

# NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY



## ***CURRICULUM MANUAL***

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## Foreword

Program curriculum is a set of teaching and learning experiences intentionally designed to lead to articulated student learning outcomes. It is organized and guided by recognized faculty that have responsibility for the content and structure of the program and student learning. Program faculty are responsible for curriculum quality, effectiveness, and coherency regardless of format: face to face, web based, web enhanced, experiential, distance, or other design (AAUP, 1966/1984; SACSCOC, 2018).

The quality of the program curriculum refers to (1) currency and relevancy of the theories and practices in the given field or discipline; (2) intellectual rigor appropriate to the level of the degree program; and (3) the “connectivity” among the components of the curriculum (SACSCOC, 2018). Further, academic quality is increasingly defined as the achievement by students of intended learning outcomes that reflect societal expectations, market demands, institutional mission and goals, and disciplinary academic standards (AAC&U, 2004). The characteristics for assessing the effectiveness of the curriculum include the extent to which the curriculum provides opportunities for (1) increasingly complex understandings of theories, principles, and practices; (2) increasingly complex levels of analysis and development of skills; and (3) application of theories and principles (SACSCOC, 2018). A coherent curriculum is characterized by quality and effectiveness indicators and usually described in terms of sequencing, complexity, and linkages (SACSCOC, 2018).

Under the current conditions of rapid social, economic, and academic change, effective and efficient strategies for coordinating and linking multiple, at times contradictory, societal expectations, labor market demands, institutional goals, academic program objectives, and teaching and learning experiences in individual courses move to prominence as a concern for campus curriculum planners and managers.

Regional (e.g., SACSCOC) and disciplinary (e.g., ABET, CSWE, CAEP) accreditation commissions and professional associations (e.g., AAC&U) increasingly call for institutions and programs to ensure, document, and demonstrate that their curricula embody coherent courses of study that reflect statements of intended learning outcomes. Similarly, state agencies (e.g., SCHEV in Virginia), concerned with growing costs of higher education, require institutions to ensure that courses and programs effectively and efficiently address statewide goals and core competencies. Research also indicates that students demonstrate higher levels of achievement if they are provided with multiple and diverse, yet systematic, curricular and co-curricular opportunities to build on previous learning, receive feedback, and reflect on their progress toward explicitly stated learning outcomes (Gaff, Ratcliff, & Associates, 1997; Huber & Hutchings, 2004).

The rationale for curriculum review and approval processes at NSU is to ensure curricular currency, relevancy, rigor, and coherence through curriculum alignment. Curriculum alignment is the degree to which components of curricular structures are appropriately positioned relative to one another to promote learning, student development, and student achievement of desired outcomes. Curriculum alignment provides a strategy to chart program courses as they relate to the student needs, university mission and goals, labor market demands, and intended institutional or program learning outcomes. Explicit alignment of university, program, and course learning outcomes help students recognize their involvement in a cohesive curriculum, promote student learning and reflective teaching among faculty members, and assist curriculum committees and administrators in enhancing the quality of students’ academic experiences (AAC&U, 2002, 2004).

## ***Policy on Curriculum Review and Approval***

### ***Policy Statement***

Norfolk State University (NSU) has the responsibility to design, administer, and deliver a rigorous and coherent curriculum to equip NSU's ethnically and culturally diverse student population with the capability to become productive citizens who continuously contribute to a global and rapidly changing society.

Curriculum review facilitates curriculum development and approval, ensures alignment between the designed, delivered, and assessed curriculum, and evaluates the effectiveness of the curriculum.

This policy establishes a comprehensive university-wide process of curriculum review at Norfolk State University. The faculty, University Curriculum Committee, and the Office of the Provost are responsible for implementation and management of the process.

### ***Purpose***

The purpose of the University Policy on Curriculum Review and Approval is to institutionalize procedures for course and program curriculum review and action, identify related administrative functions, and provide guidance to faculty and staff regarding review and approval of curricular issues. Curriculum review and approval is a collaborative process between faculty and academic administrators designed to ensure that all courses and programs are based upon fields of study appropriate to higher education, aligned with the university mission and strategic goals, consistent with institutional standards of quality, and in compliance with regional accreditation standards and requirements and State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) policies and procedures.

### ***Procedures***

The University Curriculum Committee approves all proposed (new and revised) curricular offerings. Course and program proposals must adhere to the format described in the Curriculum Manual. All curriculum actions must be submitted for review and approval at all appropriate levels. The Office of the Provost facilitates and monitors the institutional approval, review, and evaluation processes in accordance with university policy. The Curriculum Manual is reviewed periodically by the University Curriculum Committee.

## **Definition of Terms**

**Academic Degree Program:** A structured set of teaching and learning experiences designed to lead to the student development of intended student learning outcomes and to the award of an associate, bachelor's, master's, professional, or doctoral degree identified by a separate CIP code in the SCHEV program inventory. The minimum number of required semester hours for each degree program is 60 for associate, 120 for baccalaureate, and 30 for graduate.

**Alternative Methods of Delivery:** Instructional processes in which the majority of the instruction (interaction between students and instructors and among students) in a course occurs when students and instructors are not in the same place. Instruction may be synchronous or asynchronous. Such courses may employ audio, video, computer, or web-based technologies.

**CIP Code:** Classification of Instructional Program code assigned to all academic degree programs.

**Complexity:** The level of breadth, depth, rigor, and challenge of taught and learned content (knowledge, skills, and/or competencies) as students progress through a course of study. Complexity should be expressed through statements of program outcomes.

**Program Outcome Saturation:** The number of courses addressing a particular outcome.

**Program Outcome Variability:** The combination of levels of content delivery (I, E, R, A – see definition of “level of content delivery”) of a particular outcome as addressed by a course or courses in a program of study.

**Corequisite:** A course that must be taken at the same time as another course.

**Course:** A structured unit of instruction or research within a discipline or subject area. Each course has a clear rationale and a set of specific learning outcomes.

**Course Designation:** An indicator that a course meets specific criteria to be classified or categorized in an approved enriching educational experience. For example, a course may be classified as:

- Lecture
- Internet Delivered/Web Based
- Honors

**Course Description:** A summary of the course goals and content and should be no longer than 500 characters.

**Course Level/Number:** An indicator of the knowledge and skills that are expected to be taught and learned in a course. Course level indicates progression of learning, rigor, and content. Generally, the course level is indicated by the course numbering system: undergraduate-level courses range from 100 to 499 (i.e., 100 through 199 sequence indicates freshman-level courses, 200 through 299 sequence indicates sophomore-level courses, 300 through 399 sequence indicates junior-level courses, and 400 through 499 sequence indicates senior-level courses) and graduate-level courses start at 500 and go up to a potential ceiling of 999 (i.e., 500 through 599 sequence indicates First-Year Graduate Courses and 600 through 999 Upper-Level Graduate Courses). In general, course prefix numbers ranging from 500 to 799 designate master's-level coursework. Depending on the program, doctoral-level course prefixes may range from 500 to 999. In general, doctoral-level courses are designated by course prefixes ranging from 700 to 999.

**Course Name/Title:** An indicator of the content of the course. Long titles should be no more than 40 characters and short titles should be no more than 30 characters. Abbreviations and special characters should be limited. Within reasonable limits, titles should be consistent with academic practices in the disciplines.

**Course Rationale:** The role, importance, and level of rigor in developing program learning outcomes and competencies.

**Cross Listing:** Courses that are offered to students at different levels (e.g., Undergraduate, Graduate, and Honors). Courses that are cross-listed for undergraduate and graduate students must be at the 400/500 level only.

**Curriculum:** An academic plan consisting of the following major elements:

- **Mission of the Program:** Philosophy and general goals that guide specific knowledge, skills, and values/dispositions (i.e., learning outcomes) to be learned.

- **Content:** The subject matter within which the learning experiences are embedded. Program goals identify major content domains.
- **Sequence:** An arrangement of the subject matter intended to lead to specific learning outcomes.
- **Learners:** Information about the learners for whom the curriculum is devised.
- **Pedagogies:** Instructional activities by which intended learning outcomes may be achieved.
- **Program Resources:** Materials, settings, and expertise utilized in the learning process.
- **Assessment:** The strategies used to determine if intended student learning outcomes are achieved.
- **Revision and Adjustment Process:** Processes to implement changes in the curriculum based on experience and assessment results.

**Curriculum Alignment:** An iterative process involving systematic study (curriculum mapping, analysis, and interpretation) of curricular components to determine the degree of agreement between what faculty expect students to learn, what faculty think they teach, and what students learn as a result of their educational experiences.

**Curriculum Change Proposal Sponsor:** A faculty member or group of faculty members initiating a curriculum change.

**Curriculum Coherence:** A conclusion based on a systematic study, interpretation, reflection, and judgment of curricular components, such as course sequencing, increasing complexity, and established linkages.

**Curriculum Effectiveness:** Characteristics that include (1) increasingly complex understandings of theories, principles, and practices; (2) increasingly complex levels of analysis and development of skills; and (3) application of theories and principles.

**Curriculum Intentionality:** The deliberate and systematic alignment of intended program learning outcomes with course-level outcomes and instructional and learning activities.

**Curriculum Map:** A snapshot of a course of study at a particular point in its development. A curriculum map represents the relationship of courses to program learning outcomes by charting courses, program outcomes, and linkages between and among curricular components.

**Curriculum Mapping:** The data collection phase of a curriculum alignment process. It includes organizing and recording information about the curriculum to permit a visual display of the relationships between and among curricular components.

**Curriculum Matrix:** A two-dimensional data collection instrument used to organize the curriculum mapping process. A curriculum matrix records the assignment of specific program outcomes (in columns) to individual courses (in rows) while identifying the level at which the outcome will be taught (at the intersection of columns and rows) by indicating whether the outcome is introduced, emphasized, reinforced, or applied.

**Curriculum Quality:** Characteristics that include (1) currency and relevancy of the theories and practices in the field or discipline; (2) intellectual rigor appropriate to the level of the degree program; and (3) the “connectivity” among the components of the curriculum.

**Degree Designation:** The degree awarded (e.g., Master of Science).

**Degree Name:** The field or specialization (e.g., Sociology).

**Degree Title:** The degree name and degree designation (e.g., Bachelor of Arts in History).

**Explicit (X) Statement of Intended Outcome:** A program outcome that is fully and directly expressed or referenced in a course syllabus.

**Implicit (I) Statement of Intended Outcome:** A program outcome that is indirectly expressed or referenced in a course syllabus.

**Learning Outcome:** An intended effect of the college/school experience that has been stated in terms of specific, observable, and measurable student performance. Program learning outcomes specify knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes students are expected to attain in a course of study.

