Approval Requirements for New Degree and New Certificate Programs Guidelines

Academic units seeking to offer new degree or certificate programs must prepare and submit proposals the contents of which vary with the nature of the academic program and its particular attributes. The proposals will be reviewed by several administrative units and/or committees of the University, depending on the attributes of the degree or certificate. These processes have been established not only to obtain the necessary approvals, but also provide notifications as required and ensure that the relevant information is correctly entered into appropriate databases of the University.

This document outlines the materials and processes that are required to have new degree or certificate programs approved.

A. New Degree Programs

All new degree programs require approval from the University of Colorado Board of Regents (BoR). Existing (previously approved by the BoR) degree programs that have multiple distinct tracks with sufficient enrollment can receive BoR approval to “split” into multiple separate degrees through a simplified “track conversion” process.

Faculty and Departments seeking to establish a new degree are encouraged to contact the Office of Academic Planning (Terry Potter terry.potter@ucdenver.edu) and the campus Office of Budget and Finance (CU Denver Tobin Bliss tobin.bliss@ucdenver.edu; CU Anschutz Madeline Sembrat Madeline.Sembrat@cuanschutz.edu) after obtaining all approvals as required by their Department and their School/College (including the Dean). Faculty and administrators who are preparing the proposal should work closely with the Office of Academic Planning and campus Office of Budget and Finance in preparing the supporting documentation. When the proposals have been approved by the Office of Academic Planning and campus Office of Budget and Finance they will be presented to the Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance at the sponsoring campus.

The contents of a proposal required to gain approval for a new degree that does not currently exist as a track within an approved degree for Campus and BoR approval are outlined in the appended document (Appendix A). The documentation required in a proposal for a track conversion are significantly less and should be discussed with the Office of Academic Planning and the campus Office of Budget and Finance (depending on the performance of the track, proposals for a track conversion will follow a format somewhat similar to Appendix B).

While the documentation required for completely new degree programs is different from that required to convert an existing track to an independent degree program, the approval processes are essentially the same.
Proposals involving degrees that will be conferred by the Graduate School, must be
approved by the Graduate Council.

Proposals at the Denver Campus require approval of the Budget Priorities Committee of the
CU Denver Faculty Assembly. This process is coordinated by the OB&F following
approval by both the Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance.

The Provost will present the proposal to the appropriate campus Chancellor for their
approval.

In accordance with CU System policy APS 1038, following approval at the campus level,
the Office of Academic Planning prepares and submits the supporting documents to the
Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) for the CU System. After obtaining
feedback from the VPAA, the proposal will be modified as necessary and then submitted to
the University Affairs Committee of the CU BoR.

The UAC usually meets about one-month before a public meeting of the full BoR is
scheduled. Public meetings of the full BoR are currently scheduled in February, April,
June, September and November. The Office of Academic Planning oversees the
preparation of the Executive Summary and the slide presentation for the University Affairs
Committee. The proposal is presented by the Provost, or if necessary their designee, to the
University Affairs Committee and at least one principal representative for the degree
program should attend this meeting. If approved by the University Affairs Committee the
proposal is included in the next meeting of the BoR. After approval by the BoR, the VPAA
notifies the Colorado Department of Higher Education for addition to their database.

Following approval of a new degree proposal by the BoR, the University Affairs
Committee notifies those involved in preparing the proposal as well as several
administrative offices within the university including the following administrative offices:
Institutional Research and Effectiveness; Registrar; Bursar and Financial Aid. These
offices may require additional information on courses and other aspects of the program and
contacts the program director as needed.

B. New Certificate Programs

The requirements for approving certificates varies with the structure of the certificate and the
nature (degree- or non-degree-seeking) of the students to whom the program is offered. These
fall into three categories:

(i) Certificates comprised of (undergraduate or graduate) courses that award credit that can
be applied to a degree at the Denver or Anschutz Campus and that enroll and/or award
certificates only to students who are also enrolled in a degree program at the Denver or
Anschutz Campus.

(ii) Certificates comprised of (undergraduate or graduate) courses that award credit that can
be applied to a degree at the Denver or Anschutz Campus and that accept students who are
NOT enrolled in a degree program at the Denver or Anschutz Campus. If the certificate is

Approved on: TBD
Contact: Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning
seeking eligibility for financial aid for non-degree students then it is classified as a Gainful Employment certificate and requires additional approval and annual reporting.

(iii) Certificates that do NOT award credit that can be applied to a degree at the Denver or Anschutz Campus. These certificates are known as “Certificates of Achievement” and are usually awarded by a School/College or another entity. As they are not awarded by the University, they are not entered into CU SIS, and are not eligible for financial aid, non-credit bearing certificates do not have to be approved at the campus level.

