



CYCLICAL REVIEW OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS POLICY

Policy Type:	Academic	Initially Approved:	November 16, 2022
Policy Sponsor:	Dean, Academic Programs	Last Revised:	November 16, 2022
Administrative Responsibility:	Dean, Academic Programs	Review Scheduled:	November 2027
Approver:	General Faculties Council		

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts) program reviews is to ensure students receive the highest possible quality of academic programming.

B. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all AUArts credit academic programs, including interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary programs and those delivered on campus, on-line or at other physical locations or through collaborative delivery arrangements. For purposes of this Policy, individual degrees are considered distinct programs.

C. POLICY STATEMENT

1. USE OF PROGRAM REVIEWS

- 1.1 The primary use of AUArts program reviews is to improve programs through implementation of Program Action Plans, the key outcome of the program review process at AUArts.
- 1.2 Program reviews provide an opportunity for academic units to conduct thorough self-study and critical assessment of their programs, to receive valuable input from current and former students, external academic experts, employers, and other partners, and to explore current trends and leading-edge developments in the design and delivery of similar programs.
- 1.3 Cyclical program reviews help ensure that AUArts programs stay current, academically rigorous, responsive to student and societal needs, and in alignment with institutional goals and priorities.
- 1.4 Program reviews help promote an overall institutional culture of excellence, currency, and continuous improvement.

- 1.5 Program reviews help meet student, government, and sector expectations regarding rigorous quality assessment and continuous improvement of post-secondary academic programs.
- 1.6 Cyclical program reviews are identified as an essential component of post-secondary academic quality assurance by national and provincial bodies including Universities Canada (UC) and the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC).
- 1.7 The results of AUArts degree program reviews will be submitted to the CAQC, as per CAQC guidelines for degree program quality monitoring.
- 1.8 Summary results of AUArts program reviews will be made public through posting on the AUArts website, as per UC principles of quality assurance in Canadian higher education.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The cyclical review process at AUArts:

- 2.1 Is primarily formative in nature with a focus on identifying and implementing means of improving the quality of programs going forward;
- 2.2 Is grounded in the academic touchstones of critical analysis, rigorous self-assessment, peer review, and creative problem solving;
- 2.3 Involves broad partner input, including input from students, alumni, faculty, administration, community representatives, employers, receiving institutions such as transfer institutions and graduate schools, and professional associations (as appropriate);
- 2.4 Is clearly delineated and communicated to all those involved in the process as well as to other internal and external partners;
- 2.5 Allows for some flexibility to accommodate particular program circumstances;
- 2.6 Considers a program within a broad context including the history of the program, its reputation, trends and developments within the relevant discipline/profession, leading practices, current institutional goals and priorities, the Alberta post-secondary education system and other contextual factors relevant to understanding and advancing the program;
- 2.7 Bases the overall assessment of program quality on a wide range of criteria, rather than on any single criterion;
- 2.8 Bases the assessment of program quality on appropriate national, provincial, institutional, and discipline/professional standards;

- 2.9 Is supported by appropriate resources and support including coordination support through Office of Research and Academic Affairs (ORAA), Student Services and the Registrar's Office, Computing and Technical Services (C+TS), Luke Lindoe Library and Learning and Instructional Services, and financial support through the Office of the Dean, Academic Programs.
- 2.10 Is efficient in the use of valuable resources such as the time required of faculty, students, external reviewers and other involved in the review process;
- 2.11 Follows the national quality assurance principles of UC; and
- 2.12 Meets the provincial quality assurance requirements of the CAQC.

3. PROGRAM ELEMENTS ASSESSED

The following are the main program elements assessed in the cyclical review process:

- 3.1 Previous program review results and responses (where applicable);
- 3.2 Program objectives, including learning outcomes, student/graduate success targets, etc.;
- 3.3 Program design, including curriculum, delivery, assessment, and policies;
- 3.4 Student support, including academic advising, learning support, career support, etc.;
- 3.5 Faculty and staff, including their profile, teaching, scholarship, evaluation, and professional development;
- 3.6 Other resources, including library resources, facilities, and equipment;
- 3.7 Students and graduates, including their profile, success, achievement of learning outcomes, and satisfaction;
- 3.8 Academic administrative supports for faculty and for the program;
- 3.9 Recognition of the program credential for employment and further study;
- 3.10 Program viability in terms of student demand, society need and financial sustainability; and
- 3.11 Strategic alignment with AUArts' mandate, mission, and strategic goals including the institution's current strategies, frameworks and/or principles regarding equity, diversity, and inclusion and how the program advances EDI-related academic goals (e.g., Indigenous perspectives, international relevance, interdisciplinarity, intercultural competencies, social and environmental equity, and sustainability, etc.).

4. SCHEDULE OF PROGRAM REVIEWS

- 4.1 The schedule of program reviews is established by the Dean, Academic Programs, in consultation with the Directors.
- 4.2 AUArts credit academic programs normally undergo thorough review on a seven-year cycle.
- 4.3 Upon approval of the Dean, Academic Programs, a program may be reviewed on a shorter cycle to accommodate exceptional circumstances or the need to address pressing issues regarding the program.
- 4.4 The schedule of program reviews is updated annually and published on the University website.

D. DEFINITIONS

(1)	Policy:	Cyclical Review of Academic Programs Policy
(2)	University:	Alberta University of the Arts
(3)	CAQC:	Campus Alberta Quality Council
(4)	UC:	Universities Canada
(5)	ORAA:	Office of Research and Academic Affairs
(6)	CTS:	Computing and Technical Services
(7)	Program:	For purposes of this Policy, individual degrees are considered distinct programs.
(8)	Director:	School Director associated with the program under review.

E. RELATED POLICIES

- Cyclical Review of Academic Program Procedure
- Consolidated Graduate Studies Procedures

F. RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act*
- *Programs of Study Regulation*

G. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Campus Alberta Quality Council Guidelines for Degree Program Quality Monitoring
- Self-Study Report – Template
- Peer Review Report – Template
- Universities Canada Principles of Quality Assurance in Canadian Higher Education

H. REVISION HISTORY

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Description of Change	Sections	Person who Entered Revision (Position Title)	Person who Authorized Revision (Position Title)
11/16/2022	new	ALL	Dean, Academic Programs	Dean, Academic Programs