



ACADEMIC PROGRAM QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY			
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Policy Type:	Academic	Initially Approved:	March 20, 2024
Policy Sponsor:	Dean, Academic Programs	Last Revised:	March 20, 2024
Primary Contact:	Dean, Academic Programs	Review Scheduled:	March 2029
Approver:	General Faculties Council		

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to provide an overview of the quality assurance processes in place at Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts) to ensure that AUArts students receive the highest possible quality of academic programming. Further information regarding these processes can be found in the associated policies, procedures and documents listed in this Policy.

B. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all AUArts credit academic programs. For purposes of this policy, individual Degrees are considered distinct programs.

C. POLICY STATEMENT

1. PROGRAM QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESSES AT AUARTS

AUArts quality assurance for all credit academic programs include the following:

- 1.1 systematic development and rigorous review of all new programs prior to approval and implementation.
- 1.2 ongoing assessment and improvement of all existing programs.
- 1.3 thorough cyclical review of all existing programs on a seven-year cycle.
- 1.4 regular review and revision of all program quality assurance policies and processes.

2. DEVELOPMENT, REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEW PROGRAMS

- 2.1 Prior to implementation, all new AUArts credit academic programs go through rigorous processes of development, internal review/approval and external review/approval.
- 2.2 AUArts programs are designed to meet national, provincial, discipline/professional and institutional standards, including the following:
 - a. Canadian Degree Qualifications Framework standards of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada.

- b. Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) program standards.
 - c. Discipline and/or professional accreditation standards.
 - d. Institutional standards.
- 2.3 Internal quality assurance processes for reviewing and approving new programs include the following:
- a. Review and approve by the relevant Associate Dean(s) to develop a Letter of Intent ('LOI').
 - b. Letter of intent supported by Finance, Computing and Technical Services, Library, Registrar, and Associate Dean(s).
 - c. LOI reviewed by the Dean, Academic Programs and forwarded, where appropriate, to a Program Advisory Council.
 - d. Review and recommendation for approval in principle by the relevant School Council(s) **if graduate programming, the relevant graduate committee, or if a relevant committee is not established it moves to step e.*
 - e. Review and recommendation for approval in principle by the Dean, Academic Programs.
 - f. Review and recommendation in principle by the Curriculum Subcommittee and the Academic Planning and Oversight Committee (APOC).
 - g. Review and approval by the General Faculties Council (GFC).
 - h. Following external approval by the Minister of Advanced Education, development and approval of curriculum as per the Credit Curriculum Approval Policy, the full proposal approved by the Minister will be sent to GFC for information.
- 2.4 External quality assurance processes for reviewing and approving new programs include the following:
- a. Review and approval with respect to alignment with the Alberta post-secondary system and the Ministry of Advanced Education.
 - b. Review by external independent academic experts selected by AUArts with reference to guidelines suggested by the CAQC.
 - c. Review and approval by the CAQC.
 - d. Review and approval to implement by the Minister of Advanced Education.
 - e. Review and approval of transfer equivalency for new program courses, as appropriate.

3. ONGOING MONITORING AND IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

- 3.1 All AUArts credit academic programs are expected to be monitored and improved on an ongoing basis to ensure program quality and sustainability. Ongoing monitoring and improvement processes include the following:
- a. Assessment of student success and satisfaction using a variety of measures including student retention, student progress and standing, program completion, and student survey data, CAQC program standards.
 - b. Assessment of learning outcomes in all programs.
 - c. Assessment of teaching quality through means such as student course assessments and where applicable, peer evaluations.
 - d. Provision of professional development opportunities for faculty members to enhance teaching effectiveness, scholarly activity, and professional creative and artistic competence.

- e. Consultation with discipline, professional and industry experts through external program advisory councils as appropriate.
- f. Assessment and revision of program curriculum, design, and delivery.
- g. Assessment of program sustainability in terms of student demand, society need and financial viability.
- h. Assessment of alignment of programs with AUArts mandate, mission, and strategic goals.
- i. Planning and goal setting by each academic unit responsible for program delivery and/or program support.

4. CYCLICAL REVIEW OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

- 4.1 All AUArts credit academic programs undergo thorough review on a seven-year cycle.
- 4.2 Key components of the cyclical program review process include critical self-study, external peer review by independent academic experts, and implementation of an action plan to improve and advance the program.

D. RELATED POLICIES

- Cyclical Review of Academic Programs Policy

E. RELATED LEGISLATION

- Post-secondary Learning Act, Alberta

F. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Credit Curriculum Approval Procedure
- Cyclical Review of Academic Programs Procedure

G. REVISION HISTORY

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Description of Change	Sections	Person who Entered Revision (Position Title)	Person who Authorized Revision (Position Title)
03/20/2024	New Policy	All	Dean, Academic Programs	Dean, Academic Programs