

504. Review of Existing Academic Programs

I. Policy Statements

The Board of Trustees requires the institutions of The University of Alabama System periodically to review and evaluate all programs of instruction, research, and service.

The review and evaluation results must be submitted to the Chancellor's Office as an Executive Summary.

II. Guidelines for the Review of Existing Programs

A. Objectives

1. The major value of any program review process derives from the degree of self-evaluation, which a serious review catalyzes and promotes. The purpose of this process is to provide for a formal, systematic review of the many programs being offered under the auspices of the campuses. The intent is not to duplicate or supplant the program reviews conducted by various professional accrediting agencies (such as exist in Business, Education, and others), but rather to provide a means for internal review free from the specific goals and constraints of such external reviews. Every effort will be made, however, to coordinate internal and external reviews in order to avoid duplication of data collection.
2. More specifically, the aim of the review of existing programs is to raise the quality of education in The University of Alabama System through:
 - a) Acting as a catalyst for self-evaluation and self-improvement by the faculty in specific program areas;
 - b) Identifying concerns and problems common throughout the university and those unique to specific programs;
 - c) Identifying strengths and weaknesses in the University's overall programs, examining alternatives for correcting and eliminating deficiencies, and making recommendations to the appropriate campus and System authorities.

B. Review Procedures

1. The administrative responsibility for the review process on each campus shall be that of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs. The responsibility for coordinating the review process for the System is assigned to the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.
2. The review of programs will be guided by three major principles:
 - a) Improvement of education can be fostered most effectively by collecting and reviewing essential information about the program under review;
 - b) Similar disciplines on a campus should be reviewed at the same time whenever possible; and
 - c) All of the university's programs selected for review should be subject to comparable procedures, including a common format for the collection of information, and considered in accordance with the approved purposes of the program and the mission, role, and scope of the campus.
3. It is the responsibility of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs to provide the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs a description of the academic program review process for his/her campus.
4. Upon completion of each program review, an Executive Summary shall be forwarded to the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs by the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.

(Adopted September 17, 1980 as Rule 520; revised November 1, 1996; amended and renumbered December 5, 1997; amended November 14, 2008.)