

SECTION 2, CORE REQUIREMENT 2.7.2

The institution offers degree programs that embody a coherent course of study that is compatible with its stated purpose and is based upon fields of study appropriate to higher education. (Program Content)

JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Compliant

Partially Compliant

Noncompliant

RATIONALE FOR JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Degree programs at NGCSU embody coherent courses of study that are compatible with the University's mission and purpose as a co-educational, liberal arts university with pre-professional, professional and graduate programs. These programs are based upon appropriate fields of study and are similar to programs offered at comparable institutions. New degree programs undergo a multi-tiered review process that complies with Board of Regents (BOR) policies [1] to ensure that each course of study meets the proposed objectives of the program. Initial program approval requires institutional approval as well as state BOR approval (as outlined in the *NGCSU Academic Affairs Policy and Procedure Manual—Program Development* section [2]).

Faculty members within or across academic departments develop proposals for new programs of study. These proposals are forwarded to the appropriate Dean or Deans for approval. The proposed undergraduate programs, along with their stated objectives, are then presented to the Academic Activities Committee, a standing committee of the Faculty Senate, for approval. This group questions and evaluates proposals based on their stated purpose, objective, and how they fit within the mission of NGCSU. Minutes from these meetings are available online [3]. The President, Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) and the Vice President for Business and Finance (VPBF) then review and approve (or disapprove) all program proposals. Once approved, the President and Vice President for Academic Affairs propose the new programs to the BOR [4].

All levels of review, institutional as well as at the level of the BOR, examine the proposal for fit with the institutional mission and objectives and determines the need/fit with statewide initiatives and objectives. When the

new program is approved the BOR publishes the new program via the Board minutes and their website [5].

New Graduate Programs undergo the same review process by seeking the approval of the Graduate Council, the President, VPAA and VPBF and then the BOR. The minutes from Graduate Council meetings are available online [6].

All degree programs at NGCSU are reviewed every seven years as part of an ongoing academic assessment [7]. This process, known as Comprehensive Program Review (CPR), is a detailed examination of all aspects of a program. The review ensures that a program is still viable, that sufficient resources are allocated to meet student needs and that the program continues to be in compliance with the institutional mission. Each CPR report is prepared by an internal committee consisting of faculty both within and outside the program under review. The report consists of detailed responses to a number of set interrogatories encompassing all aspects of the program. These queries are divided into seven categories; Program Mission, Students, Faculty and Staff, Curriculum, Learning and Service Activities, Research and Scholarship, and Facilities.

Once complete, the report is then assessed by a reviewer from outside the institution. Reviewers are selected on the basis of their discipline specific expertise. The reviewers submit written comments on the program, which are then responded to by the CPR committee. Upon final completion, the report is then made available to the entire campus community. Formal hearings on each CPR are held at Dean's Council and Academic Activities. Comments from both bodies may result in an editing of the final report. The report is then submitted to the BOR. The BOR reviews each report and makes suggestions and recommendations to the Office of Academic Affairs at NGCSU. The timeline for each degree program's CPR as well as the latest submissions are available online [8].

Several of our degree programs maintain their accreditation with discipline specific organizations as well. These accreditations are listed in the Undergraduate (pp. 12-13 [9, pp. 10-11]) and Graduate (p. 9 [10, p. 7]) bulletins. NGCSU may use the self-study and the external process of reaffirmation to satisfy the Comprehensive Program Review requirements provided that the dates of the two reviews coincide and the process meets the Comprehensive Program Assessment criteria [11].

Document Reference:

Number	DB Num	Document Title	Resource
1		Board of Regents, <i>Academic Affairs Handbook</i> , Section 2.03.02, New Academic Programs	http://www.usg.edu/academics/handbook/section2/2.03/2.03.02.phtml
2		<i>NGCSU Academic Affairs Policy and Procedure Manual</i>	http://www.ngcsu.edu/vpaa/Manual/Manual/Program_Development.pdf
3		Academic Activities Committee Minutes	http://www.ngcsu.edu/SACS/Reference_Room/documents/ngcsu_comm_min_6.htm#academic
4		Board of Regents, <i>Academic Affairs Handbook</i> , Section 2.03.02, New Academic Programs	http://www.usg.edu/academics/handbook/section2/2.03/2.03.02.phtml
5		Board of Regents, Approved Degree Programs, NGCSU	https://dss.usg.edu:3377/pls/portal/dma.dma_advanced_search.Show_view_results_screen?fice=001585
6		Graduate Council Minutes	http://www.ngcsu.edu/SACS/Reference_Room/documents/ngcsu_comm_min_6.htm#graduate
7, 11		Board of Regents, <i>Academic Affairs Handbook</i> , Section 2.03.05, Comprehensive Program Review	http://www.usg.edu/academics/handbook/section2/2.03/2.03.05.phtml
8		NGCSU Comprehensive Program Review Timetable	http://www.ngcsu.edu/resource/irp/irphome/Institutional%20Effectiveness/cpr/CPR%20Timetable.shtml
9		NGCSU Undergraduate Bulletin, 2004-2006, Accreditation	http://www.collegesource.org/displayinfo/catalogink.asp?pid={B7D26C41-3189-4993-A182-5B5C65B87E21}&oig={1FD70D8E-2B26-4AEB-B696-5991983E2CD1}&vt=5 , pp. 10-11 in PDF, pp. 12-13 in hard copy.
10		NGCSU Graduate Bulletin, 2004-2006, Accreditation and Memberships	http://www.collegesource.org/displayinfo/catalogink.asp?pid={A0BA6F5B-46EF-41E2-A425-C3574803691F}&oig={1FD70D8E-2B26-4AEB-B696-5991983E2CD1}&vt=5 , p. 7 in PDF, p. 9 in hard copy.