

Administrative Regulation — Academic Programs (Interim)

I. Scope

In accordance with *Governing Regulations I, II and IV*, this *Administrative Regulation* establishes the framework for defining degree programs, certificate programs, badges and credit-bearing courses and non-credit-bearing curricula in academic colleges at the University of Kentucky. More specifically, this regulation is intended to outline the mandatory steps for creating, altering or eliminating credit- and non-credit programs to ensure compliance with external accrediting and regulatory bodies, delegating authority to the Provost, and identifying the role of shared governance with faculty. This regulation applies to all units offering undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs, as well as certificate programs and non-degree offerings.

For additional information, see [Office of the Provost](#).

II. Programs, Course Categories and Definitions

The University offers various degree and non-degree programs and credit- and non-credit-bearing courses, collectively referred to as “academic programs.”

A. Degree Programs

Degree programs are formal academic programs that lead to the award of bachelor's, master's/specialist or doctoral degrees. These are credit-bearing programs with specific course requirements.

1. Undergraduate Degree Program

An undergraduate degree program completion results in a bachelor's degree. Undergraduate degree programs require completion of University, college and program requirements.

2. Graduate Degree Program

Graduate degree programs include master's/specialist and doctoral programs with an emphasis on research or advanced scholarly work. The types of graduate degree programs are further defined in policies administered by the Provost.

3. Professional Practice Programs

Professional practice programs are designed to prepare students for careers in professions and practices requiring licensure.

4. Certificates

Certificates are short-term academic programs, offered at all academic levels, resulting in formal recognition of specialized knowledge or skills.

B. Badges

Badges are credentials that the University awards for the completion of specific learning experiences that usually represent a set of skills or competencies. A badge program (either with credit- or non-credit-bearing curricula in academic colleges or schools) consists of two (2) to four (4) courses, which collectively provide one (1) or more defined skill sets or competencies useful to students and employers.

C. Credit-bearing Courses

Credit-bearing courses award academic credit upon successful completion of the course. The University Registrar records these courses on an academic transcript, and the Provost approves them.

D. Non-credit-bearing Curricula

Non-credit-bearing curricula (programs, courses or learning experiences) do not result in academic credit awarded and are not recorded on the academic transcript. These may be designed for professional development, continuing education or personal enrichment. Non-credit-bearing programs in academic colleges and schools are not reflected on the academic transcript and are the responsibility of the proposing college, school, department or unit. Non-credit-bearing programs are those that are 1) required by a federal, state or local government agency (e.g., teacher certification licensure from Kentucky's Education Professional Standards Board); 2) overseen by an accrediting body that holds educational unit programs accountable for meeting explicit standards to continue offering that content and credential to students; or 3) provided as professional development. Membership in an accrediting body is insufficient to meet this standard; the accrediting body must also have authority over the content of the activity.

E. Academic Program Modality and Geography

The University delivers courses in various geographic locations and modalities to students, including, but not limited to, in-person, fully online and hybrid.

III. Authority of the Provost

The Provost is responsible for the administration of academic programs and credentials awarded. In accordance with *Governing Regulations III* and *IV*, the

Provost shall make provisions for credit-bearing courses and ensure that degree programs meet accrediting, regulatory and licensing requirements.