

11.99.99.R0.04 Academic Program Review

Revised September 9, 2026

Next Scheduled Review: September 9, 2031



Procedure Summary

Academic Program Review (APR) has as its primary goal the enhancement of the quality of academic programs. The APR is a comprehensive, periodic review of the academic degree programs offered by the University.

The goal of academic program review is to improve the quality of the degree programs that the University offers its undergraduate majors, as well as the community it serves. When a corresponding graduate program exists for the undergraduate major, the undergraduate program review will be conducted in conjunction with that graduate program review. Academic program review serves to encourage self-study and is a time to reflect on the direction of the discipline or practice and those implications for the future of the degree program.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1 GENERAL

APR is a function of the Office of the Provost, or its designee, in conjunction with the appropriate colleges and schools.

2 REVIEW OF GRADUATE AND CORRESPONDING UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Graduate academic program review is delegated to and managed by the Graduate School and follows the requirements and ten-year review cycle as described by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Graduate Program Review in accordance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter I, Rule §2.181 and Texas Education Code Rule §61.0512. If a graduate program has a corresponding undergraduate program, the graduate and undergraduate program reviews are combined and conducted jointly, aligning with THECB and TAC requirements and calendars.

3 REVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS WITHOUT A GRADUATE COMPONENT

The stand-alone undergraduate academic program review is managed by the Office of the Provost, in coordination with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (IE).

3.1 Requesting a Substitution for Undergraduate Academic Program Review Self-Study

Review of the Core Curriculum is conducted not less than once every five years and follows the requirements of TAC Rule §4.30 and System Policy 11.06 Core Curriculum.

3.1.1 The Department Head may request that the Academic Dean substitute other documentation in place of the UAPR document according to the TAC Rule §2.181.

3.2 External Review

3.2.1 In addition to the normal program review procedures, programs **may be** subject to an independent evaluation by at least two external evaluators. External program review will occur only when a thorough review of a program's self-study has been completed, and the department or the Academic Dean indicates the need for an external review. The external evaluators on the review team will be individuals with significant professional reputations in the field who will report their findings at a concluding meeting to the Academic Dean, Department Head, and Provost. One of the evaluators may be from a Texas A&M System institution of comparable size, while the other evaluator may be from a non-System institution, preferably within Texas. The external evaluators' report will become part of the permanent program review files.

3.2.2 It is by providing recommendations resulting from the program reviews back to the academic leadership of the University that bottom-up planning can occur. The development of meaningful short- and long-term goals, proposals to address concerns, and plans for the program's future development are essential components of the program review process. Action plans, developed in conjunction with the department faculty, the Academic Dean, and the Office of the Provost, are essential to ensure that the energy invested in the review informs procedural decisions, priority setting, and budget decisions.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Texas Administrative Code Rule [§2.181 Academic Programs at Public Universities and Public Health-Related Institutions](#)

Texas Education Code [§ 61.0512 Board Approval of Academic Programs](#)

Texas Administrative Code Rule [§4.30 Core Curriculum Review](#)

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission of Colleges (SACSCOC) [Principles of Accreditation](#)

System Policy [11.06 Core Curriculum](#)

Definitions

Undergraduate Academic Program is a structured grouping of coursework designed to meet an educational objective leading to a baccalaureate degree at the University. For purposes of this procedure, in general, only approved degree programs that the University is authorized by THECB and SACSCOC to offer (and for which there are no corresponding graduate programs) are required to submit this review. The listing of programs up for review under this procedure is provided on the Office of Institutional Effectiveness website.

A Department is an administrative unit that manages one or more academic degree programs.

Resources

Stand-alone Undergraduate Academic Review forms and templates are available on the IE website: [Stand-alone Undergraduate Academic Review](#) (hyperlink provided)

Graduate Academic Program Review forms and templates are available on the Graduate School website: [Graduate Program Academic Review](#) (hyperlink provided)

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:
[Undergraduate programs](#) (hyperlink provided)
[Graduate programs](#) (hyperlink provided)

Revision History

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