Proposals need to complete the “Request to Create a New Certificate” screening form (found online at XXXX) and submit it to the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE: mindy.baker@ucdenver.edu). Based on the information provided in the screening form, OIRE will coordinate what administrative offices will need to review the certificate. Upon completion of the review process, the Registrar’s Office will create the certificate and coding in CU-SIS, making the certificate active in the system.

Notes:
Certificates that will accept non-degree seeking students and wish to have these students be eligible to apply for federal financial aid, must comply with the requirements for Gainful Employment reporting. Such proposals need to be approved by the Office of Financial Aid in addition to undergoing the approval process for other certificate programs. When reporting on GE, as well as other disclosures, these certificate programs must also include all students enrolled in the certificate, regardless of whether they are degree-seeking or non-degree seeking.

Title IV-eligible certificate programs in which 50% or more of the courses were specifically developed for the new certificate program and are NOT derived from courses in existing certificate or degree programs, will require approval by the institutional accreditor, the HLC.

Certificate programs in which 25% or more of the academic program is provided by another institution, or multiple institutions, accredited by an accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an institutional accrediting agency (termed consortial arrangements), may require approval by the HLC.

Certificate programs in which any portion of the academic program is provided an entity that is NOT accredited by an accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an institutional accrediting agency (termed contractual arrangements), requires notification (if 24% or less of the program is outsourced to the other party) or approval (if the other party provides 25% or more of the educational program) by the HLC. Programs that outsource more than 50% of the educational program to a non-accredited entity are ineligible for Title IV (federal student aid) assistance.

Approved on: TBD
Contact: Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning
Appendix A:  
New Degree Proposals:  
Table of Contents

1. Program Description

a. Describe the basic design of the proposed program, including the degree level (baccalaureate, masters, doctoral, professional), field of study, and whether it is an interdisciplinary program.
   i. If the degree program will subsume or supplant an existing degree program, the proposal for the new program shall address the need for the discontinuance of the existing program.

b. Explicitly state the outcomes for students of this program, i.e., what can a student expect to learn during the course of the program and what skills will a student have after completing it?

2. Workforce and Student Demand

a. Workforce Demand: Supply evidence of the opportunities available to graduates of this program.

b. Student Demand: Describe the target market and demonstrate evidence of student demand for this program
   i. Provide realistic enrollment projections for the program for the first five years (template provided in the appendix to this APS).
      Explain the methodology and assumptions used to project enrollment and completion data. Relevant information might include national or regional enrollment trends in similar programs and projected new demand from industry in the service area.
   ii. If applicable, explain how the program design will address the needs of part-time, working students.
   iii. Discuss plans or the potential for online delivery.

3. Role and Mission Criteria

Describe how it supports the mission and fits with the applicable strategic plan of the campus. Identify particular institutional strengths in the proposed program area.

4. Duplication
Address duplication issues with other institutions in the CU system or elsewhere in the state of Colorado. Describe any unique characteristics or features of this program that are not duplicated elsewhere in the state that would justify the program. Address the impact of duplication on student demand.

5. Statutory Requirements

Describe how the proposed program conforms to statutory requirements, such as the 120 credit hour limit for undergraduate degrees, GT Pathways and the Student’s Bill of Rights.

6. Curriculum Description

a. Describe the program requirements, including total credit hours, credit hour distribution, methods of delivering the program, field experience, and other pertinent aspects of the curriculum. Explain how this curriculum is like or unlike the usual curriculum in this field.

b. Provide a sample curriculum for the program and explicitly identify all new courses being created for it.

7. Professional Requirements or Evaluations

a. Where pertinent, describe any regional or professional accrediting association or licensing requirements that helped shape the curriculum of the proposed program. Specify the effect of these requirements on the length of the program, restrictions on program content or mode of delivery, and any budgetary requirements, such as minimal staffing levels, and equipment needs.

b. Identify timetables, if needed, that have been established to meet the professional requirements.

c. Describe qualifications of the proposed program’s faculty.

8. Institutional Factors

a. Explain how the implementation of this program will affect other instructional, research, or service programs on campus. Describe the impact on existing resources, including libraries, educational spaces, and computer and laboratory resources. Explain how the implementation will affect other CU campuses.

b. When a new program fundamentally depends upon a department in a different school/college, a letter of support from that school/college’s dean shall be included with the proposal.

c. Describe formal relationships with other parties that are anticipated, such as inter-institutional arrangements, resource sharing, cooperative programs, clinical affiliations,
etc. Describe and explain the type and extent of the relationship and the resources that the affiliating institution will provide. A copy of any draft contracts or agreements shall be included as appendices.

