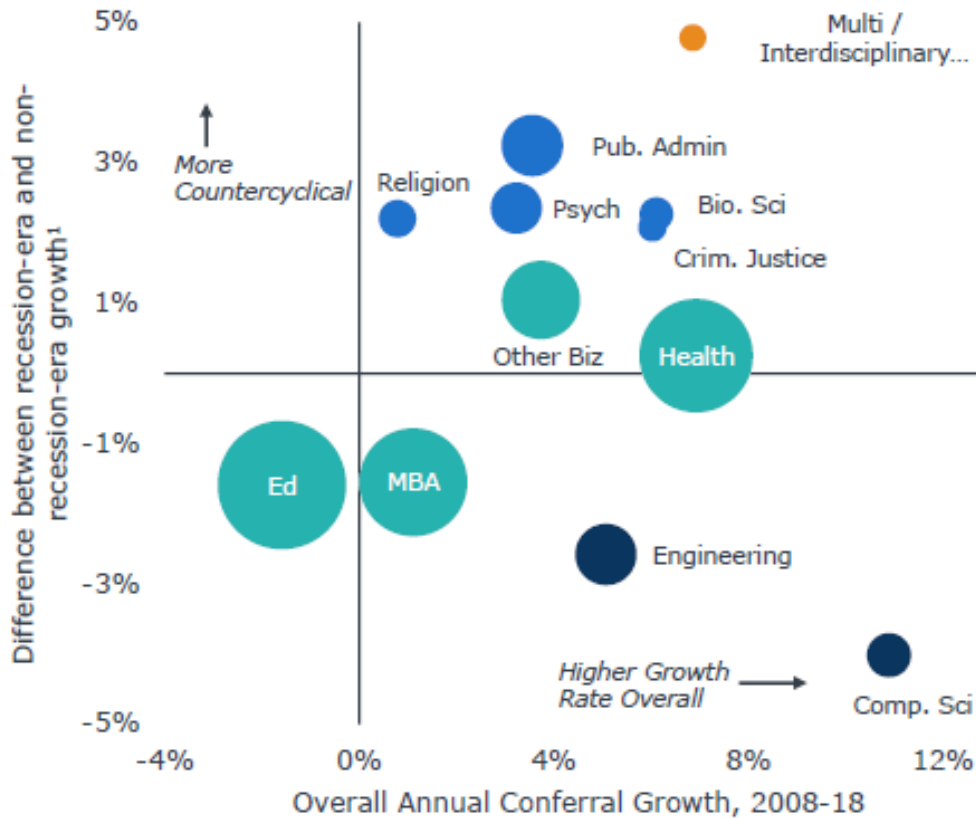
ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAMS

- UK must contribute to Kentucky's workforce development, economic development and industry needs.
- New and existing academic programs can help address these responsibilities.
- Important to focus on data-informed decisions that improve student access and success.

DATA-INFORMED DECISIONS

Fields Best Positioned to Grow are Mostly Small, Few in STEM

Overall 10-year Growth Trend and Countercyclical Growth in Master's and Professional Doctorate Conferrals



The Multidisciplinary Moment?

Interdisciplinary grad degrees fast-growing and among most countercyclical

A Turn Toward Stable Careers

Growth in fields related to government and nonprofit jobs, but will these remain stable in current crisis?

No Boost for Big Fields

Education, MBA growth slowed. Almost no recession impact on health, non-MBA business.

