

Policy Number: 2-203	Policy Name: Academic Degree Program Planning and Implementation	
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2-203 Academic Degree Program Planning and Implementation

The establishment of any Academic Degree Program requires approval by the Academic Affairs Committee (“the Committee”) prior to announcement and implementation.

A. The Academic Strategic Plan

1. Annually each university shall present an academic strategic plan to the Academic Affairs Committee for review and for recommendation to the full Board for approval.
2. The academic strategic plan shall define the key academic initiatives planned by the institution and describe how they support both the university’s strategic plan and the strategic plan of the Arizona Board of Regents.
3. The academic strategic plan shall include an Academic Degree Program Inventory of all academic degree programs that are expected to be planned, implemented, merged with other programs or eliminated in the upcoming year. The plan will also address the actions completed from the previous year’s plan, specifically addressing programs that have been implemented and are enrolling students.

B. Implementation

1. A university may implement any program listed on the approved academic strategic plan that will not require additional state resources or a program fee for the initial three years of a new program.
2. An academic program that will require additional state resources or a program fee to implement must be submitted to the Committee for approval prior to advertising the program and enrolling students.

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3. After collective review by the Chief Academic Officers, a university may request authorization from the Academic Affairs Committee to implement, merge or eliminate a program not listed on the academic strategic plan.
4. The implementation proposal shall address the criteria provided in the implementation for new academic degree programs”, provided on the above website ([www. azregents.edu/faculty](http://www.azregents.edu/faculty)), including:
 - a. Purpose of the program
 - b. Relation to the university mission and strategic direction
 - c. Defined learning outcomes and a description of how those outcomes will be addressed
 - d. The state’s need for the program, including student demand
 - e. Analysis of similar programs offered in the state and region
 - f. Expected faculty and resource requirements
 - g. Financing and 3-year budget

5. Duplicative programs

Substantial justification is required for a request to implement a new program that duplicates a program offered by another Arizona public university. The Committee will consider the following criteria in reviewing a request for implementation for a new degree program that duplicates a degree program offered by another public university in Arizona.

- a. The proposed program is consistent with the long-term mission and goals of the university proposing the program.
- b. The program instructional content and delivery mode respond to the demographic and geographic characteristics of the student demand (e.g., unmet needs, special student populations, distance learning options, etc.)
- c. The proposal should address options for course/program collaboration with the sister institution(s) offering the program.

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6. A university may not admit students to a new program approved for implementation by the committee until substantially all of the funds, as identified in the projected budget-are currently available from existing resources or firmly assured by legislative appropriations or other sources and are committed by the President for the support of the program.

C. Academic Degree Programs

Information on all campuses shall be included in the institution's academic strategic plan as described in 2-203.A.3.

1. All academic degree programs authorized by the Board for a specific university campus and reflected on the academic strategic plan may be offered by any other campus of that institution, subject to review by the Chief Academic Officers, if no additional state resources or program fee will be required for the initial three years of the program, prior to implementation.
 - a. An existing degree program that was not listed on the academic strategic plan may be offered by a campus of that institution subject to the review of the Chief Academic Officers and approval by the Executive Director prior to implementation.
 - b. Academic degree programs requested by a branch campus that are not authorized for the main campus must meet the requirements of subsections A and B of this Policy.
2. Any program that is going to be reflected in the budget process should be submitted to the committee early enough to allow time to evaluate the budgetary impact.