Administrative Regulation — Academic Programs

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 *Academic Regulation* is intended to establish the institutional framework for the oversight of academic programs, define the authority and responsibilities of the Provost and recognize the role of faculty shared governance in academic program decisions. Policies administered by the Provost establish procedures for creating, modifying and discontinuing academic programs in accordance with applicable accreditation and regulatory requirements. This *Academic 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 provide the knowledge and skills required for entry

into a recognized profession and, where applicable, licensure or certification.

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. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Provost recognizes the role of faculty shared governance in academic program development and oversight, consistent with established University policies and procedures.