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Texas Administrative Code

[TITLE 19](#)

EDUCATION

[PART 1](#)

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

[CHAPTER 5](#)

RULES APPLYING TO PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, HEALTH-RELATED INSTITUTIONS, AND/OR SELECTED PUBLIC COLLEGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN TEXAS

[SUBCHAPTER C](#)

APPROVAL OF NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, HEALTH-RELATED INSTITUTIONS, AND REVIEW OF EXISTING DEGREE PROGRAMS

RULE §5.46

Criteria for New Doctoral Programs

(10) Carefully Planned Program. The proposed program should be a carefully planned and systematic program with a degree plan which is clear, comprehensive, and generally uniform but which permits sufficient flexibility to meet the legitimate professional interests and special needs of doctoral-level degree students. There should be a logical sequence by which degree requirements shall be fulfilled. Consideration must also be given to alternative methods of determining mastery of program content, such as competency-based education, prior learning assessment, and other options for reducing student time to degree. The proposed degree plan should require both specialization and breadth of education, with rules for the distribution of study to achieve both, including interdisciplinary programs if indicated. The plan should include a research dissertation or equivalent requirements to be judged by the doctoral faculty on the basis of quality rather than length.

(11) External Learning Experiences. There must be a plan for providing external learning experiences for students, such as internships, clerkships, or clinical experiences, in disciplines that require them. The plan should include provisions for increasing the number of opportunities for such experiences if the number of students in existing programs equals or exceeds the available number of opportunities in Texas.

(12) Support Staff. There should be an adequate number of support staff to provide sufficient services for both existing programs and any proposed increases in students and faculty that would result from the implementation of the proposed program.

(13) Physical Facilities. There should be an adequate physical plant for the program. An adequate plant would include reasonably located office space for the faculty, teaching assistants, and administrative and technical support staff; seminar rooms; laboratories, computer and electronic resources; and other appropriate facilities.

(14) Library and IT Resources. Library and information technology resources must be adequate for the proposed program and meet the standards of the appropriate accrediting agencies. Library resources should be strong in the proposed doctoral program field and in related and supporting fields.

(15) Costs and Funding. The institution should have a budgetary plan for the proposed program that clearly delineates the anticipated costs and the sources of funding. Costs for new personnel and physical resources should be adequate and reasonable, existing programs should not be negatively affected by the reallocation of funds, state funding income should be calculated correctly, and total revenues should exceed total costs by the fifth year of projected program operation.

(16) Program Evaluation Standards. The proposed program should meet the standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and the accrediting standards and doctoral program criteria of appropriate professional groups and organizations, such as the Council of Graduate Schools, the Modern Language Association, the American Historical Association, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology or other bodies relevant to the particular discipline. Out-of-state consultants shall be used by the institution and the Board to assist in evaluating the quality of a proposed doctoral level program. The institution submitting the proposal is responsible for reimbursing the Coordinating Board for the costs associated with the external review by out-of-state contractors.

(17) Strategic Plan. The proposed program should build on existing strengths at the institution as indicated by its Program Inventory, should fit into the institution's strategic plan, and should align with the state's strategic plan.

(18) Marketable Skills. There must be a list of the marketable skills associated with the proposed program in keeping with the state strategic plan, 60x30TX, and a plan for how students will be informed of the marketable skills.

(19) First Doctoral Program. When an institution has not previously offered doctoral level work, notification to the executive secretary of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, is required at least one year in advance of program implementation.