

UNIVERSITY RULE

03.02.99.M1 Administrative Framework for Interdisciplinary Programs

Approved December 14, 2006

Revised October 12, 2012

Revised February 11, 2016

Next Scheduled Review: February 11, 2021

Rule Statement

This Rule ensures that appropriate offices at the University are engaged in verifying that the establishment and review of administrative units and programs comply with the required information and steps needed for notification and/or approval by the System, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and all relevant accreditation bodies.

Reason for Rule

This Rule clarifies responsibilities and expected support for creation and engagement in interdisciplinary activities and ensures that appropriate evaluations and notifications occur in the creation and continuation of such programs.

Procedure and Responsibilities

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 An Interdisciplinary Program (IDP) involves a group of faculty from more than one discipline representing more than one college, organized and administered by the procedures outlined in this Rule.
- 1.2 An IDP may be formed for the purpose of enhancing research and scholarly activities beyond what is possible through the traditional administrative structure.
- 1.3 An IDP may also be formed for the purpose of enhancing curricular activities and overseeing graduate and/or undergraduate education for a degree program, a concentration, a minor, or a transcribed certificate that does not exist in an existing academic unit. Such programs should follow the normal approval process for curricular programs.
- 1.4 An Interdisciplinary Overview Council (IOC), which consists of all deans of colleges having faculty participating in any IDP, together with the Vice Provost,

will review proposals for the creation of new interdisciplinary programs and evaluate cyclical reviews for reaffirmation or discontinuation of established programs. The Vice Provost shall serve as chair of the IOC.

2. ESTABLISHING INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

- 2.1 For a group of faculty to establish an IDP, they must submit a proposal in compliance with University SAP 03.02.99.M1.01.
- 2.2 The deans of colleges, the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President, the Office of the Executive Vice President for the HSC, or the Office of the Vice President for Research may provide support for the development of IDPs consistent with their respective areas of responsibility.
- 2.3 All proposals for creating Interdisciplinary Programs will be submitted to the Vice Provost through a committee composed of the department heads with faculty participating in the proposed program, and the IOC.
- 2.4 The Provost and Executive Vice President will make the final decision regarding the approval of IDPs. The establishment of, and funding for, the operating budget is the collective responsibility of the participating units or other offices in the university as proposed and approved by the IOC.

3. PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

- 3.1 It is responsibility of the IOC to establish a review schedule that will involve the department heads with faculty participating in the program and the Executive Committee of the program.
 - 3.1.1 All IDPs that do not award degrees will be dissolved after 5 years unless a review explicitly states the IOC, in concurrence with the Vice President for Research and the Provost and Executive Vice President recommend their continuation.
 - 3.1.2 All IDPs that do award degrees will be reviewed in the 7 year cycle required by the University Academic Program Reviews. These reviews or any notification from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of a low producing program could result in the termination of the degree, with an appropriate 'teaching out' of the program for participants in the IDP.
- 3.2 As part of the normal annual review of faculty, each participating department head will review with each of their involved faculty members their future level of participation in the IDP as well as the results of their previous participation. These discussions may be incorporated into promotion, tenure, and merit raise decisions.

4. COORDINATION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE A&M SYSTEM

IDP efforts may include faculty from other members of The Texas A&M University System as outlined in the program's bylaws. A memorandum of understanding must be initiated between the system member(s) and Texas A&M University, as represented by the Vice Provost with the concurrence of the Vice President for Research or Dean of Faculties, to establish the level of participation of the system member(s) in the IDP.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[University SAP 03.02.99.M1.01 *Creation and Review for Interdisciplinary Programs*](#)

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