

SECTION 2, CORE REQUIREMENT 2.7.1

The institution offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. The institution provides a written justification and rationale for program equivalency. (Program Length)

JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Compliant

Partially Compliant

Noncompliant

RATIONALE FOR JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

NGCSU has the designation of "state university" within the University System of Georgia (USG). State Universities are authorized to grant Associates, Baccalaureate and Masters (and Educational Specialist) degrees. A comprehensive list of all degrees offered by NGCSU has been made available to students and faculty via the University web page, undergraduate [1] and graduate [2]. The length and content of each degree program has been approved at the institutional and state Board of Regents (BOR) level in accordance with the regulations put forth in the *BOR Academic Affairs Handbook* for undergraduate [3] and graduate programs [4].

NGCSU's only Associates degree program, an Associate of Science in Nursing, consists of 67 hours. This program was approved by the BOR and complies with its policy on program length for nursing programs [5].

Baccalaureate programs at NGCSU consist of 120 semester hours (excluding the physical education activity/basic health requirement) as required by BOR policy [6]. Certain teacher certification programs require more than 120 hours to complete. These programs received special approval to be greater than 120 hours in order to comply with directives of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

Masters degree and the Educational Specialist programs at NGCSU consist of no more than 36 hours of credit for the degree, as required by BOR policy. Programs exceeding this maximum were justified when approved by the

BOR [7]. The table below lists each of NGCSU's Masters and Educational Specialist degree programs and the credit hours required for each.

Degree Program	Credit hours for degree
• Master of Education	30
• Master of Public Administration	36
• Master of Science	
○ Community Counseling	49
○ Family Nurse Practitioner	46
• Master of Science in Nursing Education (First class to begin Fall 2006)	35
• Master of Science in Physical Therapy (Last class to finish Spring 2008)	97
• Educational Specialist in Teacher Leadership	30

Document Reference:

Number	DB Num	Document Title	Resource
1		Undergraduate Program Listing	http://www.ngcsu.edu/Academic/undergrad.shtml
2		Graduate Program Listing	http://www.ngcsu.edu/enrollment/graduate/programs.shtml
3, 5, 6		USG Academic Affairs Handbook, Section 2.03.04, Undergraduate Degree Requirements	http://www.usg.edu/academics/handbook/section2/2.03/2.03.04.phtml
4, 7		USG Academic Affairs Handbook, Section 2.06.02, Graduate Degrees	http://www.usg.edu/academics/handbook/section2/2.06.phtml#02