9. Physical Capacity and Needs

a. Provide space estimates for program space requirements. Base the projections on existing and five-year space planning assumptions and program size data from curriculum and student load projections and projected use of special or dedicated facilities, such as laboratories.

b. Describe program delivery and space requirements, identifying additional space or equipment needs. When significant capital construction or equipment needs are anticipated, provide additional information and explanations.

10. Cost Description and Source of Funds

a. Report cost estimates and sources of funds for five years, using the template provided by the Campus Offices of Budget and Finance, including the instructions provided with the template. All cost and revenue projections for the five years shall be given in constant dollars, i.e., do not include an inflation factor. The Provost’s office shall include and clearly identify institutional overhead costs. Specifically, when tuition is shown as a source of revenue, any component of tuition returned to campus must be shown as an expense.

b. Program costs shall include operating, faculty start-up, and capital start-up needs. Estimates of operating costs shall be based on the delivery of the courses and services defined for the program. Administrative costs shall be factored in. Program budgets shall be calculated in a realistic manner. For example, additional work generated by the operation, management, and oversight of a new program shall not be claimed to be absorbed into the workload of existing staff and faculty without an explanation of what other work will be reassigned or discontinued to make room for the new workload.

c. A proposal shall include a written statement from the dean verifying adequacy of resources to support the new program, as outlined in the program’s budget, and confirming that projected resources are reasonable.

11. Other Relevant Information

Campuses may include any other information deemed relevant to support new program proposals. The Board of Regents may request additional information pertinent to specific issues raised during their examination of new degree program proposals.

The proposal must also include a suggested “Classification of Instructional Programs” (CIP) code that is used to describe the program for reporting purposes to State and Federal agencies. A description of all available CIP codes is provided at:
Tables to be completed:

1. Enrollment table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Full Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-state</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-state</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program headcount</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-state FTE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-state FTE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program FTE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program graduates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2. Revenue/Expenditure Estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 0¹</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projected Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Tuition Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident Tuition Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Tuition &amp; Fee Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Investment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional reallocation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(explain)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PROGRAM REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start up Costs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Acquisitions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Acquisitions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projected Expenditures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Tenure Track Faculty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid specific to program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Materials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment/Supplies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Overhead²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Operating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Costs that occur prior to enrolling students should be entered in the “Year 0” column.

² If no campus overhead, explain.
Appendix B:

Contents of Proposals for Converting a Track in an Existing Degree into a New Degree
(Note: this is just an outline and may not apply to all track conversions. Please discuss your plan with the Office of Academic Planning prior to preparing the documentation)

After obtaining all approvals as required by the Department and the School/College (including the Dean; if the degree will be conferred by the Graduate School, the Graduate School Dean must also approve the proposal) the proposal should be submitted as a memo addressed to both the Provost and Chancellor and sent to the Office of Academic Planning (terry.potter@ucdenver.edu).

The proposal must also include a suggested “Classification of Instructional Programs” (CIP) code that is used to describe the program for reporting purposes to State and Federal agencies. A description of all available CIP codes is provided at:

The contents of the memo should include:

1. A history of the program – when it started and when it was added as a track to the existing degree program etc.
2. A description of the program – a brief description of the curriculum; the delivery mode (in class, on-line or hybrid); what students learn and what jobs does it enable students to enter into. What is the historical job market for graduates of the program. Does it also attract working professionals looking to enhance their skills and potentially their career. If it is a popular program for working professionals, does the scheduling of the course offerings cater to them?
3. The extent of overlap, including no shared courses, with the other tracks currently in the degree.
4. The enrollment data for the past 5 years (if the track has existed that long).
5. A brief rationale why the track should be converted to an independent degree: What is the benefit to the track to converted to a degree (eg. enhance visibility, improve marketing etc)? Will making it an independent degree adversely affect the other existing track(s) in the program?
6. Would there be any change (increase) in tuition or fees if this track was converted to a new program? If so, what? (any changes would trigger an analysis by the Office of Budget and Finance).
7. What members of the Department and School/College (faculty, faculty committees) has this been discussed with and who has approved it? Has this been discussed with students in the track and are they supportive, or at least not opposed?
8. Would new resources – faculty, space, admin support be required to convert the track to an independent degree? If so the Dean’s memo should describe these and indicate that he/she will provide them. Depending on whether new resources are required, this may trigger an analysis by the Office of Budget and Finance. If no new additional resources are required just include a sentence stating that.
9. Concluding paragraph summarizing the request.