**Level of Content Delivery:** The level and complexity of the knowledge and skills that are expected to be taught and

learned in a course. The four levels of content delivery are:

- **Introduced (I):** Students are not expected to be familiar with the content or skill at the collegiate or graduate level. Instruction and learning activities focus on basic knowledge, skills, and/or competencies and entry-level complexity.
- **Emphasized (E):** Students are expected to possess a basic level of knowledge and familiarity with the content or skills at the collegiate or graduate level. Instruction and learning activities concentrate on enhancing and strengthening knowledge, skills, and expanding complexity.
- **Reinforced (R):** Students are expected to possess a strong foundation in the knowledge, skill, or competency at the collegiate or graduate level. Instructional and learning activities continue to build upon previous competencies and increased complexity.
- **Applied (A):** Students are expected to possess an advanced level of knowledge, skill, or competency at the collegiate or graduate level. Instructional and learning activities focus on the use of the content or skills in multiple contexts and at multiple levels of complexity.

**Linkage:** The degree of integration between multiple program learning outcomes in a course or course of study.

**Major:** An extensive program of study in a subject area designated by CIP code and approved by SCHEV. A major is an intentionally and formally organized aggregate of courses in designated primary subject areas/disciplines in which a student commits to gain in-depth knowledge, skills, competence, and understanding through a coherent pattern of courses.

**Minor:** A focused area of study like a major; however, a minor in a discipline is narrower or restricted in scope. A minor consists of at least 15, and no more than 18, credits.

**Prerequisite:** A successfully completed course or courses, skills, or knowledge a student must possess and demonstrate prior to registering for more advanced courses.

**Program Assessment:** A systematic process of gathering, analyzing, and discussing information from multiple and diverse sources in order to develop a deep understanding of what students know, understand, value, and can do with their knowledge and skills as a result of their experiences in the program; the process culminates when assessment results are used to improve subsequent learning.

**Program Goals:** General domains of student performance. For example, "Program graduates will demonstrate competence in critical thinking skills." Generally, goals are not directly observable or measurable. Goals must be closely linked to, and aligned with, learning outcomes.

**Program Review:** A systematic examination of an academic program by faculty and administrators to assess the relative value of an academic program in terms of mission centeredness, quality, and viability.

**Semester Credit Hour:** The unit of instruction used for computing the amount of work required for assigning credit. Academic credit is awarded in the form of a semester credit hour, which reflects the amount of engaged learning time expected of a typical student enrolled not only in traditional classroom settings but also in laboratories, studios, internships and other experiential learning, and distance or web-based education. One semester hour is equivalent to one 50–70 minute period of instruction or lecture per week for 15 weeks. Two or three 50-minute periods of laboratory sessions are equal to one period of instruction or lecture. Faculty assign and monitor semester credit hour assignments. Mini-term courses should carry the same number of instructional hours as full semester courses.

**Sequencing:** The extent to which courses are organized in a logical manner in relation to a program outcome or a set of program outcomes.

**Structure of Course Sequence:** The extent to which levels of content delivery (I, E, R, A – see definition of "level of content delivery") are organized in a logical manner to address a particular outcome.

**Substantive Change:** A significant modification or expansion of the nature and scope of an accredited institution. In accordance with published policies and procedures, substantive changes must be reported to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). The Vice Provost (responsible for curriculum management) will identify changes that are substantive in nature, initiate appropriate reporting and approval processes in compliance with SACSCOC and SCHEV policies and procedures, and refer questions to the Provost for resolution.



**Syllabus:** The primary summary of a course. It outlines the course, denotes what students may expect from the course (e.g., rationale, goals, measurable learning outcomes), and locates the course in the curriculum.

## **Curriculum Change: Common Types and Levels of Approval**

<b>I. Course Level Changes</b>	
<b>TYPE</b>	<b>LEVEL OF APPROVAL</b>
Honors	University Curriculum Committee
Dropping/adding prerequisites	University Curriculum Committee
Change in course delivery method	University Curriculum Committee Provost
Changes in the course title	University Curriculum Committee
Change in the course catalog description	University Curriculum Committee
Change in the level of a course	University Curriculum Committee
Proposing a new course	University Curriculum Committee
Inactivation of a course	University Curriculum Committee
<b>II. Program Level Changes</b>	
<b>TYPE</b>	<b>LEVEL OF APPROVAL</b>
Change in Program CIP Code: Change made in an existing six-digit CIP code designation (as reflected in SCHEV's program inventory), provided no significant changes have been made to program requirements, content, or emphasis, and provided that the new CIP code replaces the current code to respond to changes in the field or to better reflect the intent of the program.	University Curriculum Committee SCHEV Staff Approval
Change in Degree Program Title: Change made in an existing program title (as reflected in SCHEV's program inventory), provided no significant changes have been made to program requirements, content, or emphasis, and provided that the new program title replaces the current program title (e.g. from the M.F.A. in Arts to the M.F.A. in Visual and Performing Arts).	University Curriculum Committee SCHEV Staff Approval Board of Visitors and SACSCOC Notification
Change in Degree Designation: Change made in an existing degree designation (as reflected in SCHEV's program inventory), provided no significant changes have been made to program requirements, content, or emphasis (e.g. from the B.A. degree to the B.S. or from the M.A. in Fine Arts to the M.F.A.).	University Curriculum Committee SCHEV Staff Approval Board of Visitors and SACSCOC Notification
<b>TYPE</b>	<b>LEVEL OF APPROVAL</b>

<p>Change in Length of Program:</p> <p>A written request to SCHEV to change the number of credit hours for an academic degree program from the minimum 120 credit hours for undergraduate or 30 credit hours for graduate is required. Reasons for the change in the required number of credit hours may include compliance with the discipline-specific accrediting standards for student learning outcomes/competencies.</p>	<p>University Curriculum Committee SCHEV Staff Approval Board of Visitors and SACSCOC Notification</p>
<p>Spin-Off Degree Program:</p> <p>Curriculum that expands an existing degree program into a stand-alone degree at the same degree level and does not change its essential character, integrity, or objectives and shares at least the first two digits of the existing program's CIP Code; shares at least three-quarters of courses with the existing degree program; requires minimal or no additional faculty; and is funded through internal reallocations or private funds and does not require additional state funding.</p> <p>SCHEV staff approval is required to confer a spin-off degree.</p> <p>SCHEV reserves the right to determine whether a proposal is considered a new program or a spin-off program.</p>	<p>University Curriculum Committee SCHEV Staff Approval Board of Visitors Approval SACSCOC Notification</p>
<p>New Certificate Program:</p> <p>Curriculum leading to a formal award certifying completion of post-baccalaureate-degree-level work in an academic or occupationally specific field of study.</p>	<p>University Curriculum Committee Board of Visitors Approval SCHEV and SACSCOC Notification</p>
<p>New Degree Program:</p> <p>Curriculum leading to the award of a new degree that includes content in a discipline or field not currently offered by the institution; shares fewer than one-fourth of its courses (excluding general education core) with an existing program; and requires a separate CIP code. Additional faculty, facilities, or funding may be required to initiate and operate the new program.</p>	<p>University Curriculum Committee Board of Visitors Approval SCHEV Council Approval SACSCOC Prospectus and Approval</p>
<p>Program Discontinuance:</p> <p>Action taken to close a program by indicating in SCHEV's program inventory the dates for which no new enrollments and no new graduates will be reported. Notification to SCHEV is required; notification prior to program closure is suggested. The intent to close a program in a Critical Shortage area requires additional information. Institutions must seek Council approval for a new degree program if reactivation of a discontinued program is desired.</p>	<p>University Curriculum Committee Board of Visitors Approval SCHEV and SACSCOC Notification</p>
<p>Inactive Program Curricula:</p> <p>Action taken to declare a program curriculum inactive by indicating to the University Curriculum Committee the date for which no new student can be enrolled.</p>	<p>University Curriculum Committee Board of Visitors Approval SCHEV and SACSCOC Notification</p>
<p>Inactivate Program Concentration/Track:</p> <p>Action taken to declare a program concentration/track inactive by indicating to the Dean the date for which no new student can be enrolled.</p>	<p>University Curriculum Committee</p>
<p>Initiating Off-Campus Instruction with no curricular changes</p>	<p>Provost Board of Visitors Approval SCHEV Council Approval</p>

	SACSCOC Notification and Approval
<p>Initiating Degree Completion Program:</p> <p>A program typically designed for a non-traditional undergraduate population such as working adults who have completed some college-level course work but have not achieved the baccalaureate degree. Students in such programs may transfer credit from courses taken previously and may receive credit for experiential learning. Courses in degree completion programs are often offered in an accelerated format or meet during evening and weekend hours or may be offered via distance learning technologies.</p>	<p>University Curriculum Committee</p> <p>Board of Visitors Approval</p> <p>SCHEV Council Approval</p> <p>SACSCOC Notification and Approval</p>
Initiating Instruction or Programs at a Different Level	<p>University Curriculum Committee</p> <p>Board of Visitors Approval</p> <p>SCHEV Council Approval</p> <p>SACSCOC Notification and Approval</p>
Initiating a Course or Program that Represents a Significant Departure either in Content or Method of Delivery	<p>University Curriculum Committee</p> <p>Board of Visitors Approval</p> <p>SCHEV Council Approval</p> <p>SACSCOC Notification and Approval</p>
<p>Initiating Courses or Programs Delivered through Contractual Agreement or Consortium:</p> <p><i>Contractual Agreement:</i> Typically, a relationship in which one institution enters an agreement for receipt of courses/programs or portions of courses or programs (i.e., clinical training internships, etc.) delivered by another institution or service provider.</p> <p><i>Consortium:</i> A consortial relationship typically is one in which two or more institutions share in the responsibility of developing and delivering courses and programs that meet mutually agreed upon standards of academic quality.</p>	<p>University Curriculum Committee</p> <p>Board of Visitors Approval</p> <p>SCHEV Council Approval</p> <p>SACSCOC Notification and Approval</p>

## Summary of Curriculum Change Types and Levels of Approval

Change Type	Level of Approval							
Course Level Changes	University Curriculum Committee	BOV Notification	BOV Approval	SCHEV Council Approval	SCHEV Staff Approval	Action Reported to SCHEV	SACSCOC Notification	SACSCOC Approval
Special course/Section designation ( <i>Honors<sup>1</sup>, SL, LLC, Online</i> )	X							
Dropping/adding prerequisites	X							
Changes in course title	X							
Change in the level of the course	X							
Proposal for a new course	X							
Deletion of a course	X							
Program Level Changes	University Curriculum Committee	BOV Notification	BOV Approval	SCHEV Council Approval	SCHEV Staff Approval	Action Reported to SCHEV	SACSCOC Notification	SACSCOC Approval
Change in Program CIP Code	X				X <sup>2</sup>			
Change in Degree Program Title	X	X			X <sup>2</sup>		X	
Change in Degree Designation	X	X			X <sup>2.5</sup>		X	
Change in Length of Program	X	X			X		X	
Spin-Off Degree Program	X		X		X		X	
New Certificate Program <sup>3</sup>	X		X			X <sup>4</sup>	X	
Deleting/Inactivating Track/Concentration	X							
Change Type	Level of Approval							
Program Level Changes	University Curriculum Committee	BOV Notification	BOV Approval	SCHEV Council Approval	SCHEV Staff Approval	Action Reported to SCHEV	SACSCOC Notification	SACSCOC Approval

New Degree Program	X		X	X <sup>5</sup>				X <sup>3,7</sup>
Program Discontinuance	X		X			X <sup>6</sup>	X	
Initiating Off-Campus Instruction	X		X	X			X	X <sup>3</sup>
Initiating Degree Completion Program	X		X	X			X	X <sup>7</sup>
Initiating Coursework or Programs at a Different Level Than Currently Approved	X		X	X				X <sup>8</sup>
Initiating a Course or Program That Represents a Significant Departure either in Content or Method of Delivery	X		X	X			X	X <sup>3</sup>
Initiating Courses or Programs Delivered through Contractual Agreement or Consortium	X		X	X			X <sup>9</sup>	

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Honors courses require the approval of the Dean of the Honors College.

