

Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

Academics

POLICY NAME: Academic Program Review and Approval Process

POLICY NUMBER: 4200

A. PURPOSE

To establish process for new academic program approval and existing program review.

B. DEFINITIONS

None

C. POLICY

1. New Academic Program Approval

- 1.1. All new academic programs, which include degrees; majors; options/concentrations, focus areas and endorsements within majors; certificates and minors, require prior approval of the Board. Proposals for new academic programs shall be submitted to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning and Partnerships for initial review and recommendation to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees.
- 1.2. Academic program termination and subsequent reinstatement of a program also requires the submission of a formal proposal identifying the College's recommendation for approval of the Board. In all cases, the Board may require objective consultants to assist the Board in analyzing the proposal and arriving at a decision.

2. Existing Academic Program Review Process

- 2.1. Existing academic programs shall be reviewed on a regular basis by each College, following the academic program review schedule established by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) for the Nebraska State Colleges. Such review shall be for the purpose of determining the quality and effectiveness of each academic program, the efficiency with which each is delivered, and for the purpose of avoiding unnecessary duplication.

- 2.2. Such review shall be consistent with state statutes and shall contain both qualitative and quantitative measures representative of sound academic practices. The review process provides for evaluation of each academic program once every seven (7) years and is primarily a self-study conducted at the department, school and/or College levels. Although designed to assist in program improvement to enhance program quality and promote attainment of educational goals, the review is also useful in planning and assuring efficient use of resources.
- 2.3. Each College shall perform the review according to the established CCPE program review schedule and shall submit a report which compiles the results to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning and Partnerships for review, along with supporting documentation and a recommendation for each program reviewed. Each program report will be considered by the Board for continuation of the program; those programs approved for continuation will then have their reports forwarded for consideration and approval by the CCPE.
- 2.4. Should an academic program hold state and/or national accreditation and is in good standing with the accrediting agency at the time of review by the Board, the official documentation that provides the results of the most current review of the program shall be accepted, along with a one (1) to two (2) page summary of the primary findings of the most recent accreditation visit, as the College's analysis of the program.
- 2.5. In the event a program does not meet or exceed the threshold requirements established by the CCPE, the College shall include in its report either a recommendation for terminating the program or a plan for taking corrective action which will improve and justify continuance of the program.

FORMS/APPENDICES

None

SOURCE:

Legal Reference: RRS 85-1414 Programs; capital construction projects; review; commission, public institution, and governing boards; duties

Policy Adopted: March 1985

Policy Revised: June 1993, January 2010, January 2020, March 2022