



Academic Program Review

Purpose

Academic Program Review (APR) is driven by the university's mission statement and strategic plan. The APR enhances the quality of all academic programs and ensures the ongoing support necessary for continuation, modification, and development of programs.

Persons Affected

This policy applies to all university faculty, academic affairs staff, and students.

Definitions

None.

Policy

All undergraduate and graduate degree programs fall within this policy. APR encourages self-study and planning within programs and aligns the strategic plans of the program, the college, and the university. APR provides information for curricular and budgetary planning decisions at each administrative level. In turn, the resources needed for growth, continuation, or modification of programs can be included in planning processes. Faculty involvement in the APR process is critical and required.

All undergraduate and graduate degree programs must undergo APR annually.

Additionally, all graduate degree programs must undergo a comprehensive decennial APR. If accreditation by a discipline-specific accrediting agency is on a cycle of less than 10 years, that cycle will be followed. Academic units with multiple accrediting agencies should follow the cycle of the accrediting agency most appropriate to the program. Notwithstanding accreditation requirements, at a minimum all master's and doctoral degree programs will be reviewed at least once every 10 years.

The APR procedures and requirements are detailed in the APR Handbook. The Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs must approve in advance a deviation from published procedures. Accreditation reports may substitute for the external program review report required by this policy if approved. However, any information required by the APR Handbook and not already included in the accreditation review must be submitted to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs with the external accreditation report.

In conjunction with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs establishes a decennial schedule of programs to be reviewed



along with deadlines for completing each task.

Procedures

Processes identified in the APR Handbook are required and fulfill:

1. Standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC);
2. Requirements overseen by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for compliance with Texas Administrative Code.

Academic units with core curriculum courses must conduct an assessment of core objectives (COs). SFA must submit a Texas Core Curriculum report to the THECB every ten years, based on annual assessment of student learning regarding COs. Instructions for core assessment may be found on the Office of Institutional Effectiveness's Core Objective Assessment webpage.

The decennial APR consists of an Internal Program Review or self-study (including assessment of unit outcomes), an External Program Review, and a Program Improvement Plan. All master's and doctoral program reviews are submitted to THECB according to its established schedule. Master's and doctoral programs in the same discipline are reviewed simultaneously using the same self-study materials and reviewers.

Related Statutes or Regulations, Rules, Policies, or Standards

19 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 4.30, 5.52

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), The Principles of Accreditation, Standards 7,1, 8.1, 8,2a.

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Responsible Executive

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Forms

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Revision History

September 1, 2023 (original)