

Day 11: Did you know about indicators of the currency of CMU's courses and programs?

HLC Criterion 3.A.1. Course and program currency and appropriate student performance by award level.

Currency and appropriateness of CMU course and program requirements by degree level are evaluated through internal processes that are validated by external reviewers. Faculty members must be knowledgeable about new subject matter, monitor trends and specialties as their field evolves, as well as be able to effectively convey the material. As one indicator of this monitoring, 37 program additions, 121 program modifications, 10 program deletions, 119 course additions, 123 course modifications and 114 course deletions were proposed for review in Academic Year (AY) 2016-17. These various forms of updating curricula reflect faculty members' attention to the currency of their programs.

External validation of program and course currency and expectations comes in many forms. [Eleven academic and professional programs](#) have external accreditation or approval, with periodic review that ensures rigor, relevancy and currency of the programs. [Pass rates](#) on discipline-specific licensure or exit examinations for CMU students match or significantly exceed state and/or national averages. Similarly, other programs undergo program review every six years that involves an evaluation by an external reviewer. In general, reviews of the 22 programs completing the process to date have been very favorable, with curriculum found to be "current, follow[ing] best practices, and/or adheri[ng] to the professional standards of the discipline."

CMU's Essential Learning (EL), or general education, courses also have an external perspective. Currently, 84 lower division courses are designated for EL credit to meet the 31 credit hour core requirements. Colorado public institutions submit the general education courses for review as part of the State's guaranteed transfer program, [gtPathways](#), with approved courses transferring across all Colorado four- and two-year public institutions. Approval of CMU courses at the state level ensures that courses meet the same standards for content and learning outcomes as those offered by other Colorado institutions. Because of the dynamic nature of courses, be they changes in a course module, a retitling, deletion, or some other modification, CCHE recently initiated a review of all previously-approved courses as specified in state policy.

Finally, many four- and two-year CMU programs have [external advisory boards](#), generally consisting of representatives of local employers and industry. Such boards offer oversight of the curriculum of these programs and thus ensure the currency of the program.

To learn more, log into MAVzone and click on the document link found in the CMU Assurance Argument for HLC channel (top left on the Home tab) for the full text of CMU's Assurance Argument. Links to supporting evidence are identified by underlined words but are not available through the PDF version.

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