<sup>2</sup> The "Format for Revising Academic Programs" cover sheet and requisite narrative statement must be submitted.

<sup>3</sup> See [SACSCOC Substantive Change Policy](#).

<sup>4</sup> For all certificate programs, the "Program Proposal" cover sheet and requisite narrative statement must be submitted.

<sup>5</sup> If a proposed academic program will elevate a public institution to a new degree level, then the institution must also seek approval to change its degree-level authority through the appropriate state procedures.

<sup>6</sup> The "Intent to Discontinue an Academic Program" cover sheet and requisite narrative must be submitted.

<sup>7</sup> Prospectus is required.

<sup>8</sup> Application for level change is required.

<sup>9</sup> Letter of notification and copy of signed agreement must be submitted.

## **Composition of Curriculum Committees**

Curricula belong to the faculty in academic departments, units, and colleges/schools of the university. Thus, those are the initiating bodies for all curricular changes including modification of existing programs/courses and introduction of new programs/courses. Each department and college/school must establish a curriculum committee that will be responsible for managing the curricula of the department and the college/school respectively. The "... primary responsibility for the content, quality, delivery, and effectiveness of the curriculum [lies] with its faculty" (SACSCOC Section 10.4 Academic Governance, pg. 23, 2018).

### **Program / Department Curriculum Committee**

The composition of the program/department curriculum committee is determined per the rules of the department.

### **College/school Curriculum Committee**

The composition of the college/school curriculum committee is determined per the rules of the college/school.

### **University Curriculum Committee**

The University Curriculum Committee (UCC) is a standing university committee established to advise and guide Norfolk State University in its review of curricular matters (*2021 Teaching Faculty Handbook*, Section 2.3.7). The UCC provides a channel for curriculum matters for communication, advice, support and liaison among NSU academic programs, educational support services, and administrative units. Committee meetings are open to all faculty.

The purpose of the UCC is to ensure programs and courses reflect current knowledge, to ensure programs and courses are appropriate to higher education, to oversee and monitor the university-wide curriculum review and approval processes, and to ensure that processes are consistent with the University Mission and Strategic Plan as well as the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) requirements.

### **Composition of the University Curriculum Committee (UCC)**

The University Curriculum Committee consists of the following **voting** members:

- Three (3) faculty representatives from each academic college
- Two (2) faculty representatives from each academic school
- Two (2) representatives from the Faculty Senate
- Seven (7) deans (two (2) from CSET and COLA colleges, four (4) from BUSN, EDUC, SWRK and GRAD schools, and one (1) from Honors College)
- One (1) chair from the General Education Council
- One (1) designee from the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (who votes as tie breaker only).

This committee also includes the following **non-voting** members:

- One (1) representative from the Registrar's Office
- One (1) representative from the Library
- One (1) representative from the University Assessment Advisory Committee
- One (1) vice provost (responsible for curriculum management).

This committee elects its chair. All proposals for changes to the curriculum in any department, college, or school must be reviewed and approved by this committee. Proposals at the graduate level must be reviewed by the Graduate Council before being reviewed by the University Curriculum Committee. Proposals at the general education level must be reviewed by the General Education Council before being reviewed by the University Curriculum Committee.

If a member must be absent from a meeting, he or she will designate a substitute to attend that meeting.

The Committee meets two times a semester (Fall and Spring). Additional meetings are scheduled as needed within the

semester. In advance of each meeting, the agenda will be posted to the University Curriculum Committee's SharePoint site. Proposals under review will be available in the online Course Inventory Management (CIM) system.

Curriculum committee members may communicate through SharePoint collaborations, email discussions, conference calls, and smaller group meetings in advance of or between committee meetings to clarify questions and to ensure the efficient and effective use of curriculum committee meetings.

## ***Curriculum Review and Approval Process***

The tradition of shared governance within American higher education recognizes the importance of both faculty and administrative involvement in the approval of educational programs. "The number of such faculty will need to be sufficient to fulfill basic functions of curriculum design, development, and evaluation; teaching; identification and assessment of appropriate student learning outcomes; student advising; research and creative activity; and institutional, community, and professional service." SACSCOC Section 6: Faculty ensures that programs, including programs offered through collaborative arrangements, contain appropriate courses reflecting current knowledge within a discipline and that they are appropriate for the students enrolled. Approval by the administration affirms that educational programs are consistent with the mission of the institution and that the institution possesses both the organization and resources to ensure the quality of its educational programs ([Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, 2018, pp. 47-48](#)).

The curriculum review and approval processes must follow a well-defined sequence of actions between the initiation of a change and its final approval at the university level. All such proposals for changes, not being of the same importance, may not follow the same steps for approval. There should be a well-orchestrated information process in place so that all stakeholders including faculty members, the concerned administrators, students, alumni, business community, etc. can participate in the management process.

### ***General Guidelines***

1. Other academic departments, colleges/schools affected by a proposed change must be contacted before the approval process is initiated. Reactions of these units to the proposed change should accompany the proposal as it proceeds through approval channels.
2. Originating departments, colleges/schools should submit related changes as a package (i.e., does a credit hour change in a course affect the program? If so, a Program Revision must accompany the Course Modification.) This package should be bundled in the CIM system.
3. Proposals that are not complete, clear, consistent, or accurate will be returned to the originating unit with proper feedback so that the department can suitably modify the proposal and resubmit.
4. Originating departments, colleges/schools must be notified by each approval group (respective college/school Curriculum Committee, General Education Council, Graduate Council, etc.) when a proposed change has been placed on the agenda.
5. At each step of the review and approval process, comments and recommendations may be added to a proposal.
6. The originating department and college/school will receive the following feedback if a proposed curriculum change is not approved: (a) notification that the change was not approved; (b) specific feedback as to why it was not approved; and, (c) suggestions for modifications, if applicable.
7. Departments, colleges/schools, and approval groups should monitor all changes in programs that, accumulated over time, might change the scope of programs in ways that are not congruent with the role and mission of the department, the school, and the University.
8. Deans should discuss proposed new degree programs with the Vice Provost (responsible for curriculum management) before developing a new program proposal.
9. The minimum number of required semester hours for each degree program is 60 for the associate degree, 120 for the bachelor's degree, and 30 for graduate degree programs. The number of hours required for a minor is a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 18 semester hours. The number of semester hours required for certificate, master's and doctoral degree programs varies by discipline. In general, master's degree programs require a minimum of 30 semester hours beyond the bachelor's degree and doctoral programs require significantly more

credits beyond the master's degree.

## **Compliance with SACSCOC and SCHEV Requirements and Standards**

The following information must be included in the transmittal packet accompanying the proposal.

### **I. All Course-Level Proposals**

When preparing and reviewing course-level proposals, proposal sponsors and curriculum committees must ensure and document compliance with SACSCOC accreditation standards. The proposed syllabus must follow the university guidelines and accomplish the following:

- Demonstrate a rationale for recommended course level (100, 200, 300, etc.) such as appropriate rigor for the level designation
- Provide rationale for recommended amount of credit for the course
- Clearly articulate course-level learning outcomes and NSU core competencies
- Indicate how the course will assist in developing program-learning outcomes in terms of curriculum sequencing, complexity, and linkages
- Indicate what assessment methods will be used to capture and document the course value-added.

### **II. All Program-Level Proposals**

#### **SACSCOC Requirements and Standards**

When preparing and reviewing program-level proposals, proposal sponsors and curriculum committees must document and ensure compliance with SACSCOC accreditation standards. The proposal must accomplish the following:

- Clearly articulate program mission, goals, and intended learning outcomes
- Discuss how the mission of the proposed program relates to the University and College/school missions and strategic goals
- Describe the role of faculty in program design
- Provide rationale for recommended program length (total # of required hours) *and* structure (# of hours for General Education core, major core, electives, etc.)
- Describe the process used to determine what coursework is included in the major program requirement
- Provide peer institutions comparative data for major program requirements
- Present a well-developed process for ensuring and documenting proposed program curriculum (1) quality, (2) effectiveness, and (3) coherency
- Present a well-developed process for program outcomes assessment using both direct and indirect assessment methods
- Describe the role of faculty in program outcomes assessment
- Describe how the proposed program will provide information about the program, including philosophy, goals and outcomes, and required coursework, that is sufficient for a student to make informed choices.

Academic units proposing a new program must prepare a prospectus according to the requirements outlined in the SACSCOC "Substantive Change Policy" and a new program proposal as required by SCHEV. The SACSCOC prospectus and SCHEV program proposal must be submitted with the Curriculum Change Request for review and action by the University Curriculum Committee.

A SCHEV proposal and a SACSCOC prospectus (described in the previous section) must be submitted with the Curriculum Change Request for review and action by the University Curriculum Committee.

The Vice Provost (responsible for curriculum management) is responsible for conducting an ongoing review of curricular revisions to identify possible changes that may be substantive in nature and may require reporting or prior



approval by SACSCOC. The Vice Provost (responsible for curriculum management) will make the final determination of changes that are substantive in nature, will initiate appropriate reporting and approval processes in compliance with SACSCOC policies and procedures, and will refer questions to the Provost for resolution.

