3.4.1 The institution demonstrates that each educational program for which academic credit is awarded is approved by the faculty and the administration. (Academic program approval)

Compliance Status: Compliance

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| Each educational program for which academic credit is awarded at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is approved by the faculty and administration. New program proposals originate with the departmental faculty who research the need for the degree, determine its structure, and ensure that programs contain appropriate courses reflecting current knowledge within a discipline. In accordance with University Rule 03.02.02.C1, which specifically states that, "All requests [for new degree programs], both substantive and non-substantive, must be approved through the faculty curriculum review process of the relevant college and by the dean of the college," the policies of each college affirm the requirement for faculty approval of curricular changes and additions to the curriculum. For example, the handbook of the College of Science and Technology states, "Program, course, and catalog changes usually originate from faculty in the various programs of the Departments. ... Curricula origination and review responsibilities reside with the faculty." In addition, the policies of the colleges of Science and Technology and Liberal Arts both contain a reference that on occasion, the College of Education may request changes in teacher certification programs. The colleges of Education, Liberal Arts, and Science and Technology have college-wide curriculum committees that review and recommend the approval of new curricula. The College of Business has Undergraduate and Graduate Advisory Committees, bodies that review programs and forward them to the Dean for final approval. The College of Nursing and Health Sciences has a graduate and undergraduate committee that submits its recommendation to the college faculty as a whole.

Discipline faculty develop formal program proposals. The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs provides assistance in the process, particularly with the degree program proposal template provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for description and justification of the proposed program. It also helps ensure that proposals for baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degree programs meet the specific standards set by the coordinating board. Proposals must meet the criteria for new programs as outlined by the THECB in its Policies and Procedures Manual and CB Rule 5.45, Criteria for Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Programs, and for Doctoral degree programs, CB Rule 5.46.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's University Rule 03.02.02.C1 clearly outlines the approval process. Once approved by the department and/or college faculty and the dean of the college, approval for new programs "must be obtained from the Provost's Council, the Faculty Senate, the Provost, and the President. Proposal requests for new graduate degree programs must be reviewed and approved by the Graduate Council." These bodies use the review criteria as outlined in the THECB standards. The Faculty Senate's Academic Affairs Committee screens new program
requests and submits them for full Senate approval. The Faculty Senate then recommends approval to the Provost. Finally, the President's signature certifies that the program can be adequately funded. Following this internal review process, as outlined in Texas A&M System Regulation 03.02.02, new programs are submitted to the A&M-System Board of Regents and subsequently to the THECB [11]. All degree programs at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi have been approved by the THECB and can be found on the THECB's website in its list of approved programs [12].

For illustration, the recently-approved program request for a Master of Arts in Communication, along with minutes from the relevant approval bodies and notification of approval, is included in the supporting documentation [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20].

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the programs for which academic credit is awarded at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi are approved by the faculty and administration. All programs are reviewed and approved in accordance with university rules, system regulations, and THECB requirements.

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**Evidence**

- UD 139 AMCC 03-02-02-C1 Development of New Academic Degree Programs
- CD 002 COB faculty handbook-curriculum review process
- CD 003 COE faculty handbook pp 60-61
- CD 004 CLA pages from faculty handbook
- CD 005 CONHS faculty handbook-CurriculumReviewProcess
- CD 006 CollegeofScienceTechCurriculumReviewChangeApproval
- SD 035 THECB NewProgramRequestFormBachelorandMasters
- SD 036 THECB Standards-Bachelor and Masters
- SD 037 THECB 5-45 Criteria for New Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Programs
- SD 038 THECB 5-46 Criteria for New Doctoral Programs
- BD 004 TAMUS 03-02-02 Approval Procedures for Degree Programs, Administrative Changes, etc
- SD 009 2.1-20 THECB Inventory CIP
- UD 145 New Program Request for MA in Communication
- CD 007 LA Minutes 10-26-2007
- UD 147 Graduate Council Minutes Meeting 120607
- UD 148 Faculty Senate Minutes 3-14-2008
- UD 149 Provosts Council Minutes 02192008
- UD 150 New Program Request Signature Page
- BD 062 TAMU System NotificationOfApproval
- SD 040 THECB NoticeOfApproval