

Overview of Changes Degree Program Review Criteria and Guidelines

To improve clarity and ease of use, and to make the quality assessment process more streamlined, the Degree Program Review Criteria and Guidelines have been revised and re-organized.

Submission Format

- Elements of the notice of intent have been incorporated into the full program proposal (as an executive summary).
- To improve transparency, the full program proposal will now be posted on the public web site (excluding proprietary information). Guidelines on the handling of proprietary information have been added.
- To facilitate review, the application must provide information and discussion in the format that corresponds to the order and headings indicated the criteria.

Criteria and Guidelines

Following is an overview of the changes to specific criterion recommended by the Degree Quality Assessment Board and approved by the Minister of Advanced Education.

- ***Degree Level Standards*** - expanded to meet proposed national standards.
- ***Credential Recognition and Nomenclature*** - for programs leading to a profession that is subject to government regulation, criterion expanded to ensure that learning outcomes, standards and other requirements for graduation take into account the requirements of relevant regulatory or professional bodies. Strengthened the criterion relating to the nomenclature of degrees.
- ***Curriculum/Program Content*** - strengthened criterion relating to breadth of programming, to ensure that programs have sufficient courses outside the professional or main field of study.
- ***Admission and Transfer/Residency*** - expanded to ensure that institutions have appropriate policies and procedures in place for the admission of direct entry and mature students, assessment of prior learning and willingness to consider applicants for admission or transfer from any post-secondary institution.
- ***Faculty*** - expanded to ensure that institutions have policies in place relating to protection of academic freedom, academic/professional credentials, faculty performance, professional development, teaching, supervision and counselling loads, scholarly output and/or research activity and maintaining currency in their field of study. Faculty providing doctoral supervision are expected to have an active research program in their discipline or field of study.
- ***Program Resources*** - strengthened to ensure that students and faculty have access to learning and information resources and that the institution has a commitment to provide and maintain the program resources.
- ***Program Consultation*** - expanded to include an external review of the program by academics within British Columbia and other from other jurisdictions.
- ***Program Review and Assessment*** - expanded and clarified the criterion by providing an example of the elements that should be included in an institution's self-study of a degree program undertaken by faculty members and administrators of the program.

Dated: November 2006