## SCHEV Requirements

When preparing and reviewing new program proposals, proposal sponsors must address, and curriculum committees must review, the following SCHEV questions:

### Why does Virginia need this program at this time?

- **State Needs:** Will the program proposed program be an optimal use of state resources in light of state budget considerations and the contributions of any existing programs? What are the needs (justifications) for the state to initiate a new curriculum at this time?
- **Employer Needs:** Will the program fill demonstrable employer needs in the state? If so, what Virginia and/or non-Virginia market data indicate current unmet employer demand for graduates of such programs and the designated degree level? If not, will the program fill demonstrable non-employment needs in the state?
- **Student Needs:** Will the program fill demonstrable student needs in the state? If so, what Virginia and/or non-Virginia market data indicate current unmet student demand for such curricula? If not, why does the institution anticipate student demand for the program?
- **Duplication:** Will the program duplicate similar offerings in Virginia? If so, what are the needs (justifications) for the state to duplicate these efforts? How many similar programs are offered in the state; where? What is the enrollment strength of these similar programs?

### Why does the institution need this program at this time?

- **Institutional Needs:** Will the program fill demonstrable institutional needs? (Does the institution need the program to fulfill its approved mission?) If so, how and how well will the program fit with the institution's SCHEV-approved mission statement? If not, what are the institutional needs (justifications) for the proposal at this time?
- **Resource Needs:** Will the program affect the institution's budget? If so, how and how significantly? (Will changes be required in faculty, staff, facilities, etc.? Will the program be the optimal use of institutional resources in light of state budget considerations, as well as the contributions of any existing programs and the benefits of collaborative efforts?) If not, how will resources be internally reallocated to fund the program?
- **Value Added:** What assessment designs/methods/instruments will be used to measure the *value-added* of the program in terms of student learning?

A new program proposal is required by SCHEV, and a SACSCOC prospectus (described in the previous section) must be submitted with the Curriculum Change Request for review and action by the University Curriculum Committee.

## General Education Core Proposals

When preparing and reviewing general-education-related proposals, proposal sponsors must document, and curriculum committees must ensure, compliance with SACSCOC accreditation standards. The proposal must accomplish the following:

- Provide evidence that the proposed course does not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession
- Indicate how the course will assist in developing general education learning outcomes/core competencies in terms of curriculum sequencing, complexity, and linkages
- Explicitly indicate how the proposed course addresses assessment of general education competencies and demonstrates as well as documents the value-added competencies students are expected to achieve.

Preparing and reviewing general education-related proposals should be aligned with the SCHEV General Education Program Recommendations (General Education in Virginia: Assessment and Innovation, pp. 50-51).

## Proposals Related to Graduate Programs/Instruction

When preparing and reviewing proposals affecting graduate courses and instruction, proposal sponsors must document

and curriculum committees must ensure compliance with SACSCOC accreditation standards. The proposal must accomplish the following:

- Provide evidence that proposed graduate instruction/course/program is progressively more advanced in academic content and intended learning outcomes than undergraduate courses/programs
- Outline specific activities that will be used to develop *and* assess graduate students' understanding of the literature of the discipline
- Identify specific ways to ensure and document ongoing student engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training experiences.

### ***Curriculum Revision and Approval Process Steps***

Requests for curriculum revision and approval follow a sequential process of review and action.

**STEP 1:** Proposals to initiate curricular revisions are presented and discussed at the program/department level.

**STEP 2:** If consensus is reached at the program/departmental level, a program/department faculty sponsor prepares a proposal via the CIM system for review and action by the respective program/departmental Curriculum Committee. Proposals not approved at the program/department level are sent back to the faculty sponsor and no further action is taken with reference to the proposal.

**STEP 3:** If approved at the program/department level, the proposal will automatically be sent via CIM to the College/school Curriculum Committee chair for review and action (approval/denial) by the College/school Curriculum Committee. Proposals approved at the program/department level are presented to and discussed by the College/school Curriculum Committee for action (approval/denial). Proposals not approved at the school-level/college-level are sent back to the program/department, the faculty sponsor is notified, and no further action is taken with reference to the proposal.

**STEP 4:** If approved at the school-level/college-level, the chair of the College/School committee submits it electronically for approval by the College/School Dean. Once approved at the College/School level, it is automatically forwarded to the following:

- The General Education Council for review and recommendation for action by the University Curriculum Committee if the proposal involves the general education core program. If the General Education Council approves the proposal, the proposal form (Course or Program Change Request Form) is signed by the Chair of the General Education Council and forwarded to the Dean's Office for processing and submission to the University Curriculum Committee. If the General Education Council does not approve the proposal, it is forwarded to the Dean's Office for referral to the program/department and the faculty sponsor.
- The Graduate Council for review and recommendation for action by the University Curriculum Committee if the proposal involves graduate programs or graduate-level instruction. If the Graduate Council approves the proposal, the proposal form (Course or Program Change Request Form) is signed by the chair of the Graduate Council and forwarded to the Dean's Office for processing and submission to the University Curriculum Committee. If the Graduate Council does not approve the proposal, it is forwarded to the Dean's Office for referral to the program/department and the faculty sponsor.
- The University Curriculum Committee if the general education core, graduate programs/instruction, or alternatively delivered programs/courses are not involved.

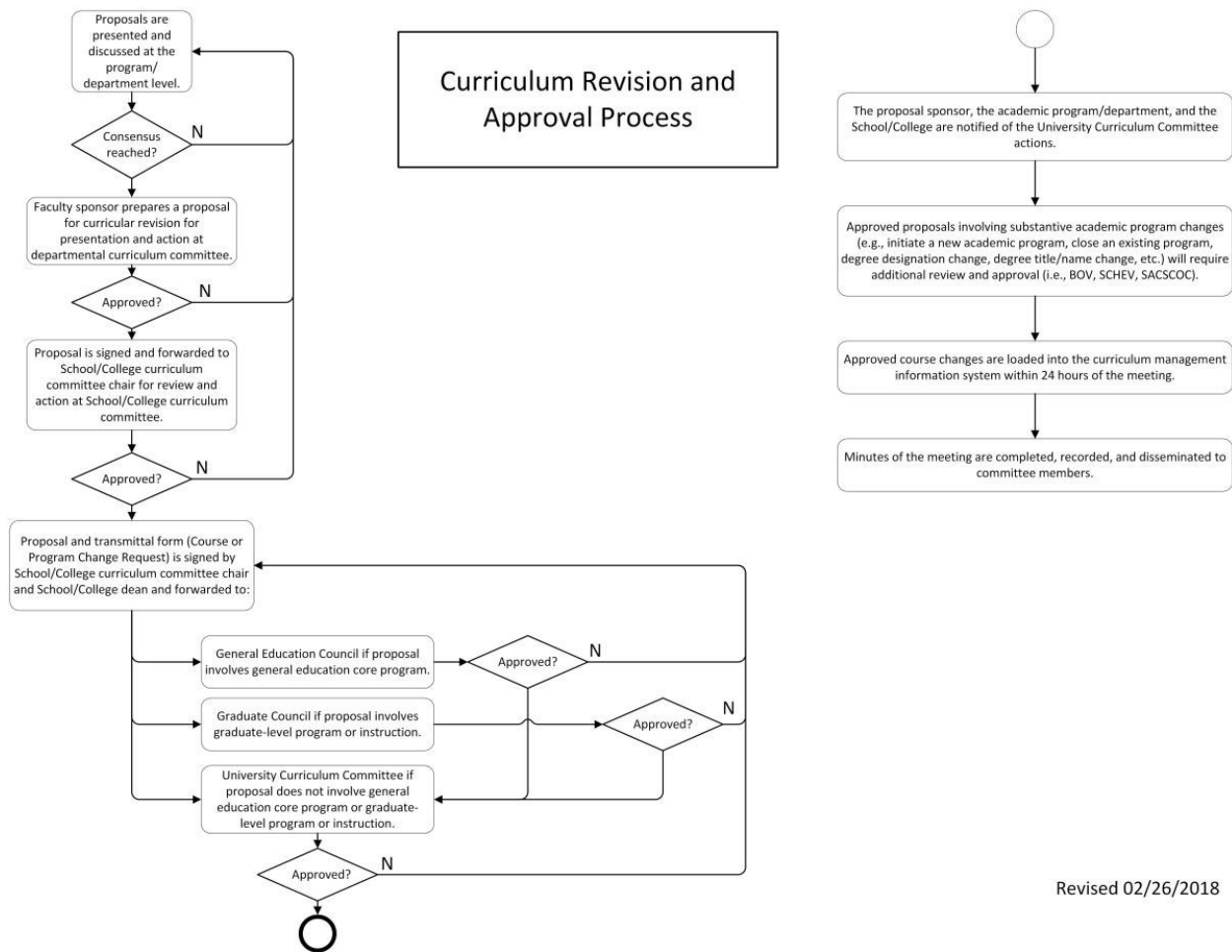
**STEP 5:** Proposals are reviewed by the University Curriculum Committee at scheduled meetings each semester. The University Curriculum Committee meets at least twice each semester.

**STEP 6:** The workflow notifies the sponsor of approvals/denials via email.

**STEP 7:** Approved proposals involving academic programs (e.g., initiate a new academic program, close an existing program, degree designation change, degree title/name change, etc.) require additional review and approval (i.e., BOV, SCHEV, SACSCOC).

**STEP 8:** Approved course changes are entered into Colleague by the Registrar's Office.

**STEP 9:** Minutes of the meeting are completed, recorded, and posted in SharePoint.



## Roles and Responsibilities in the Curriculum Revision and Approval Process

### Faculty Sponsor

The first step in any curricular revision of academic programs and courses is to develop consensus and obtain approval from faculty who have responsibility for the program. All department faculty affected by the curriculum change should have input into the development of proposals. Each department maintains published policies and procedures for approval of proposals. Typically, these procedures provide a voice for all department faculty. Because program revisions affect the use of resources and faculty assignments, department chairs must be part of this process and are responsible for the organization and quality of the department curriculum.

Some programs, such as the general education program, affect many other programs. Special attention and procedures must be pursued to ensure appropriate review of such programs. Proposed changes that add new courses, increase hours, or affect formal requirements are subject to review by all units from which the program faculty are drawn and should be reviewed in a manner consistent with the policies and procedures of all units [i.e., department(s) and college/school(s)] from which the faculty are drawn.

In addition, programs must seek and document consultation with other programs and units that may be significantly affected by or have clear interest in a proposal. All departments/units that are affected, or would be expected to have substantial interest in the proposal, must be consulted and the results of that consultation documented by copies of e-mail messages or memos from the department/program curriculum committee chair. Each department that participates in the program or course administration must approve the proposal.

Proposal sponsors are strongly encouraged to consult with the appropriate subject specialist in the Library to discuss library resources and needs.

Curricular decisions that affect the program only and are within department, college/school, and university guidelines usually do not need consultation and consensus outside the program.

