

## TCU University Council Proposal

**Proposal:** Allowing academic programs with a specialized programmatic accreditor (SPA) to use the SPA review in place of the TCU program review.

**Submitted by:** Dr. David E. Allen, Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness and SACSCOC Institutional Liaison

**Background:** It is common practice at many institutions of higher learning to allow specialized programmatic accreditor (SPA) reviews to serve in place of the institutional program reviews for those programs covered by a specialized accreditor review with a review cycle of 10 years or less. Programs within a department and college that are not reviewed by an approved specialized accreditor will be required to complete the TCU program review. The reasonings behind this shift to allow SPA reviews to serve as the TCU program review include:

- The approved specialized programmatic accreditor reviews are sufficiently rigorous and encompassing to serve in place of the TCU program review.
- The efficiency of effort required for the reviews. The specialized accreditation cycles vary from 5-10 years, with most at the 6-8 year frequency, making an efficient alignment with a 10-year TCU schedule impossible.
- This approach is common practice among institutions of higher education.
- This allows TCU to focus institutional resources on programs that do not have a method for external accountability through specialized accreditation.

As is common practice in assessment and accreditation, programs that are composed of a subset of courses from a larger program and taught at the same instructional level (undergraduate, masters, or doctoral) do not require an independent program review from the larger program. Examples include a minor or certificate that is a subset of courses for a specific degree major.

Programs that remain on the TCU 10-year cycle will continue to complete their reviews as scheduled. A reorganization of the current schedule is in process to account for the removal of the programs with a specialized accreditor.

Approved accreditors include those recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). If a specialized accreditor is not found on the USDOE or CHEA lists, they may be approved if they have a long-standing history of rigor and acceptance in academia. Requests for these exceptions should be made to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

Table 1. List of TCU Approved Specialized Accreditors

Specialized Accreditor	Recognized by		
	USDOE	CHEA	Other
Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics	Yes		
Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education	Yes		
Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant		Yes	
Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology			Est. 1932
Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication		Yes	
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business			Est. 1916
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education	Yes		
Commission on the Accreditation of Athletic Training Education		Yes	
Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs		Yes	
Council for Interior Design Accreditation		Yes	
Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology	Yes	Yes	
Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs	Yes	Yes	
Council on Social Work Education		Yes	
Liaison Committee on Medical Education	Yes		
National Association of Schools of Art and Design	Yes		
National Association of Schools of Dance	Yes		
National Association of Schools of Music	Yes		
Texas Education Agency			Est. 1949

**Motion:** Allow academic programs with an approved specialized programmatic accreditor (SPA) to use the SPA review in place of the TCU program review as long as the SPA accreditation cycle is 10 years or fewer in length.