

## **Definitions of Program(s)**

The following definitions including those identified in Title 281, NAC, Chapter 4 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations apply to Program(s):

1. Program shall mean any program of instruction, public service program, off-campus instructional program, any new college school, major division, education center, or institute, but shall not include reasonable and moderate extensions of existing curricula which have a direct relationship to existing programs **[281 NAC 4: 003.01]**.
2. Instructional Program shall mean a sequence of courses and activities leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate in an academic discipline or subject area offered by a public institution. This type of program is commonly called a major **[281 NAC 4: 003.01A]**.

Any course of study that meets any of the following triggers is an instructional program for the purpose of defining an instructional program new to an institution, or for the purpose of initiating the review of an existing instructional program:

- a. The title of the program will appear on the student's transcript or other official records signifying the student's achievements, skills, or knowledge in the discipline or area of study.
  - b. The program will be identified in the catalog, bulletin, or other publications of the institution as a distinct program of study leading to a credential awarded by the institution.
3. Existing Instructional Program shall mean an instructional program authorized by the Legislature or the appropriate governing board prior to January 1, 1992, or an instructional program authorized by the Commission after January 1, 1992 **[281 NAC 4: 003.01.B]**.
  4. New Instructional Program shall mean a proposed instructional program not included in the definition of existing instructional program. A substantial modification of an existing instructional program constitutes a new instructional program. A substantial modification occurs when the principal objective of the program is changed. A reasonable and moderate extension of an existing instructional program is not classified as a new instructional program **[281 NAC 4: 003.01.C]**.
  5. New Organizational Unit shall mean any proposed new college, school, major division, or institute that provides, facilitates, or coordinates instruction, research, or service and within which related disciplines or services are grouped. Name changes or reasonable and moderate extensions of, or reorganizations within, existing organizational units shall not be considered as new organizational units **[281 NAC 4: 003.01.D]**.

6. Institute(s) shall mean the organization of major interdisciplinary and/or multiple academic divisions (e.g., schools, major divisions, collections of departments) within a sector to address new and emerging problems and issues.
  - a. The Commission recognizes that some terms such as institute and center are used interchangeably in academe.
  - b. For the purpose of Commission approval, a working definition of centers will normally be interpreted to mean an institution's and/or sector's academic entities that demonstrate the following characteristics:
    - i. Have an identifiable and significant budget.
    - ii. Propose to seek new state support for its creation, and/or operation.
    - iii. Exist as a level of administration that is higher than that of the department, and/or report at an administrative level above a dean.
    - iv. Are associated with assigned FTEs of faculty and/or research or other professional staff.
    - v. May or may not include association or entities outside the institution.
  - c. It is intended that centers would not include interdisciplinary units with a variety of characteristics, including those that:
    - i. Normally encompass an assemblage of faculty assigned to one or more departments.
    - ii. Provide, facilitate, or coordinate instruction, research, or services across the disciplines represented by faculty of a single unit.
7. Moderate Extensions of Existing Organizational Units are normally considered by the Commission based on variables that include:
  - a. Whether the unit itself is a reasonable and moderate extension of, or reorganization within, one or more existing organizational units, in which case it would not be considered a new organizational unit.
  - b. The extent to which the unit will utilize existing resources.
  - c. The extent to which the foci of its faculty and/or instructional programs, research, and/or services will be a reasonable and moderate extension of existing units.
  - d. The extent to which the purposes and operations of the unit will support the institution's existing role and mission.
  - e. The extent to which the organization and operation of the new unit will require substantial additional resources.