Specific responsibilities of proposal sponsors include the following:

- Describe the proposed change
- Provide a rationale for the change
- Address compliance with specific SACSCOC and SCHEV requirements and standards (section V.5) that apply to the proposed change.
- Determine the impact of proposed changes on other departments or colleges/schools
- Indicate whether the proposed change falls under one of SACSCOC's substantive change categories
- Complete the appropriate curriculum change request form (i.e., Course or Program Change Request Form) and all required fields in CIM
- Obtain support from other departments and units impacted as necessary
- Attach supporting documentation.

### ***Program Coordinator***

For each academic degree program, the university assigns responsibility for (1) program coordination, (2) curriculum development, and (3) program review coordination to academically qualified faculty members who hold academic credentials and other qualifications appropriate to the degree program. Program coordinators must demonstrate that they keep current in the discipline/field and are actively engaged in scholarship.

### ***Program/Department Curriculum Committee***

When reviewing a new course/program or revising an existing course/program, the Program/Department Curriculum Committee should do the following:

- Ensure appropriate content and pedagogy of the proposed course/program
- Ensure currency and relevancy of the proposed course/program
- Ensure and document alignment of the proposed course/program with existing courses/programs
- Ensure that there is sufficient differentiation between undergraduate (UG) and graduate expectations (GR) for UG/GR cross listed courses
- Determine if the proposed changes are consistent with departmental goals, disciplinary accreditation requirements and academic standards
- Ensure the academic integrity of the course, as demonstrated in course content and course requirements for the course level and number of credits
- Review articulation concerns
- Ensure that resource (faculty, equipment, supplies, etc.) needs have been addressed
- Ensure student learning outcomes are listed on the syllabus using Bloom's taxonomy.

Minutes of all program/department curriculum committee meetings must be recorded in the standard format and maintained in program/departmental files in accordance with university and state document retention policies.

### ***College/School Curriculum Committee***

Each college/school has its own process for curricular review. However, the colleges/schools must maintain guidelines that provide consistency among courses and programs and coordinate offerings that involve other colleges/schools. They also provide a framework for strategic planning of overarching college/school curricular directions and resource decisions. In reviewing curriculum proposals from departments, the College/School Curriculum Committee should do the following:

- Ensure that proposed changes are consistent with college/school goals and academic standards/integrity
- Ensure that course duplication is avoided
- Confirm that all affected areas were contacted and have granted their approvals to the proposal as necessary
- Review proposal rationale and resources information, especially with respect to staffing and technology requirements
- Ensure appropriate academic support services and resources are available to support the proposed change
- Ensure that all necessary supporting documents are included and complete.

Minutes of all College/School Curriculum Committee meetings must be recorded in the standard format and maintained in college/school files in accordance with university and state records retention policies.

### ***Dean's Office***

The dean or his/her representative must review the documentation and process of consultation to ensure accuracy and completeness of the proposal. The dean is responsible for maintaining academic quality in the college/school. Deans must also consider how curricular revisions respond to the strategic plans of the college/school and weigh curricular proposals in light of the resources available to support the suggested modifications. The dean or dean's representative should do the following:

- Ensure that the proposed change is consistent with college/school mission and goals
- Review for consistency with the college/school mission and curriculum plan
- Review budget implications and determine if adequate resources are available to support the proposed change. Lack of adequate resources is sufficient grounds to reject a proposed change
- Ensure compliance with SACSCOC [Substantive Review Policy](#) and notify the Office of the Provost of any substantive changes.

### ***General Education Council***

The purpose of the General Education Council is to review the general education program and to ensure, enforce, and facilitate development and assessment of core competency skills in students. Specifically, the Council is charged with the following tasks:

- To enhance the alignment between what all graduates (educated persons) at the undergraduate level need to know and be able to do and the extent to which the general education curriculum provides the learning experiences for students to acquire the depth and breadth of knowledge and skills needed
- To ensure the quality and effectiveness of the general education curriculum
- To ensure that general education learning experiences are adequately preparing students to meet core competencies
- To gather evidence on a systematic basis to document the effectiveness of the general education program in terms of student learning and student outcomes and to demonstrate improvement based on an analysis of the evidence/results
- To make curricular recommendations as appropriate
- To recommend University-wide policies to govern and monitor the general education program.

The General Education Council must ensure that all general education-related curriculum proposals, as well as the general education program as whole, are aligned with the SCHEV Guidelines ([General Education in Virginia](#)).

Minutes of all General Education Council meetings must be recorded in the standard format and maintained in university files in accordance with university and state records retention policies.

### ***Graduate Council***

The Graduate Council is responsible for recommending and implementing university policies, regulations, and

procedures related to graduate programs. Its aim is to ensure the satisfactory coordination of graduate studies and the maintenance of high-quality graduate instruction. The Council, therefore, determines the following:

- Criteria for awarding graduate faculty status
- Recommendations for instructional loads for the graduate faculty
- Requirements for admission to graduate study at the university
- Mechanisms for the evaluation of the effectiveness and viability of graduate programs
- Regulations governing the number of undergraduate hours which graduate students can apply towards a graduate degree and the admission of undergraduate students to graduate courses
- The number of transferable graduate credits that a student is permitted to accumulate
- Other matters regarding procedures, policies, and regulations as they are presented to the Council for consideration.

Minutes of all Graduate Council meetings must be recorded in the standard format and maintained in the Graduate School files in accordance with University and state records retention policies.

### ***Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs***

In its role to support faculty and the university in curricular matters, the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs is responsible for the following:

- Serving as a liaison between colleges/schools and the University Curriculum Committee
- Providing advice and consultation concerning the formats, the process, and other aspects of the requirements for the curriculum approval
- Assisting in determining the relationship of the proposed course or program with other existing courses or programs (e.g., proper academic home of courses or programs; checking possible overlap, duplication, or possible conflict with state or university policy; and congruence with the university mission)
- Coordinating the development of the course if it is determined to be interdisciplinary in nature (involving two or more departments or colleges/schools, or not clearly involving one department or college/school, as determined by the review and approval process)
- Ensuring that all proposals comply with the University Curriculum Manual
- Placing the proposals on the agenda of the University Curriculum Committee
- Ensuring that approved courses are accurately listed in the University Catalog and the student information system.

The Vice Provost (responsible for curriculum management) prepares substantive change proposals approved by the University Curriculum Committee for additional processing and approval as appropriate (e.g., action by the NSU Board of Visitors, SCHEV, and SACSCOC).

### ***University Curriculum Committee***

The University Curriculum Committee (UCC) reviews the proposed courses and approves, rejects, or returns the proposals. For this review and recommendation process, the UCC develops criteria that provide a university perspective on proposed major changes. The UCC will do the following:

1. Evaluate the proposal based on the following:
  - a. University mission appropriateness
  - b. Alignment with the University's Strategic and Six-Year Plans
  - c. Evidence of sufficient need
  - d. Quality of content and delivery methods
  - e. Adequacy of resources

- f. Completeness of the proposal.
- 2. Approve, reject, or return the proposal to the originating unit.

Minutes of all University Curriculum Committee meetings must be recorded in the standard format, maintained in university official files, and comply with university and state policies governing records retention.

**Board of Visitors (BOV)**

The Board is responsible for advancing and protecting the academic quality of the educational programs offered by the university. The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors reviews proposals for new academic programs as well as proposals for program discontinuance and makes recommendations to the full Board. The Board takes action on new program and program discontinuance proposals by either approving or rejecting the proposals.

**State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)**

Under the *Code of Virginia*, [Section 23.1-203](#), SCHEV has authority to review and approve or disapprove all new academic programs which any public institution of higher education proposes, including both undergraduate and graduate programs. The following process chart was developed by SCHEV staff as a reference guide for public institutions seeking state action on academic programs. **Actions Highlighted in yellow require preparation of program proposals.** Non-shaded actions require submission of designated forms and narrative statements. SCHEV's policy for [Academic Programs at Public Institutions: Policies and Procedures for Program Approvals and Changes](#) contains definitions of these terms, specific policy statements, and detailed instructions.

State-level Requirements for Approval of Various Academic Program Actions				
Academic Program Action Sought by Institution	Council Approval	SCHEV Staff Approval	Action Reported to SCHEV	No Action Required at State Level
C.A.G.S. or Ed.S. <sup>1</sup>	X			
Certificates		X		
CIP Code Change		X		
Degree Designation Change		X		
New Degree Program <sup>1</sup>	X			
Program Discontinuance <sup>2</sup>		X	X	
Program Merger <sup>3</sup>		X		
Program Modification		X		
Program Name Change		X		
Sub Areas: Concentration, Emphasis, Focus, Major, Option, or Track				X

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> If a proposed academic program will elevate a public institution to a new degree level, the institution must also seek approval to change its degree-level authority through the appropriate state procedures.

<sup>2</sup> Submit the "Intent to Discontinue an Academic Program" cover sheet and requisite narrative. Action to remove a

degree designation must be approved by SCHEV staff.

<sup>3</sup> Submit the “Merged Academic Program” cover sheet and requisite narrative. All requests for merged degree programs must be approved by Council.

### ***Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Colleges (SACSCOC)***

SACSCOC is responsible for reviewing all substantive changes that occur between an institution’s decennial reviews to determine whether or not the change has affected the quality of the total institution and to assure the public that all aspects of the institution continue to meet defined standards. It is the responsibility of an institution to follow the substantive change procedures of the Commission and inform the Commission of such changes in accord with those procedures. The [Substantive Change Policy](#) outlines what qualifies as substantive changes, the procedure to be used for each, their respective approval/notification requirements, and their reporting time lines.

### ***Required Documentation for Curriculum Change Proposals***

#### ***New Course***

Proposals must include the following:

1. Curriculum Change Request Form with all required fields completed appropriately
2. Course syllabus in required format and addressing required criteria including student learning outcomes
3. Program curriculum map (optional, but strongly recommended).

#### ***Modified Course***

Proposals must include the following:

1. Course Change Request Form with all required fields completed appropriately
2. Proposed new course description (identify proposed changes in the existing course description)
3. Course syllabus in the required format and addressing required criteria including student learning outcomes
4. Program curriculum map (optional, but strongly recommended).

#### ***Inactivation of Course***

Proposals must include the following:

1. Course Change Request Form with all required fields completed appropriately
2. Documentation of support from programs impacted by the inactivation of the course.

#### ***New or Revised Program***

Proposals must include the following:

1. Program Change Request Form with all required fields completed appropriately
2. Complete the new degree requirements entirely
3. Evidence of compliance with SACSCOC
4. SCHEV Program Proposal package
5. Program curriculum map
6. Program assessment plan.

