Master's Program Review

Each public university and health-related institution shall review all stand-alone master's programs at least once every seven years.

According to guidelines established by the Commissioner, SFASU submitted a schedule of review for all doctoral programs to the Assistant Commissioner of Academic Affairs and Research.

Institutions shall review master's and doctoral programs in the same discipline simultaneously, using the same self-study materials and reviewers.

The review of a master's program begins with a rigorous self-study

Criteria for the review of master's programs must include, but are not limited to:

a. Faculty qualifications;
b. Faculty publications;
c. Faculty external grants;
d. Faculty teaching load;
e. Faculty/student ratio;
f. Student demographics;
g. Student time-to-degree;
h. Student publication and awards;
i. Student retention rates;
j. Student graduation rates;
k. Student enrollment;
l. Graduate licensure rates (if applicable);
m. Graduate placement (i.e. employment or further education/training);
n. Number of degrees conferred annually;
o. Alignment of program with stated program and institutional goals and purposes;
p. Program curriculum and duration in comparison to peer programs;
q. Program facilities and equipment;
r. Program finance and resources; and
s. Program administration.

External Review
As part of the required review process, institutions shall use at least one external reviewer with subject-matter expertise who is employed by an institution of higher education outside of Texas. External reviewers may be brought to the campus for an on-site review or may be asked to conduct a remote desk review.

External reviewers
a. shall be provided with the materials and products of the self-study
b. must be part of a program that is nationally recognized for excellence in the discipline.
c. must affirm that they have no conflict of interest related to the program under review.
Institutions shall submit a report on the outcomes of each review, including the evaluation of the external reviewers and actions the institution has taken or will take to improve the program, and shall deliver these reports to the Academic Affairs and Research Division no later than 90 days after the reviewers have submitted their findings to the institution. The SFASU submission to THECB will be made by the Provost.

Institutions may submit reviews performed for reasons of programmatic licensure or accreditation in satisfaction of the review and reporting requirements in this subsection.

The Coordinating Board shall review all reports submitted for master's and doctoral programs and shall conduct analysis as necessary to ensure high quality. Institutions may be required to take additional actions to improve their programs as a result of Coordinating Board review.