

Policy Library

OFFICE OF PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR POLICY¹ **Curricula, Academic Standards, and Degree Requirements, Faculty Responsibility for Establishment of**

PURPOSE:

To describe the responsibilities of the faculties of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the schools to establish curricula, academic standards, and degree requirements; to describe the general responsibilities of the deans; and to describe the circumstances in which broader consultation is required.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Subject to administrative oversight, Board of Regents policy, state law, and the additional provisions noted below, the faculty of each school may establish curricula, academic standards, and degree requirements.

The deans of the Schools and College are responsible for academic leadership and administrative supervision of academic programs within their units, including admitting, advising, retaining, and supervising students, monitoring their respective graduate programs, confirming that all university standards for graduation have been met, and awarding degrees.

- a. General requirements for admission to graduate study and for graduate degrees are established by the schools/College and by Graduate Studies as advised by the Executive Council of Graduate Faculty. Major changes in the curricula for graduate degrees should be reported to Graduate Studies.
- b. Graduate curricula and programs are reviewed and approved by the schools/College and Graduate Studies as advised by the Executive Council of Graduate Faculty.
- c. The University Core Curriculum Committee (UCCC) is responsible for oversight of the core curriculum; see <https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/provost/university-core-curriculum-committee>² for information about the composition and responsibilities of the UCCC. Other matters that affect more than one school are subject to the rules and regulations of the Faculty Senate.
- d. The Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO) and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Board of Regents must approve baccalaureate-level concentrations (also called “minors”), changes in the name of an existing unit or degree title, or consolidation of two or more units or

degrees into one unit or degree. Approval of a concentration or minor is not required if the concentration is in an area of study for which the Board has previously approved a degree program; however, approval of the Office of the Provost is required. Graduate certificate programs are not considered concentrations and are approved at the campus level.

e. New schools or departments and those institutes and centers requiring new state funding, new degree programs, extension of an approved degree program to a higher degree level, and creation of a new major under an existing degree name require approval of the Council of Chief Academic Officers, the Council of Presidents, and the Board of Regents.

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APPROVED BY:

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

APPROVED ON:

Saturday, January 1, 1966

EFFECTIVE ON:

Saturday, January 1, 1966

REVIEW CYCLE:

Annual (As Needed)

RELATED POLICIES:

[Kansas Board of Regents Policy and Procedures Manual](#)³, Section II.D. 7, Instructional Program.

[Faculty Senate Rules and Regulations](#)⁴.

Article II, Admissions

Article III, Placement Examinations

Article IV, Resident Study: Non-Resident Study (see in particular Sections 2, 3, and 4);

Article V, Academic Work (see Sections 1 through 5)

[University Senate Rules and Regulations](#)⁵

Article I, Academic Schedules:

<https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/governance/USRR#ArticleI>⁶ (see 1.3.5 of Section 1.3, Final Examinations);

Article II, Academic Work and its Evaluation: <https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/governance/USRR#ArticleII>⁷ (see 2.1.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5.4, 2.2.9 of Section 2, The Grading System; 2.4.1 of Section 4, Grade Points and Grade Point Averages; and Section 5, Retention, Probation, Dismissal, and Reinstatement; Section 7, Enrollment)

Article III, Graduation and Degrees: <https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/governance/USRR#ArticleIII>⁸

[University Core Curriculum Committee; Procedures and Criteria for Appointment](#)²

KEYWORDS:

Authority of the faculty, establishment of curricula, academic standards, degree requirements, graduation requirements, admission requirements

REVIEW, APPROVAL & CHANGE HISTORY:

A statement about the authority of school and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty to establish curricula, academic standards, and degree requirements and the circumstances in which a broader review is necessary has appeared in the Handbook for Faculty and Other Unclassified Staff since 1963, when the document was known as The University of Kansas Faculty Handbook and was issued by the Chancellor. The text above is an update of the language that appeared in the 1998 handbook. The updates reflect the changes in responsibility that occurred when the Graduate School became Graduate Studies and the role of the Board of Regents in approving specific kinds of changes. March 9, 2010: updated to include “authority of the faculty”. Updates approved by Interim Provost Danny Anderson. May 14, 2012: “Approved by” and “Review/Change History” sections updated to reflect information located in University Archives; UCCC responsibility added to item c of policy statement.

Academic Categories: *Academic Programs, Admission to KU, Graduation & Degrees*

Links on this page:

1. <http://policy.ku.edu/taxonomy/term/37>
2. <https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/provost/university-core-curriculum-committee>
3. http://www.kansasregents.org/policies_procedures/
4. <https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/governance/faculty-senate-rules-regulations>
5. <https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/governance/USRR>
6. <https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/governance/USRR#ArticleI>
7. <https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/governance/USRR#ArticleII>
8. <https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/governance/USRR#ArticleIII>
9. <http://policy.ku.edu/comment/reply/165#comment-form>

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