#### ***New and Revised Minors/Concentration***

Program Change Request Form with all required fields completed appropriately

#### ***Closed/Deleted Program***

Proposal must include the following:



1. Program Change Request Form with all required fields completed appropriately
2. SCHEV Program Closure package
3. SACSCOC Teachout Plan.

## ***Purpose of Program Review***

The purpose of program review is to examine the quality, mission-centeredness, and viability of academic programs.

### ***Definitions***

**Academic Program:** Structured set of teaching and learning experiences designed to lead to the achievement of intended student learning outcomes and to the award of an associate's, bachelor's, master's, professional, or doctoral degree identified by a separate CIP code in the SCHEV program inventory.

**Program Review:** Systematic examination of an academic program by faculty and administrators to assess the relative value of an academic program in terms of mission centeredness, quality, and viability.

**Mission Centeredness:** Relative contribution of the program to attainment of university and state goals:

- History of the program
- Program contribution to institutional mission and priorities
- Program contribution to state needs, K-12 partnerships, economic development, other social benefits

**Quality:** Measures of excellence. Quality measures determine and document the effectiveness of the program's activities and services. Quality indicators may include, but are not limited to, attainments of student learning outcomes, core competency assessment performance, licensure exam pass rates, a comparison of program elements relative to internal and external benchmarks, accreditation criteria, awards and honors received by the program, job placements, placement in graduate schools, and other standards:

- Curriculum quality
- Pedagogical quality
- Quality of student learning
- Quality of faculty
- Program Quality Enhancement Plan

**Viability:** The likelihood that an academic program can be continued, given uniqueness of the program, faculty productivity, current and projected patterns of available resources, and student interest. Viability indicators may include, but are not limited to, the number of graduates of an academic program and/or the number of students served through service courses (e.g., general education), faculty scholarship and service (external and internal/university citizenship), etc.:

- Student productivity
- Faculty productivity
- Program efficiency
- Program resource
- Program uniqueness

### ***Goals of Program Review***

The goals of program review are as follows:

- Assure students and parents, the public, the Board of Visitors, legislators, and regional and disciplinary accrediting bodies that NSU is providing quality academic programs
- Provide individual program faculty and staff, as well as university administrators, with information and feedback

that will assist in their responsibility to continuously enhance program quality and cost effectiveness

- Determine which programs to enhance, reduce, maintain, eliminate, or study further (Outcomes of the Program Review/Prioritization Outcomes).

### **Steps in the Program Review Process**

Norfolk State University's program review model is aligned with SACSCOC's reaffirmation of accreditation process, experiences in other comprehensive universities, and identified best practices in program review (Dickeson, 1999; Wergin & Swingen, 2000). There are eight steps in the program review process that involve the program, External Review Committee or Consultant(s), the Program Review Team (a subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee), and Provost's Office staff.

1. The Provost's Office staff conducts an orientation for the program Self-Study Team.
2. The program prepares and submits its Self-Study and relevant supporting documentation to the Vice Provost (curriculum management) and External Review Committee or Consultant(s).
3. The External Review Committee or Consultant(s) reviews the Self-Study and supporting documentation attesting to the program's quality, viability, and productivity. The External Review Committee or Consultant(s) prepares a report of its findings for the program it reviews.
4. The Provost's Office staff communicates to the program a summary of the report prepared by the External Review Committee or Consultant(s). The program may choose to submit a Focused Report in response to the committee's findings. The University Curriculum Committee receives a written copy of the External Review Committee or Consultant(s) and the program's Focused Report, if one is submitted.
5. The program submits its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to the University Curriculum Committee.
6. The University Curriculum Committee reviews and determines the acceptability of the QEP, reviews areas of concern noted by the External Review Committee or Consultant(s). The University Curriculum Committee submits its recommendations to the Vice Provost (curriculum management).
7. The Provost's Office staff reviews the findings and recommendations included in the report of the University Curriculum Committee and makes the recommendation to the cabinet on the program's expansion, maintenance, reduction, or termination.

Wherever possible, Program Review will coincide with specialized accreditation, other mandated reviews, or with reviews for new degree programs. Reviews by discipline-specific accrediting agencies can be substituted, in whole or part, for the Self-Study if they are periodic (at least once every four to six years).

Accreditation reviews must be outcome-based, require substantial NSU faculty involvement, and include recommendations for improvement. A request for submitting a review from an accrediting agency must be approved in advance.

### **Resources**

#### **Curriculum Change Forms**

##### **Program Proposal/Change(s):**

<https://www.nsu.edu/provost/Curriculum-Change-Request-Programs>

##### **Course Proposal/Change(s):**

<https://www.nsu.edu/provost/Curriculum-Change-Request-Courses>

##### **Course Syllabus Format:**

[Course Syllabus Criteria](https://www.nsu.edu/academic-affairs/documents-and-forms) are available at <https://www.nsu.edu/academic-affairs/documents-and-forms>.

#### **Curriculum Committee Review Questions for Course-Level Curriculum Change**

1. Full title of the proposed course. Does the title properly reflect the content of the course?
2. Name(s) of the proposal initiator(s)

3. Department/Program: Is the department/program appropriate to offer the course?
4. Catalog description: Does the description of the course reflect the intent and content of the course?
5. Abbreviated title (Catalogue, Schedule Book, EVALs)
6. Proposed implementation date
7. Prerequisites: Justify prerequisites by describing the material in the courses that are of significance for the proposed course. Are the prerequisites appropriate and clearly stated?
8. Co-requisites: Justify co-requisites by describing the material in the courses that are of significance for the proposed course. Are the co-requisites appropriate and clearly stated?
9. Laboratory and credit hours: Is credit hour value appropriate for the expectations of the course (e.g., learning to be gained, contact hours planned, assignments, and required experiences)?
10. Cross-listing: Indicate the subject and course number of the cross listing(s). A letter of support for the cross listing must be obtained from the Head of the cross listing department. If the course is cross-listed, does it clearly state, "Also offered as ..." in both descriptions?
11. Impact on existing courses:
  - a. Overlap or Duplication: Describe prior communication and interaction with department(s) offering courses that the proposed course duplicate or overlaps.
  - b. Replacement of Existing Courses: If this course is to replace an existing course, provide the title and number of the course which should be dropped.
  - c. Impact on Student Enrollment in Other Courses: If it is anticipated that the proposed course may impact on other specific, existing offerings of the university, indicate the nature and extent of this impact.

Is there any evidence that the material covered in the course will inappropriately overlap or encroach upon the interests of other departments/programs? If so, has appropriate consultation taken place?
12. Goal(s) of the course:
  - a. Are goals well defined?
  - b. Are the goals appropriate for the program, College/school, and the University curricula?
  - c. Are the goals applicable to the stated audience?
13. Course intended learning outcomes:
  - a. What new knowledge, skills, and values will students derive from this course? Are course outcomes at the college/school level? Are course outcomes well defined and specific? Are course outcomes observable and measurable?
  - b. Do course outcomes reflect program outcomes? At which level (introduction, emphasis, reinforcement, or application)?
14. Rationale for the course: For example,
  - a. Educational significance of the proposed course with respect to a curriculum and institutional/program goals
    - i. This course is a prerequisite for ...
    - ii. This course is required in the following curricula ...
    - iii. This course explicitly addresses development and/or assessment of the following SCHEV-mandated core competencies ...
    - iv. This course explicitly addresses development and/or assessment of the following general education outcomes ...
    - v. This course is an elective in the following areas ...
    - vi. List any general education categories for which this course will be submitted ... (A course proposed for use in

the General Education program must be approved as such by the General Education Council prior to approval by the University Curriculum Committee. Also, there must be a plan for assessment of the General Education objectives as part of the proposal.)

How does the course relate to the overall pattern of courses in your unit and/or to other courses in this area of specialization?

Has appropriate consideration been given to assessing how the course fits into the total curriculum of the department/program, general education core, and/or the University curriculum?

Does this course introduce, emphasize, reinforce, or apply SCHEV-mandated core competencies?

Does this course introduce, emphasize, reinforce, or apply material covered in other courses?

- b. Pressures and critiques from external entities (e.g., employers, accrediting agencies)
- c. Student demand or dissatisfaction with existing course(s)
- d. Application of faculty research.

15. Use of Technology: How will technology be used in the proposed course/program to enhance student learning?

What evidence exists that technology is appropriate for meeting the objectives of the proposed course/program?

16. Justification of the level of the course: Explain the placement of the course in a particular curriculum sequence or structure. Has the appropriate consideration been given to assessing how the course fits into the total curriculum of the department/program, general education core, and/or the University curriculum?

17. Resource assessment:

- a. How frequently do you anticipate offering this course? Is it likely that the course can be offered with sufficient student demand at least once every two years?
- b. How many sections of this course do you anticipate? Is it likely that all sections will be filled?
- c. What class size do you anticipate for this course? Is there adequate space to house the course?
- d. What is the expected distribution of student registration (% freshman, % sophomore, % junior, % senior, % graduate)?
- e. Describe anticipated staffing for the course, including any changes in existing faculty assignments. Will the proposed staffing classification achieve the stated objectives of the course?
- f. Estimate the cost of required new equipment and supplies.
- g. Estimate cost of and description of additional library resources.
- h. Will this course require additional computer/network use, hardware or software?

What demand does the proposed course make on the current resources of the University?

What will be the continued or projected demand for University resources?

18. Outline of course syllabus (follow the recommended format):

- a. Does the syllabus clarify and help students understand their responsibility?
- b. Does the syllabus provide the student with a structure for the course?
- c. Are instructional methods, classroom activities, and assignments aligned with the stated goals and outcomes of the course and applicable to the stated audience?
- d. Are assigned readings current?
- e. Is student performance assessed accurately and regularly?
- f. Are all course outcomes assessed?

19. Approval signatures:

Has the proposal been approved at all appropriate levels?

### **Curriculum Mapping and Alignment Processes**

Curriculum Alignment is an iterative process involving a systematic three-level study: 1) curriculum mapping, 2) analysis of curriculum maps, and 3) interpretation of curricular components to determine the degree of agreement between what faculty expect students to learn, what faculty think they teach, and what students learn as a result of their educational experiences.

1. Curriculum mapping refers to the data collection phase of a curriculum alignment process. It includes organizing and recording information about the curriculum to permit a visual display of the relationships between and among curricular components.
2. A curriculum map is a snapshot of a course of study at a particular point in its development. A curriculum map represents the relationship of courses to program learning outcomes by charting courses, program outcomes, and linkages between and among curricular components. Analysis involves identifying and studying the relationships that take the form of curricular components such as course sequencing, increasing complexity, and established linkages.
3. The final step in the curriculum alignment process is interpretation, reflection, and evaluation of curricular components such as course sequencing, increasing complexity, and established linkages. Relationships identified at the analysis stage are contextualized in the contexts of the institution's mission, program history, and disciplinary paradigms.

