

Process for Proposing New Undergraduate or Graduate Degree Programs
(Approved by the Academic Senate, spring 2018)

Since the decision to grant (or not grant) new types of degrees in specific programs potentially affects all divisions of the College, the development of a new degree program in a specific discipline must be authorized by the Academic Senate *before* it is submitted by the Curriculum Committee. Prior to authorizing the development of a proposal the Academic Senate will consider the potential impacts on the various divisions of the College, review the staffing and other budgetary implications of the proposal, and determine whether the proposal is consistent with the mission, vision, and values of the College. Authorization will generally precede full development of the content of a new degree program and, for that reason, authorization by the Academic Senate signals the College's endorsement of the specific proposal *in concept only*. Authorization does not imply final approval of a new degree program, but simply permission and encouragement to proceed with development of a fully articulated degree program. Authorization by the Academic Senate is a precondition for submission of a proposed new degree program to the Curriculum Committee.

Upon receipt of an authorized proposal by the Curriculum Committee, the Committee shall examine the academic content of the proposal, including, but not limited to, the proposal degree program's academic rigor, conformity to content norms within the discipline, and clarity of objectives. The purview of the Curriculum Committee is limited to the academic content of the proposal and does not include the issues that the Academic Senate is required to consider in the authorization of a proposal. Upon completion of its work, the Curriculum Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Academic Senate.

Upon receipt of the Curriculum Committee's report, the Academic Senate shall take up the matter and, after due consideration, take one of the following actions: (1) approve the proposal and forward it to the full faculty for a vote; (2) request specific further development of the proposal; or (3) reject the proposal.

This process applies to each proposed new degree. For example, a B.F.A. in Art would require separate authorization and approval from a B.F.A. in Theater. Likewise, a B.S. in Physics would require separate authorization and approval from a B.S. in Chemistry.