



Western Nebraska
Community College

WCCA Board of Governors' Policy

Title:	New Instructional Programs – Academic and Non-Credit
Division:	Educational Services
Category:	Curriculum and Instruction
Reference:	Nebraska Revised Statutes §85-1404, 85-1410, and 85-1414 The Higher Learning Commission Requirements for Substantive Change: New Academic Programs (2020) BP-613 (Differentiation of Educational Programs)
Number:	BP-616
Date of Approval:	July 19, 2023
Approval:	F. Lynne Klemke, President, WCCA Board of Governors

Purpose

Western Nebraska Community College strives to provide innovative programs that meets the needs of students and their transfer or employability goals across all areas of the curriculum. This policy sets forth the process for the approval of new instructional programs, either academic or non-credit in nature.

Scope

This policy applies to all new programs offered by the College.

Definitions

Academic Program – A curriculum of coursework involving core requirements and general education and elective credits that, upon completion, leads to WNCC conferring a certificate, diploma, or associates degree.

Non-Credit Program – A curriculum of coursework involving classes for students wishing to gain general knowledge, learn or upgrade a skill or set of skills, or develop personal interests. Non-credit programs may lead to a credential or “micro-credential” (such as a “certificate of

completion”) generally recognized by business or industry or other community of stakeholders but are not included in an Academic Program.

Policy

The Board of Governors will approve all credit-bearing programs leading to the conferring of a certificate, diploma, or degree before they are formally offered.

Following approval of the Board, but before new academic programs are formally offered, they may also require approval by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission on Post-Secondary Education (CCPE), the College’s institutional accrediting agency, and the U.S. Department of Education when Title IV financial aid is viable.

Non-credit programs are overseen by the Executive Director of Workforce Development or their designee and are approved by the Chief Academic Officer in consultation with the President’s leadership team. The Board of Governors does not approve non-credit programs.

Procedures

The College President shall promulgate such procedures as may be necessary for the implementation of this policy

Revising this Policy

This Board Policy supersedes any prior WNCC policy, procedure, guideline, or handbook on this subject matter.

If statutory provisions, regulatory guidance, or court interpretations change or conflict with this Board Policy, the Board retains the right to revise accordingly and for the changes to take effect immediately.

Original Adoption Date (and Board of Governor’s Minutes Item Number): 1986

Revision Date (and Board of Governors’ Minutes Item Number):

Prior Policy Number:

610.0400.86 (New Programs)

Schedule for Review:

Divisions/Department Responsible for Review and Update: Executive Vice President

Sponsoring Division/Department: Educational Services

Repeal Date:

Cross Reference:

Procedure(s) for Policy:

AP-616 (Creation of New Instructional Programs)

Related Policies/References: