

21.14 Curriculum Review

21.14.1 Definitions: General education curriculum means a core curriculum, as that term is defined by [Texas Government Code Section 61.821](#), and any other curriculum or competency all undergraduate students of the institutions in the UH System are required to complete before receiving an undergraduate degree.

Low-Producing Program

An academic program that does not meet minimum graduation thresholds over a rolling five-year period as defined by THECB in [Texas Administration Code, Title 19, Chapter 4, Subchapter R, Rules 4.285 to 4.290](#):

- **Undergraduate programs:** Fewer than 25 graduates
- **Master's programs:** Fewer than 15 graduates
- **Doctoral programs:** Fewer than 10 graduates

Minimum thresholds for minor and certificate programs are to be based on the comparable degree level offered (i.e. Minors – undergraduate, Certificates – undergraduate/master's).

Degree Program

A formally approved and transcribed academic program leading to the conferral of a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree.

Minor Program

A transcribed, secondary program of study that complements a student's major field of study.

Certificate Program

A formally transcribed sequence of courses leading to a certificate credential awarded by the institution.

21.14.2 General Education Curriculum Review:

A. At least once every five years, the Board of Regents will conduct a comprehensive review of the general education curriculum established by each institution. In reviewing an institution's general education curriculum, the Board will ensure courses in the curriculum:

- (1) are foundational and fundamental to a sound postsecondary education;
- (2) are necessary to prepare students for civic and professional life;
- (3) equip students for participation in the workforce and in the betterment of society; and
- (4) ensure a breadth of knowledge in compliance with applicable accreditation standards.

B. In reviewing the general education curriculum of an institution of higher education

under Subsection (b), the governing board of the institution shall consider the potential costs the curriculum may impose on students, including for additional tuition, fees, and time a student must spend to complete an undergraduate degree program at the institution.

C. Upon completion of the review for each campus, the Board will certify their compliance with this review to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and each standing legislative committee and subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over higher education.

21.14.3. Program Review

All institutions within the University of Houston System shall conduct an annual review of low-producing academic degree programs. The review will identify programs for retention,

monitoring, consolidation or closure. A consolidated report of all low-producing programs (LPP) will be presented to the UHS Board of Regents annually for formal review and action.

Programs in operation for fewer than five years are exempt from review under Texas Administration Code, Title 19, Chapter 4, Subchapter R, Rule 4.289 Exemptions.

Each year, the UHS Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs shall submit a consolidated report to the UHS Board of Regents that includes all academic programs across component institutions identified as low-producing programs. Each program will carry one of the following three recommendations:

- Retain – Maintain the program based on mission relevance, recent improvements, workforce need, or other strategic rationale.
- Place on Monitoring Status (3 years) – The program must show significant progress in productivity. A decision on retention or closure will be made at the end of the third year.
- Discontinue – Recommend consolidation or closure of the program based on persistent underperformance and lack of justifying rationale.

Programs on monitoring status that do not show substantial improvement within three years will be recommended for closure, unless compelling justification is provided and approved by the Board of Regents.

21.14.4 Minor and Certificate Program Review:

A. The presidents of each institution in the UH System must adopt and implement a process for reviewing minor degree and certificate programs offered by their institution to identify programs with low enrollment that may require consolidation or elimination. This review must occur at least once every five years.

B. The criteria for review must require that minor degree and certificate programs have specific industry data to substantiate workforce demand to avoid consideration for consolidation or elimination. A minor degree or certificate program that has operated less than five years at the time of the review is exempt from this low enrollment review.

C. The Board of Regents must approve or deny any decision made by the president to consolidate or eliminate a minor degree or certificate program as a result of the review.

(Policy last reviewed 8/21/2025)

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[Texas Government Code Section 61.821](#)

[Texas Administration Code, Title 19, Chapter 4, Subchapter R, Rules 4.285 to 4.290:](#)
