

8.015 Academic Program Review.

(1) Statement of Intent

- (a) Academic program review has a lengthy history in the State University System of Florida, as efforts have been made to periodically analyze how degree programs provide students with high-quality education and preparation for success in our global economy. Well-aligned with institutional and discipline-specific accreditation expectations, program review processes in the State University System must emphasize the assessment of student learning outcomes and continuous program improvement.
- (b) The Board of Governors requires the periodic review of all academic degree programs in State University System institutions at least once every seven years from the date of the preceding review or from the implementation date of new academic programs. Program reviews must document how individual academic programs are achieving stated student learning and program objectives within the context of the university's mission, as illustrated in the academic learning compacts for baccalaureate programs. The results of the program reviews are expected to inform strategic planning, program development, and budgeting decisions at the university level and, when appropriate, at the state level.
- (c) The Board of Governors supports the ongoing devolution of authority, campus-level decision making, and institutional accountability under the constitutional framework established by Floridians for their system of public universities. The Board also expects university and Board staff to ensure that program review processes and summary reports are of high quality and that they comply with the expectations outlined in Board of Governors and university regulations.

(2) Each university must establish and maintain a schedule for submission of program review summary reports for every degree program.

- (a) Each university will ensure that each academic program is reviewed at least once every seven years from the preceding review for established programs. For new programs, a review must take place within seven years of the implementation date.
- (b) The Board of Governors' office shall review each university's program review schedule to ensure that all programs receive sufficient review, with appropriate input from experts external to the institution, such as specialized accreditors or faculty in comparable programs from other postsecondary institutions, within each program's review schedule. In exceptional circumstances, institutions may request to negotiate a delay for sound business reasons (e.g., to align a review with a specialized accreditation cycle or to align reviews within like fields).

(3) Each university must establish and publish clearly defined policies and procedures for reviewing academic programs and ensuring continuous program improvement. Each university must submit to the Board office a current electronic version of its program review policies and procedures, or a hyperlink to the current electronic version, by December 15 of each year.

- (a) University policies and procedures must ensure that the program review and continuous processes include the following components.
 - 1. The review of the mission(s) and purpose(s) of the program within the context of the university mission and the Board of Governors' strategic plan.
 - 2. The establishment of teaching, research, service, and other program goals and objectives, including expected outcomes, particularly in the area of student learning.
 - 3. An assessment of the program to determine whether goals/objectives are being met, students are achieving expected learning outcomes, assessment results are being used for continuous program improvement, and resources and support services are sufficient to support the program.
 - 4. For baccalaureate programs, a review of lower-level prerequisite courses to ensure that the program is in compliance with state-approved common prerequisites.

(4) A program review summary report must be completed for every program review and maintained at a campus location maintained by the university provost. Each report must include the following components.

- (a) The CIP/degree combinations for the program that is reviewed.
- (b) An electronic copy of the current Academic Learning Compact for each reviewed baccalaureate program.
- (c) An indicator identifying whether or not the program review was conducted in conjunction with any external reviews (e.g., specialized accreditation reviews).
- (d) The date of the last review of this program.
- (e) A brief description of major changes made since the previous program review.
- (f) A summary of the current strengths of the program.
- (g) A summary of the current weaknesses of the program.
- (h) A summary of the recommendations and proposed action plans made as a result of the review, including but not limited to, areas in which the program goals/objectives are not being met, students are not achieving learning outcomes, and resources are not sufficient to achieve program goals/objectives.
- (i) The date the university provost verified that the program review included all of the processes outlined in this regulation and was conducted according to approved university policies and procedures.
- (j) The affiliation of external experts who participated in the review of the program.

(5) Each university must provide its schedule for program review summary reports in a prescribed electronic format to the Board office by April 1, 2015. Thereafter, revisions and updates to the university's schedule should be submitted to the Board office for approval by December 15 of each year of the cycle.

- (a) A program review summary report using the Board template must be electronically submitted to the Board office during the academic year in which the summary report is scheduled for submission.

(6) For programs with specialized accreditation, such as ABET, the university may use the results of the specialized accreditation or reaccreditation process in lieu of

the academic program review if the following requirements are met.

- (a) The specialized accreditation or reaccreditation must have been conducted within seven years of the preceding review of the program or seven years from the implementation date of a new academic program. Institutions may request extensions consistent with the rationale outlined in (2)(b).
- (b) The specialized accreditation or reaccreditation report must include the components specified in (4)(a – h).
- (c) The university must submit the specialized program review summary report to the Board office in accordance with this regulation.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; History—New 3-29-07, Amended 1-22-15, 1-25-23.