

3.6 Creation and Elimination of Academic Programs

3.6.1 Creation of Academic Programs

New degree programs or new major programs of academic work shall not be added to curricula of an institution unless recommended by the president of the institution concerned, the Chancellor, and the Committee on Academic Affairs, and approved by the Board.

Programs that provide academic credit but award certificates rather than degrees must be approved based on guidelines issued by the Chancellor. These guidelines will be provided to the presidents and chief academic officers by the Chancellor (BoR Minutes, May 2004).

3.6.1.4 Ph.D. Programs

Ph.D. programs shall be limited to research universities (BoR Minutes, 1954-55, pp. 102-03; July, 1996, p. 17). Comprehensive universities do not normally offer Ph.D. degrees. In exceptional cases, however, they may offer the Ph.D. when:

1. The program supports the central mission of that university;
2. There is demonstrated demand for the program;
3. There is demonstrated need for graduates of the program; and,
4. There is assurance of high academic quality.

(BoR Minutes, April 2008)

All such program proposals will be subject to Board approval processes for graduate programs. The USG chief academic officer will seek counsel from appropriate USG leaders and other research universities, and then make recommendations to the Chancellor and the Board of Regents as to whether a comprehensive university has met these criteria (BR Minutes, April 2008).

In the case of applied doctorates, the Chancellor may recommend exceptions to the above policy under guidelines adopted by the USG chief academic officer.