Interpretation results in the judgment/conclusion on the level of curriculum coherence and a decision whether or not to make any curricular adjustments.

### **Recommended Curriculum Alignment Process Steps**

1. The faculty member teaching the given course (or a group of faculty members, if the course has multiple sections) independently fills in the cells on the curriculum matrix for the given course and submits the matrix to the program coordinator.
2. The program coordinator compiles information for individual courses in the program curriculum map.
3. The program coordinator convenes a program faculty meeting. Faculty collectively analyze the map using the Guiding Questions for Curriculum Map analysis and then interpret results.
4. Program faculty collectively make decisions about whether to maintain the current curriculum or make necessary curricular changes and adjustments.
5. The program coordinator prepares a brief summary of program map analysis and proposed changes (if any) and submits the summary to the College/school Dean, chair of the College/school Curriculum Committee, and chair of the University Curriculum Committee.

### **Guidelines for Completing Curriculum Matrix**

NSU's curriculum alignment process is based on the "learning outcomes model," which (1) focuses on what learners are expected to be able to do in terms of their knowledge, understandings, and/or abilities at the completion of the program and (2) uses statements of learning outcomes in order to express expectations.

**STEP 1: IDENTIFY** and list the six most important program outcomes in the top horizontal row.

*TIP:*

*Invest time and effort to develop meaningful, observable and measurable program outcomes. Although a program might have more than six (6) outcomes, best practice shows that six is an optimal number for mapping purposes. If a program has (e.g., mandated by disciplinary accreditors) more than six outcomes, the outcomes can be rotated for mapping annually or by semester.*

**STEP 2: LIST** core required program courses in the left vertical column. Provide course prefix, course number, and course title. List the courses that a typical student would take to progress through the program.

*TIP:*

*Ideally, program outcomes should be fully developed in core courses. In specific cases, however, when electives constitute a substantial portion of major credit hours, the most popular electives should be identified and included on the map.*

**STEP 3: ANALYZE** course syllabi and indicate whether each program outcome is explicitly or implicitly mentioned among the course outcomes.

An (X) Explicit outcome is a program outcome that is fully and directly expressed or referenced in a course syllabus.

EXAMPLE:

EXPLICIT / SCIENTIFIC REASONING: "At the end of the course, students will be able to describe how social scientists follow the scientific method to understand social phenomena."

An (I) Implicit outcome is a program outcome that is indirectly expressed or referenced in a course syllabus.

EXAMPLE:

IMPLICIT / CRITICAL THINKING: "The student will analyze the major historical interpretations of the causes of the American Revolution and will construct from the readings a historical synthesis which s/he can articulate effectively."

TIP:

*If there is not a common syllabus for sections of a given course, faculty teaching the sections should complete the map for the given course as a group. If there is a common syllabus requirement and if you are reasonably sure that this requirement works, then the course coordinator can complete the map for the given course and send it to all faculty teaching the course for review and validation.*

A cohesive curriculum systematically provides students with opportunities to synthesize, practice, and develop increasingly complex ideas, skills, and values. Important program learning outcomes should be introduced early; they should be further developed, reinforced and applied throughout the curriculum. By using a labeling system (I,E,R,A) identifying a level of content delivery, faculty demonstrate how courses build on intended learning outcomes over time, providing a sense of relationships among and between courses and a chronology of how students learn.

**STEP 4: MAKE a professional JUDGMENT** and indicate whether each program outcome is Introduced, Emphasized, Reinforced, or Applied in the course. PROVIDE one or two brief examples of representative course activities that support your judgment (optional).

(I) Introduced – Students are introduced to the content/skill. Students are not expected to be familiar with the content or skill at the collegiate or graduate level. Instruction and learning activities focus on basic knowledge, skills, and/or competencies and entry-level complexity.

(E) Emphasized – The content/skill is emphasized and taught in depth. Students are expected to possess a basic level of knowledge and familiarity with the content or skills at the collegiate or graduate level. Instruction and learning activities concentrate on enhancing and strengthening knowledge, skills, and expanding complexity.

(R) Reinforced – The content/skill is reinforced with additional exposure to the information. Students are expected to possess a strong foundation in knowledge, skill, or competency at the collegiate or graduate level. Instructional and learning activities continue to build upon previous competencies and increased complexity.

(A) Applied – The content/skills are being applied. Students are expected to possess an advanced level of knowledge, skill, or competency at the collegiate or graduate level. Instructional and learning activities focus on the use of the content or skills in multiple contexts and at multiple levels of complexity.

TIP:

*Although the whole process involves a high degree of judgment, this particular step is especially subjective, requires reflection, and, in the case of multiple sections, conversation with colleagues teaching the course.*

*If a content/skill is introduced, emphasized, and applied in the same course, the level of complexity on which you spend the most time should be used. If you spend an equal share of time on several levels, use the highest level.*

*As additional reference points, some helpful ways to specify levels of content delivery are Bloom's taxonomy for knowledge-based outcomes; Krathwohl, Bloom, & Bertram's taxonomy for affective outcomes; and Simpson's taxonomy for psychomotor outcomes.*

**STEP 5: ANALYZE** course syllabi and indicate whether students have opportunities to demonstrate what has been learned on each program outcome and receive feedback in a formal way.

(F) Students are asked to demonstrate their learning on the outcome through homework, projects, tests, etc. and are provided formal feedback.

EXAMPLE:

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION AND CRITICAL THINKING: "There is one (1) article each student is expected to read, in addition to reading assignments from the text, and to write a critical review."

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION: "Students must complete at least three critiques of assigned scholarly articles. These critiques should be 4-5 pages, typed and double-spaced. They should have an introduction, thesis statement, body, and conclusion. Poor usage and spelling will reduce your grade. Please proofread your work!"

TIP:

*Many programs find it useful to provide examples of representative course assessment activities in the attachment to the map. There is a tendency for some individuals to generously check boxes, indicating that they provide students with opportunity to practice and demonstrate learning on most of, if not all, program outcomes, without giving due thought and consideration to the evidence they might have to support their judgment.*

## Questions to Guide Curriculum Map Analysis and Interpretation

Curriculum map analysis and interpretation is a two-stage process:

**Stage 1** involves examining vertical alignment of the map. Guiding questions 1 through 4 address this dimension. At this stage, the unit of analysis is the individual program outcome and questions 1 through 4 should be addressed for each outcome. For example, questions 1 through 4 are addressed for Outcome 1, then, questions 1 through 4 are addressed for Outcome 2, and so on.

**Stage 2** involves examining horizontal alignment of the map. Guiding question 5 addresses this dimension. At this stage, the unit of analysis is the individual course, and we address question 5 course by course.

### Question 1

Do students receive appropriate syllabus guidance? Are program outcomes explicitly identified as one of course learning outcomes?

- At this step faculty begin to determine how intentionally/deliberately program outcomes are addressed in their courses. The unit of analysis here is a given program outcome.
- If the given outcome is addressed in the course, how explicitly is the outcome communicated to students in the course syllabus?
- Does the syllabus assist faculty in developing informed, intentional learners who take responsibility for their learning?
- Does the syllabus demonstrate transparency of teaching/learning processes the public, media, and legislators?
- Explicitly tying course outcomes to program outcomes helps students recognize their involvement in a cohesive curriculum. AAC&U promotes the development of students as intentional learners; curriculum alignment efforts promote faculty as intentional teachers. Course outcomes aligned with program outcomes contributes to those goals.

### Question 2

Do students have opportunities to develop program outcomes?

- At this step, the focus is on the complexity of the program curriculum. Complexity refers to the level of breadth, depth, and rigor of taught and learned content (knowledge, skills, and/or competencies) as students progress through a course of study. The unit of analysis here is a given program outcome.
- The first indicator of complexity is program outcome saturation or the number of courses addressing a particular program outcome.

- Do different outcomes have different levels of attention and coverage?
- Does prioritization reflect content associated with the outcome, program mission, goals, and student interests? Or does it reflect only faculty personal research interests and expertise?
- Level of outcome saturation can demonstrate declining or sporadic attention to an outcome. Such sporadic attention raises the following questions for program faculty:
  - Is this outcome still one of our priorities?
  - If so, how do we redirect attention to it?
  - If not, why do we state it as a priority (program outcome)?
- The second indicator of complexity is program outcome variability. Outcome variability refers to the combination of levels of content delivery of a particular outcome as addressed by a course or courses in a program of study.
  - Is the given outcome addressed at different levels of content delivery?
  - Is it introduced and emphasized and reinforced and applied?

### Question 3

Are levels of content delivery (I, E, R, A) organized in a logical manner to address a particular program outcome?

- At this step, the focus is on the course sequence structure. Sequencing refers to the extent to which courses are organized in a logical manner in relation to a program outcome. The unit of analysis here is a given program outcome.
- The structure of the course sequence refers to the extent to which levels of content delivery for the given outcome are organized in a logical manner to address a particular outcome.
  - Are courses organized in a logical order to effectively address the outcomes? Is introduction followed by emphasis, emphasis by reinforcement, and reinforcement by application?
  - Are there gaps (e.g., reinforcement level is missing)?
  - Is there unnecessary repetition and duplication (e.g., too many courses introduce the outcome)?

### Question 4

- Do students have the opportunity to have their learning outcomes assessed?
- At this step, the focus is on *assessment*. Assessment provides evidence of how deliberately/intentionally and effectively a given outcome is addressed in the course. The unit of analysis here is a given program outcome.
- If a given outcome was covered in the given course, then students need to be provided with feedback on how well they acquired the delivered material. Learning is a sequence of stimulus and response actions. Learners need feedback and reinforcement.
- This step also provides evidence of the fairness of assessments. If students enrolled in the given course are assessed on the given outcome, were they explicitly informed in the syllabus and was the outcome covered in the course?
- In addition, the analysis at this step helps assessment committees to profile the frequency and range of assessments/feedback that occur along student progression through the curriculum. This profile shows the relative value of a given outcome in the program's assessment process. For example, outcome 1 might be assessed in 7 courses, whereas outcome 3 in only 2 courses.
- Is this intentional or accidental prioritization?
- Finally, this step helps the program assessment committee to identify the most appropriate course in which to embed assessment of a particular program outcome.
- A good practice is to provide samples of assessments for the given outcome.

### Question 5



- Do individual courses provide students with opportunities to integrate multiple program learning outcomes?
- At this step, the unit of analysis is the individual course, and the focus is on *linkages*. Linkage refers to the degree of integration between multiple program learning outcomes in a course. In other words, is the course focus broad or narrow?
- Does the given course address all outcomes or just a few?
- Is there a balance between breadth and depth of material coverage?
- Does the course contribute to the development of integrative thinkers and life-long learners equipped to be engaged leaders and productive global citizens?

