

Academic Program Review Policy

Policy Category	Academic
Policy Sponsor	Provost and Vice President, Academic
Policy Contact	Manager, Programs and Planning, OPVPA
Date Established	September 01, 2016
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1. Purpose

As a public post-secondary institution in Alberta, Athabasca University is committed to uphold the principles, goals, and ideals outlined in the Campus Alberta Quality Council Handbook. This Policy establishes the process and responsibilities associated with the review of Athabasca University (University) academic programs to ensure continued alignment with provincial standards and requirements. Program reviews help improve program quality, identify strengths and weaknesses, guide development plans, and ensure alignment with the University's mission.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all academic programs at Athabasca University.

3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee (APPSC)	This committee is a sub-committee of General Faculties Council (GFC). The mandate of the APPSC includes responsibility for the oversight of the program review process.
Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC)	An arms-length quality assurance agency that reviews and recommends Alberta degree programs to the Minister of Advanced Education for approval. CAQC also monitors AU's degree programs to ensure they continue to meet its standards through a 5-7 year cyclical audit of AU's program review processes.

Office of the Provost and Vice President, Academic (OPVPA)	The OPVPA is the Provost and Vice President, Academic's designate responsible for facilitating program reviews and providing overall coordination and support.
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4. Principles

- 4.1. Program Review is a formal process of continuous improvement to ensure the maintenance of quality and rigor in academic programs at Athabasca University.
- 4.2. Program Reviews will be undertaken in a manner that aligns with the principles, goals, and ideals set out in the CAQC Handbook. Program Reviews are undertaken at the undergraduate and graduate degree levels, and at the certificate and diploma level where such programs are unassociated with a degree program. Where associated certificate or diploma programs exist, they are considered as part of the degree program review.
- 4.3. The Provost and Vice President, Academic is accountable for the review of academic programs. The Provost and Vice President, Academic may delegate this authority.
- 4.4. Each program is normally reviewed at five- to seven-year intervals. The Provost and Vice President Academic may initiate a review at any time.
- 4.5. Program Reviews are conducted according to expectations specified by the OPVPA, and will normally include the sequence of self-assessment, external review, formal response and annual reporting.
- 4.6. The OPVPA coordinates and provides the resources required to conduct the review of University programs.
- 4.7. In consultation with the Deans and the Program Directors, the OPVPA establishes a schedule of the programs to review in the forthcoming academic years. This schedule is provided to the APPSC for information no later than the final meeting of the academic year.

5. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

[Post-Secondary Learning Act](#)

6. Related Policy, Procedures and Documents

[Academic Program Review Procedure](#)

Academic Program Review Guidelines

[CAQC Handbooks](#)

Document History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action</i>
January 30, 2025	Revised Policy Approved (General Faculties Council, Motion 090-05)
September 01, 2016	Policy Approved (General Faculties Council, June 15, 2026, Motion 32-03)