WSCUC *(WASC Senior College and University Commission)*
New Programs/ New Specializations Screening Form

About the form: *Institutions planning to implement new degree programs must submit a screening form to WSCUC to determine if a Substantive Change review and approval is necessary **prior to implementation**. A determination on the necessity of review is made after submission of the form and any further information requested by WSCUC.*

Program Information Needed for WSCUC Form

Full Name of Program or Specialization (no abbreviations)- *this name should match what will be listed in the general catalog. If submitting a specialization that can be used for multiple departments, provide full name of degree with specialization for each unit.*

Description of Program (300 words or more)- *If submitting a specialization that can be used for multiple departments, please note if the description can be used for all departments. If not, please add a description for each department specialization. Page 2 can also be used for the descriptions.*

Start Date of Proposed Program:

Degree Level (select one):   **Modality (select one):**

Anticipated CIP Code of proposed program (found under the *resources* section- ISIS major codes (Excel) link)

Designate if any of the following apply- *if none apply, leave blank* *see definitions on last page*

☐ Competency-based Degree Program   ☐ Duration - Change in Degree Program Length

Please provide the names of the institution's two most closely related programs to the proposed program (please use the names listed in the UCSD Catalog undergraduate degrees or graduate degrees).

1st Program Name:

2nd Program Name:

Number of new courses being required for this program:

Number of units/credits required for completion of the program:

How many new faculty members will be required for this program?

Please describe any significant additional equipment or facilities needed for the program.

Please describe any significant additional financial resources needed.

Please describe any significant additional library/learning resources needed.

Description of Program Continued:

Definitions of Terms on the Form:

Competency-Based Education (CBE)- direct assessment programs do not measure student learning in terms of credit hours or clock hours. Instead, they use the assessment of a student's attainment of competencies as the primary means of determining whether the student earns a degree. Institutions may currently be incorporating elements of competency-based award of credit in which some components of a degree program are satisfied though assessment of competencies. When the assessment of competencies serves as the singular basis for the award of the degree, it meets the definition set by the U.S. Department of Education as a "direct assessment" program. Federal policy requires that the Secretary of Education approve a direct assessment program subsequent to WSCUC approval if students will be eligible for title IV funds for the program.

As applied to the WSCUC Substantive Change Policy, a direct assessment program has five main elements:

1. The program is designed and delivered within the framework of the program's defined knowledge, skills, and dispositions (competencies) as demonstrated by students, rather than in terms of prescribed courses.
2. A student may acquire the requisite competencies from multiple sources and at various times other than, or in addition to, the learning experiences provided by the institution. As such, the length of time it takes to demonstrate learning may be different for each student. Time is the variable; learning is the constant.
3. The institution employs assessment strategies that are capable of establishing each student's achievement of each competency at the level of rigor appropriate to the degree being offered. These strategies will be responsive to the complexity of learning and the accumulation and integration of knowledge expected for the degree, such as through capstone projects or portfolios.
4. The institution establishes that the outcomes for the degree are equivalent in scope and rigor to those of recognized degree programs offered in traditional formats at other institutions or in its own course catalog.
5. The institution has well-developed policies that address related WSCUC and/or federal requirements, including: credit hour definitions; transcript recording and reporting; the assessment and award of credit for prior learning; the roles of faculty members and other educational professionals; disbursement of financial aid; and tuition charges and refunds.

DURATION: Change in Length of Program- Duration refers to a substantial change (typically 25% or more) in the number of clock or credit hours awarded for successful completion of a program or in its overall length. If the proposed changes would result in a significantly different program, a substantive change review may be required.

For any questions, please contact Hailey Caraballo (hlcaraballo@ucsd.edu).

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