

- 2.7.2** The institution offers degree programs that embody a coherent course of study that is compatible with its stated mission and is based upon fields of study appropriate to higher education. **(Program Content)**

Judgment of Compliance

Compliance

Narrative

Albany State University has established policies and procedures that ensure degree programs embody a coherent curriculum that are based upon fields of study appropriate to established practices in higher education. Core curriculum requirements are progressively more demanding [1] and provide a foundation of knowledge for courses in the major programs of study. Degree programs provide a progressively more advanced course of study as described in Albany State University's Undergraduate [2] and Graduate Catalogs [3].

The primary mission of the university is to educate students [4]. As a liberal arts institution, courses in the undergraduate program are sequenced based on a path of study that begins with a general education curriculum and extends into higher level courses with mandatory discipline-specific courses and relevant electives. All undergraduate degree programs include required courses that department and program faculties select to represent the discipline, and elective courses that expose students to the breadth of the discipline or field. Master's degree programs generally require evidence of completion of identified pre-requisite courses [5]. Core and specialty concentration courses and seminars at the graduate level build on these pre-requisites. Some master's programs require a research component and all require written and oral comprehensive exams [6].

Program and curricula requirements, modifications and adaptation of new programs to meet changing educational needs are initiated by faculty and must be approved by the Faculty Senate [7] as well as the University System of Georgia [8]. Stringent requirements and detailed procedures for adding, changing, and dropping an undergraduate program; establishing a new course; and making changes to an existing course. These policies and procedures are designed to ensure that academic programs are both coherent and based upon fields appropriate to higher education.

External reviewers provide additional evidence of program coherence through program review procedures. These findings are used to make improvements to programs through curriculum refinements, and other adjustments. Preservation of the quality of our academic programs is further maintained through professional peer review and scrutiny of discipline-specific accredited programs at the institution [9], [10].

Supporting Documentation

- [1] [Coherent Core Provides a Foundation for the Major, Albany State University Core Curriculum](#)

- [2] [Baccalaureate Level Programs of Study, Arts and Humanities, Business, Education, Sciences and Health Professions](#)
- [3] [Graduate Level Programs of Study, ASU Graduate Catalog](#)
- [4] [Mission of the University, Undergraduate Catalog, page 9](#)
- [5] [Sample Graduate Prerequisite Course List, Graduate Catalog, page 31](#)
- [6] [Requirements for Graduate Degrees, Graduate Catalog, page 19](#)
- [7] [Albany State University Faculty Senate Academic Program Approval Process, Faculty Handbook, Committee on Curriculum and New Programs, pages 28-29](#)
- [8] [University System of Georgia Academic Program Approval Process](#)
- [9] [University System of Georgia Academic Program Review](#)
- [10] [Albany State University Model for Academic Program Review](#)