**Policy Statement.** This policy prescribes how new programs (i.e., departments, schools, degree programs, and/or certificate programs) can be added, substantively changed or expanded and it identifies the entities engaged in the approval process.

**Application of Policy.** Faculty and Academic Administrators.

**Definitions.** None.

**Procedures and Responsibilities.**

1. **Approval of New Programs.**

   (a) No new department, school, degree program, or certificate program may be added at the University of North Texas except with specific prior approval of the University's System Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

   (b) No new department, school, degree program, or certificate program approved by the Board of Regents will be initiated by the University until the Coordinating Board has made a written finding that the department, school, degree program, or certificate program is adequately financed by legislative appropriation, by funds allocated by the Board of Regents, or by funds from other sources.

   (c) No funds appropriated to the University may be expended for any program which has been disapproved by the Coordinating Board, unless the program is subsequently specifically approved by the legislature.

   (d) No new academic programs can be offered without approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).
2. **Substantive Changes to Academic Programs.**

   Any time the University seeks a significant modification or expansion of the nature and scope of an academic program (including off-campus and distance education), the University will follow the substantive change procedures established by SACSCOC, and will inform SACSCOC of such changes in accordance with those procedures. Except in those types of changes exempted by SACSCOC, the University will not implement any substantive change to an accredited program without receiving prior approval from SACSCOC.

3. **Expansion of Existing Programs.**

   Once approved, no department, school, degree program, or certificate program at the University may be expanded to include subject matter courses that are outside of approved degree and certificate programs except with specific prior approval of the Board of Regents.

4. **Expenditures for Programs Disapproved by the Board.**

   No funds appropriated to the University may be expended for any program which has been disapproved by the Coordinating Board, unless the program is subsequently specifically approved by the legislature.

5. **SACSCOC Liaison.**

   The President shall appoint an official liaison between the University and SACSCOC who will be responsible for developing and implementing procedures necessary to assure compliance with SACSCOC requirements (and policies).

   **Responsible Party:** Vice President for Academic Affairs

**References and Cross-references.**
http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp

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**Reviewed with non-substantive changes, formatted