

Program Quality Assurance	
Category: Academic	Approval Date: January 9, 2020
Policy Owner: Academic Council	Effective Date: January 1, 2020
Policy Administrator: Academic Policy Committee	Review Period: 5 Years
Recommended by: Academic Council	
Associated Procedures	
Refer to and use the following Procedures and their Associated Documents:	
1. Program Development	4. Annual Program Improvement
2. Curriculum Development, Redevelopment, and Documentation	5. Apprenticeship Program Review (QIPR)
3. Formative Program Review	6. Credit Program Review (QIPR)
	7. Accredited/Externally Approved Program Review (QIPR)
	8. External Reviewer for Program Review (QIPR)

PURPOSE

To promote the development, redevelopment, documentation, and review of program curricula to provide Red Deer College (RDC) students with high quality programming that meets or exceeds institutional, provincial, national, professional and/or accreditation standards.

SCOPE

This policy and its associated procedures apply to those involved in program development or redevelopment, program and/or curriculum review, and documentation of curriculum at RDC. It does not apply to Non-Credit Programming, with the exception of the Apprenticeship Quality Improvement Program Review Procedures.

POLICY

Program Development/Redevelopment

1. New and redeveloped programs are accessible, affordable, accountable, of high quality, and align with student, community, and regional needs and with RDC’s Strategic Plan.
2. Program development and redevelopment of credit programs at RDC follow a systematic, staged process to ensure
 - a. suitable consultation with stakeholders,
 - b. appropriate resource allocation,
 - c. transparent decision making, and
 - d. high program quality.

3. These stages guide decision-making, appropriately taking into account community and regional directions, College strategic directions, capacity, relative risk, implementation, and program quality.

Curriculum Development, Review, and Documentation

1. Program curriculum is documented using standards that meet institutional, provincial, national, and professional and/or accreditation standards.
2. Curriculum is approved and re-approved by the appropriate academic governance body to ensure ongoing quality assurance.
3. Curriculum is reviewed in full or in part during Program Review or when a need is identified.

Program Review and Quality Assurance

1. Program review provides students the highest possible quality educational experience through program improvement processes.
2. These processes support planning, developing, and adapting programs to better meet the needs of students and the community.
3. These processes identify specific areas for improvement and planning for appropriate resource allocation.
4. Program review includes procedures for annual program improvement, formative review of new and redeveloped programs following the first graduating class, and cyclical review of credit and apprenticeship programs.

RELATED POLICIES

[Credit Program Suspension, Cancellation, and Reinstatement Policy](#)

[Non-Credit Programming Policy](#)