Mandatory Post-Secondary School CATS Demonstration
August 6, 2020

Question	*Response*
Is it possible to have the instructions document emailed prior to our logging in?	Yes, Beth Marshall indicated that she would email the three-page instructions document to post-secondary schools.
The school year will be 2021-2022?	Yes, regardless of the fact that you are entering and will likely be approved in 2020-2021, the CATS approval is required for the school year 2021-2022. The documentation and approvals for the 2020-2021 grant application are required to be entered into eGrants.
When is the due date for all approved programs to be entered into CATS?	CATS will open August 10 until December 14; then it will close for maintenance until February 10 to March 31. All programs to be approved for the 2021-2022 school year must be entered into CATS by March 31.
Can more than one person have a data entry role?	Yes, but it is not recommended to have multiple people entering data. It leads to confusion and errors, but most schools will assign a data entry person and an administrative person to CATS.
Does the CATS system negate the need to complete the forms we previously submitted when adding programs to SOAR?	No, it does not.
I just submitted signatory addendums this week according to the June instructions. Do I have to enter those into CATS as well, or will they be approved and sent back to me?	
If we have a local articulation agreement for a program with several secondary institutions, do we need to enter the information for each secondary institution?	If it is for the same delivery system (degree, certificate, registered apprenticeship, etc.,) you enter all of the secondary articulations against that CIP for the same delivery system. If you are entering articulation agreements for the same CIP that has different delivery systems, such as one delivery system is a degree program and another is a certificate program, you enter all of the articulation agreements per each separate delivery system.
Are SOAR agreements in CATS and PATrack? Are local agreements only in CATS?	Post-secondary schools must enter information for ALL agreements (existing and new ones) into CATS.

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For *Instructor Information* about credentials, if there are several instructors in a program, do you list names? Or do you just list program director	Do not list names. BCTE is interested in the credential **requirements** for the position, not the credentials of the individual teaching the course. You should list the credentials required for the teaching position, such as a Master's Degree, 6 years of full-time work experience, ASE certification, etc.
When are SOAR agreements due?	SOAR agreements are due by Oct 30.
I understand that there will be a list on the CATS Instructions of schools that qualify to create an Alignment Agreement with a secondary school. Are there specific requirements for this, is there a form, or does each institution have the option to create their own agreement?	The list in CATS instructions is of "CIP codes" for programs that, because of a governing board (State Board of Nursing, Dental, etc.) policy that prohibits the post-secondary from awarding credit in the program to secondary students. In this case, you will find that CIP code listed in the instructions. There must be a written governing policy to that effect. The alignment agreement requirements in CATS is for you to describe how you are partnering with your secondary school partner to prepare students for this program.
Is the alignment agreement an "official" agreement that must be signed and kept on record?	
Who should sign the alignment agreement?	
What should be included in the alignment agreement?	
Is a letter of documentation required to be uploaded into CATS or the actual alignment agreement?	
If a letter of documentation is required to be uploaded into CATS, who should sign that, and what should the letter say?	
Are there requirements for secondary and post- secondary schools to have programs that align according to SOAR requirements?	Every CIP must be aligned to a SOAR agreement, a local articulation agreement, or when the licensing board determines that articulation is not permitted, you must have at a minimum, an "alignment articulation" agreement. All programs must have at least one of these three types of articulation agreements.
In the March 2020 version of the PA 4-year state plan on pages 22-23, it states as the 4th	

option of alignment activities "The institutions develop an articulation agreement that awards fewer than six credits which count toward students' postsecondary graduation". On the call today it was stated that we could not enter credits on an Alignment Agreement. If we are able to establish an agreement for less than 6 credits, why can we not enter the number of credits. Are we able to award them, but just don't enter it?	
Where can I find a copy of the approved 4-year Perkins state plan that was recently approved by USDOE?	PDE submitted a "combined" state plan that includes career and technical education Perkins plan and WIOA. You may find this plan at https://www.dli.pa.gov/Businesses/Workforce-Development/Documents/wioa/2020-WIOA-State-Plan.pdf
The programs are that are not Allied Health are academic or art-related programs: Fashion, Business Programs, Accounting, Human Services, Education, Crim Justice, Arts and Design Programs. There is no equipment operations or any kind of hands-on on-site trade work in these programs. Is it possible the section where you have to identify safety practices does not apply to these majors? If it does apply, can you give an example of a safety practice in one of these programs?	
After entering the data for our Fashion Merchandising Program, the system tells me that there is an error when I try to enter the Statewide Agreements. I know that my information is correct. In this section, "Statewide" is called "State wide." Could that have anything to do with the error?	