

Higher Education Coordinating Commission
Academic Policy and Authorization
University Program Approval ORS/OARs

ORS 352.089(2):

A public university listed in ORS [352.002 \(Public universities\)](#) shall submit any significant change in the university's academic programs to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The commission shall establish a process for reviewing the significant program change for approval. The commission shall establish, by rule, what constitutes a significant change to a university's academic program. The commission shall further ensure that approved programs:

- (a) Are consistent with the mission statement of the university;
- (b) Do not unnecessarily duplicate academic programs offered by Oregon's other public universities;
- (c) Are not located in a geographic area that will cause undue hardship to Oregon's other public universities; and
- (d) Are allocated among Oregon's public universities to maximize the achievement of statewide needs and requirements.

ORS 350.075(3)(g):

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall:

Approve or disapprove any significant change to the academic program of a community college or a public university listed in ORS 352.002. In reaching a decision under this paragraph, the commission shall consider the recommendation from the community college or public university seeking to make the change to an academic program that is issued pursuant to the obligation of the governing board of a community college or public university to review and approve academic programs. The commission shall ensure that approved programs:

- (A) Are consistent with the mission statement of the community college or public university;
- (B) Do not unnecessarily duplicate academic programs offered by Oregon's other community colleges or public universities;
- (C) Are not located in a geographic area that will cause undue hardship to Oregon's other community colleges or public universities; and
- (D) Are allocated among Oregon's community colleges and public universities to maximize the achievement of statewide needs and requirements.

ORS 350.085(2):

Approve all significant changes to academic programs offered at the public universities, and shall ensure that the changes:

- (a) Are consistent with the mission statement of the respective public university;
- (b) Do not unnecessarily duplicate academic programs offered by other public universities;
- (c) Are not located in a geographic area that will cause undue hardship to Oregon's other public universities; and
- (d) Are allocated among the public universities to maximize the achievement of statewide needs and requirements.

OAR 715-013-0020

(1) Definition: "Significant change" to a university's academic program includes, but is not limited to, any new undergraduate or graduate degree program, or any existing undergraduate or graduate degree program that will be offered more than 40 miles from the site at which it is currently offered. "Significant change" to a university's academic program does not mean a new undergraduate or graduate certificate program, new minor, or a new name for an existing degree program.

(2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission has responsibility for approval of significant changes to public university programs.

(3) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall provide the governing boards of public universities with the standards, criteria and procedures the Commission will utilize to approve significant changes to a university's academic programs. These criteria will include consideration of the recommendation of the public university seeking to make the change and will ensure that approved programs:

- (a) Are consistent with the mission statement of the public university;
- (b) Do not unnecessarily duplicate academic programs offered by Oregon's other community colleges or public universities;
- (c) Are not located in a geographic area that will cause undue hardship to Oregon's other community colleges or public universities; and
- (d) Are allocated among Oregon's community colleges and public universities to maximize the achievement of statewide needs and requirements.

(4) Requests for approval of significant changes to a university's academic program must be submitted by the governing board of the university to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission prior to commencement of the program.