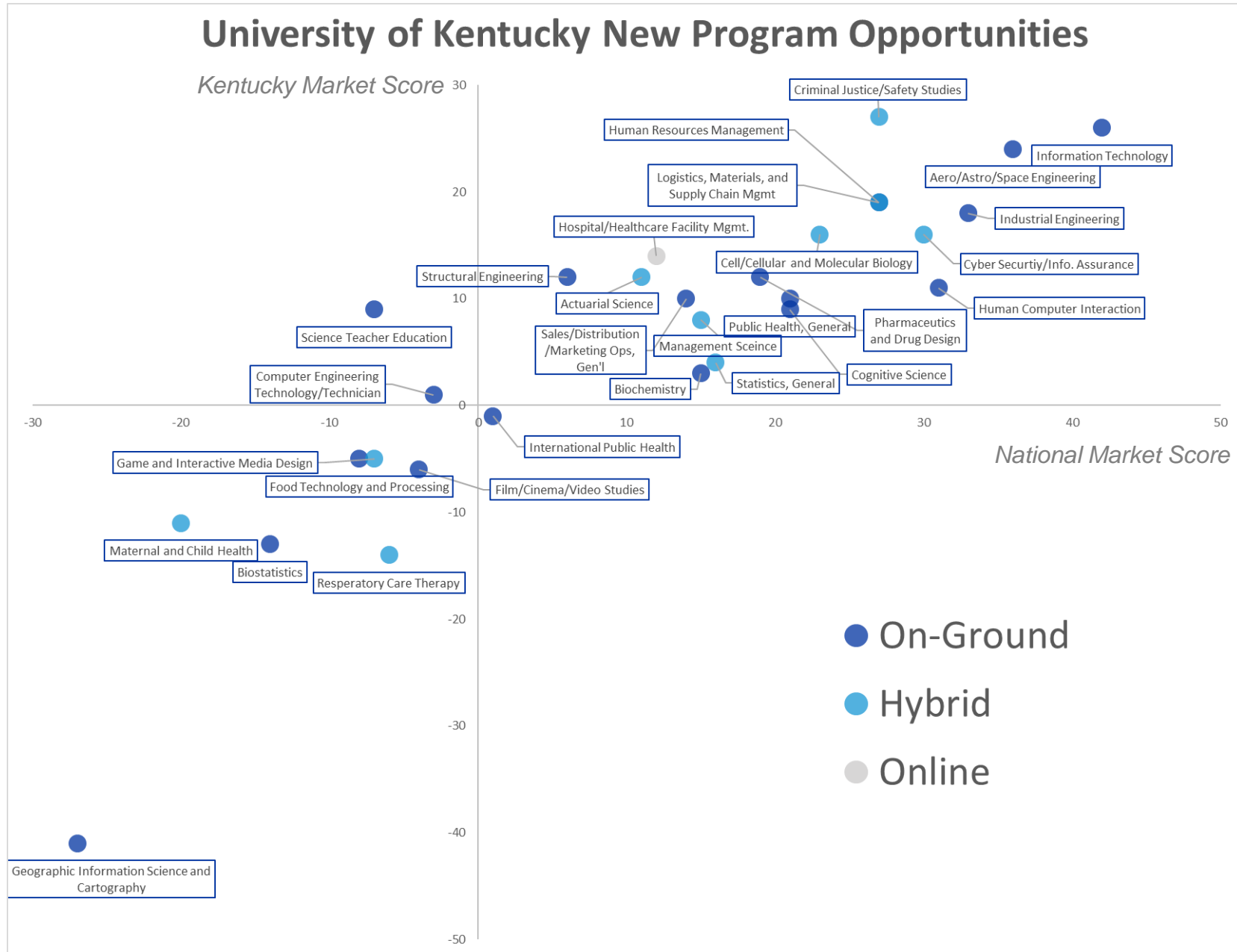
Slowdown in STEM?

Engineering, computer science fast-growing overall but grew more slowly during 2008 recession

1) Difference in conferral growth rate in 2011-13 (recession-era) and the average of 2008-10 and 2014-2016 (non-recession-era)
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Source: IPEDS conferrals 2008-2018; Bureau of Labor Statistics Unemployment Data; EAB interviews and analysis.

DATA-INFORMED DECISIONS



EXAMPLES OF NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAMS OR EXPANSIONS

- College of Engineering – Department of Engineering Technology and proposed Bachelor of Science in Lean Systems Engineering Technology
- College of Agriculture, Food and Environment – Distillation, Wine and Brewing Studies Undergraduate Certificate Program
- College of Medicine – Bowling Green and Northern Kentucky regional campuses
- College of Social Work – Fully online Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and consideration of a Criminal Justice program

QUESTIONS