The AAC&U defines integrative learning as “an understanding and a disposition that student builds across the curriculum and co-curriculum, from making simple connections among ideas and experiences to synthesizing and transferring learning to new, complex situation within and beyond the campus (AAC&U VALUE: Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education Rubric, 2012).

### Criteria Used for Program Review Self-Study

I. Mission-Centeredness		
A. Contribution to Institutional Mission/Priorities		
CRITERIA	MEASURES/SOURCES OF DATA	GUIDING REVIEW QUESTIONS
Program mission	Program assessment report	Discuss the relationship between the program’s mission and the mission and priorities of the university. To what extent does the university need the program to carry out its function as a comprehensive state university?
Alignment of program and institutional goals	Goal audit matrix	Discuss past and future potential contributions of the program to college/school and university goals.
General education support	List of general education core courses provided by the program	What contributions does the program make to the general education core?
Core Competency development and assessment support	Core Competency Program Curriculum Map	To what extent does the program develop and assess the six SCHEV-mandated core competencies?
Other programs support	List of service courses	To what extent do other degree programs depend on the academic services of this program?
Academic Advising	Program Academic Advising Handbook  Average number of students advised by one faculty member	Describe the student advising process. What process is used to distribute advising and mentoring responsibilities to faculty and staff, and what methods are used to

		evaluate their effectiveness?
Retention rate	Comparisons with institutional averages	How does the program address any special needs of its students (e.g., students who may need extra assistance, transfers, students with accommodations)?
Graduation rate	Comparisons with institutional averages	What is the program doing to ensure that students graduate in a timely manner?
Contribution to diversity and globalization goals	Course syllabus and assessment results	How are diversity and globalization reflected in the program's pedagogical content and processes?
<b>B. Contribution to State Needs, Economic Development, Other Social Benefits</b>		
Program Mission	Program assessment report	How well does the program provide a persuasive rationale for society's need for persons with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions developed in the program?
Student interest	Comparison of program applications to program capacity	Does the program anticipate student demand for the program? Does the program provide credible evidence of current unmet student demand for such curricula?
Employer demand	Occupational demand projections	Does the program provide credible evidence of a labor market need (employment opportunities) for graduates?
Student demographics	Profile of students in the program by status, residency, gender, race, age, SAT/ACT	How clearly does the program identify the personal development, employment, and graduate college/school opportunities which students can expect to gain from the program?
Number of transfers in the program	Enrollment management data	Explain how close the transfer figures are to the capacity of the program and/or institutional, state, other program "benchmarks."
Partnerships	List each of the primary partnerships by the name of the institution, organization, company, etc.	Discuss K-12 partnerships as well as partnerships focused on economic development of the region.
<b>II. Quality</b>		
<b>A. Curriculum Quality</b>		

Statements of intended learning outcomes	Statements of Intended Learning Outcomes Comparisons with "field" standards	Do the learning outcomes describe student performances in terms of observable and assessable student behaviors? Do learning outcomes include higher-order knowledge and skills? To what extent will achievement of the learning outcomes prepare students for societal service, employment, and graduate school opportunities?
Requirements for major	Comparisons with "benchmarks"	Is there a common core of courses taken by all students in the program? If yes, describe.
Alignment of program/course outcomes	Program Curriculum Maps	How clearly does the program identify the roles or functions that each of its formal courses performs related to program goals and learning outcomes?
Coherence of curriculum	Program Curriculum Maps Sequencing Progression Linkages	How clearly does the program identify the curricular pathways available to students to fulfill each learning outcome?
Uniformity across multiple course sections	Course syllabus	Do multiple sections of the same course have the same goals and intended learning outcomes?
Curricular revision procedures	Program curriculum revision procedures	Is the program curriculum revision process open and participatory?
Currency and relevancy of the curriculum	Graduating Student Exit Survey (GSES)	Describe processes used to ensure currency of curriculum (industry advisory boards, pass rates on licensure or standardized exams, etc.).
<b>B. Pedagogical Quality</b>		
Class size	Average class size by course level	Are classes the appropriate size to accomplish the teaching and learning goals?
Quality of syllabi	Syllabus analysis	Do syllabi adequately inform students about faculty expectations and requirements?
Student engagement in collaborative and active learning Student satisfaction	National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Graduating Student Exit Survey (GSES)	Are students engaged in effective educational experiences? How satisfied are students with the overall quality of education and academic advising they are

		receiving, the schedule and availability of the formal courses, and the quality of classroom instruction, etc.
Student engagement in academic enrichment activities	Course syllabi	What program efforts are being made to enhance student participation in academic enrichment activities (e.g., internships, service-learning, UG research)?
Adoption of information technology	Course syllabi	Describe the use of technology enhanced delivery systems within the program.
<b>C. Quality of Student Learning</b>		
Process for outcomes assessment	Assessment plans and reports	How clearly does the assessment protocol stipulate the types of documentation students should submit as evidence of learning for each learning outcome? How clearly does the protocol identify the criteria that will be used to review student work or identify appropriate documentation for each learning outcome? How are assessment results disseminated and used for quality enhancement?
Mastery of generic skills	Assessment results	Discuss performance of program majors on Core Competency Assessments.
Student achievements	Assessment results	Discuss student accomplishment of intended learning outcomes in the major.
Mastery of professional knowledge and skills	Assessment results	Discuss student performance on licensing/certification exams, standardized tests.
Student personal development	National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Graduating Student Exit Survey (GSES)	Discuss how the program meets student demand for personal growth and enrichment in required courses or in addition to the program requirements.
Job placement	Surveys of graduates Percent of majors placed in jobs related to their field of preparation	Discuss the job placement of the students (e.g., employment rate, types of jobs, types of employers). To what extent are graduates engaged in relevant and appropriate jobs and/or graduate programs?

Employer satisfaction	Surveys of employers	
Alumni satisfaction	Alumni surveys	How much do graduates of the program feel that the program has helped them to achieve their personal and professional goals?
Graduate Education	Surveys of graduates	Percent of majors placed in graduate programs related to their field of preparation
<b>D. Quality of Faculty</b>		
Faculty profile	Vitae	Does the program have an appropriate mix of senior and junior faculty and an appropriate balance of full-time and part-time faculty? Is the program successfully hiring and promoting minority and women faculty? Discuss the attrition (cumulative number not tenured, resigned, retired, or other) of the program faculty over the past three years.
Academic and professional origins/credentials	Vitae	Does the program's faculty have an appropriate distribution of academic expertise and professional experience to deliver this degree program? Does the program have an appropriate proportion of faculty with terminal degrees?
Qualifications of adjuncts	Faculty Qualifications Matrices Copies of transcripts	
Adjunct usage	Percentage of courses and course sections taught by adjuncts	Do students have adequate time to interact with faculty members outside the classroom?
Alignment of faculty qualifications with program needs/goals and course outcomes	Vitae Program goals Faculty Qualification Matrices	What does the program perceive as its needs for new faculty now and over the next five years?  Identify the areas of specialization needed and provide a brief statement of justification.
Instructional evaluations	Student ratings of instruction Peer reviews Teaching portfolios	
Faculty development opportunities	List of faculty development activities	Has the program undertaken any

		faculty development activities in the past five years? If so, please specify. Are there mechanisms for mentoring new and adjunct faculty?
Staff integration in teaching/learning process		To what extent does the program effectively integrate non-faculty specialists (e.g., lab assistants, professional advisors, field coordinators, assessors) into its professional team?
<b>III. Viability</b>		
<b>A. Student Productivity</b>		
Enrollment patterns	Comparisons with enrollment patterns in similar programs at NSU and/or peer institutions	Are student enrollment indicators stable, increasing, or decreasing?
Number of majors		Explain how close the enrollment figures are to the capacity of the program and/or institutional, state, or other program “benchmarks.”
Degrees awarded	Average number of degrees awarded annually for the last five years	Does the number of awarded degrees exceed the SCHEV standard?
Time to degree		Comment on the average time for completion of degree.
Student effort	National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)	Discuss patterns of student time allocation to various activities.
Student awards		Describe national, regional, state, university, college/school, and departmental awards received by students in the program.
<b>B. Faculty Productivity</b>		
Student credit hours (SCH) taught		Are faculty workloads equitable and appropriate to the program mission? How does the program rank among those in similar institutions regarding teaching loads?
Students advised	Number of students advised by program’s faculty	How does the program rank among those in similar institutions regarding student advising?
Theses advised, chaired		

Publications and conference presentations	Vitae Citation indices List of program faculty publications and presentations	Is the scholarly work of the faculty appropriate to the program's mission and overall responsibilities with regard to quality and quantity? How does the program rank among those in similar institutions regarding scholarly work?
Scholarly awards	Vitae Number and list of awards received by program faculty	
Public/community service contributions	Vitae Number and list of external clients served	Is the public/community service work of the faculty appropriate to the program's mission and overall responsibilities with regard to quality and quantity?
University service contributions	Vitae Number and list of university committees served	How are administrative tasks and committee assignments distributed within the program?
Professional service contribution		Are the faculty engaged in regional and national professional organizations?
Research funding	Number of grant proposals submitted and funded	Are faculty generating external funding to the degree that they might? How does the program rank among those in similar institutions regarding research funding?
<b>C. Program Efficiency</b>		
Program coordinator	Program coordinator responsibilities Program coordinator qualifications	How is the program administered (e.g., is there a program coordinator and/or program committee, what is the role or function of the program coordinator, how do they operate, how are appeals handled, etc.)?
Effective use of faculty resources	Faculty/student FTE Student credit hours/ faculty FTE	
Effective use of financial resources	Operating budget/faculty FTE State support/total budget	
Space utilization		
Special program costs		Describe special facilities, software, lab, and instructional delivery (e.g., individualized instruction, lab

		assistance) requirements for the program.
<b>D. Program Resources</b>		
Information resources	Number of volumes in the library holdings in the program area Library holdings in the program area at peer institutions	Discuss the adequacy of library holdings and computer access to appropriate databases to achieve the present and anticipated goals of the program.
Facilities	Square footage assigned to the program	Discuss the adequacy of the space assigned to the program to achieve the present and anticipated goals of the program.
Equipment		Discuss the currency and adequacy of equipment including, but not limited to, computer equipment to achieve the present and anticipated goals of the program.
<b>E. Uniqueness of the Program</b>		
Availability of program elsewhere	Locations of closest competing programs	Provide evidence that the program does not duplicate similar programs in other Virginia public higher education institutions.
Program distinctiveness	“Benchmark” programs	Describe unique features of program compared to other programs in Virginia.