

Definition and Criteria for Review of Low Enrollment Programs

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Definition of a major academic program:

A hierarchical sequence of courses, activities, and/or experiences constituting at least 24 credit hours in a major field of study, preparing students for advanced professional programs of study. A number of courses or other directed experiences are restricted to majors alone to ensure coverage at the appropriate depth.

The program must address the criteria of centrality to mission, program quality, and program costs. The program should also address the following criteria:

- Provide a unique and valued service to the community at large or to the university system.
- Be central to the mission statement of the University.
- Meet community or employment demands.
- Use resources efficiently.
- Coordinate with other programs.
- Fulfill a requirement stipulated by professional organizations or by national or regional guidelines.
- For established programs, demonstrate evidence of growth over the past five years in conjunction with the universities managed growth.
- Provide evidence of program quality through multiple measures of assessment.
- Use resources effectively by indicating the extent to which it is necessary for the department housing the low enrollment program to hire temporary faculty so that permanent faculty may cover the courses in the low enrollment program.

Consideration should also be given to recent recommendations from external and internal review agencies.