

Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2000 Edition

For course and degree program approvals and classifications, the Coordinating Board uses an adaptation of the system used by the U.S. Department of Education in its Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The IPEDS taxonomy currently in use, A Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP), includes 47 broad academic categories. All courses and degree programs are classified within these divisions:

01	AGRICULTURE, AGRICULTURE OPERATIONS, & RELATED SCIENCES	32	BASIC SKILLS
03	NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION	33	CITIZENSHIP ACTIVITIES
04	ARCHITECTURE & RELATED SERVICES	34	HEALTH-RELATED KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS
05	AREA, ETHNIC, CULTURAL, & GENDER STUDIES	35	INTERPERSONAL & SOCIAL SKILLS
09	COMMUNICATION, JOURNALISM & RELATED PROGRAMS	36	LEISURE & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
10	COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES/TECHNICIANS & SUPPORT SERVICES	37	PERSONAL AWARENESS & SELF-IMPROVEMENT
11	COMPUTER & INFORMATION SCIENCES & SUPPORT SERVICES	38	PHILOSOPHY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES
12	PERSONAL & CULINARY SERVICES	39	THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS
13	EDUCATION	40	PHYSICAL SCIENCES
14	ENGINEERING	41	SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES/TECHNICIANS
15	ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES/TECHNICIANS	42	PSYCHOLOGY
16	FOREIGN LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, & LINGUISTICS	43	SECURITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES
19	FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES/HUMAN SCIENCES	44	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS
21	TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION/INDUSTRIAL ARTS	45	SOCIAL SCIENCES
22	LEGAL PROFESSIONS & STUDIES	46	CONSTRUCTION TRADES
23	ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE/LETTERS	47	MECHANIC & REPAIR TECHNOLOGIES/TECHNICIANS
24	LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES, GENERAL STUDIES & HUMANITIES	48	PRECISION PRODUCTION
25	LIBRARY SCIENCE	49	TRANSPORTATION & MATERIALS MOVING
26	BIOLOGICAL & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES	50	VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS
27	MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS	51	HEALTH PROFESSIONS & RELATED CLINICAL SCIENCES
28	RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (JROTC, ROTC)	52	BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, MARKETING, & RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES
29	MILITARY TECHNOLOGIES	54	HISTORY
30	MULTI/INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES	60	DENTAL, MEDICAL & VETERINARY RESIDENCY PROGRAMS
31	PARKS, RECREATION, LEISURE & FITNESS STUDIES		

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Universities Division

Degree Programs, Support Areas, and Degree Titles

(Approved October 1986)

The terms used to describe authorized degree programs can be confusing. Different terms, concentration, track, option, emphasis, specialization, major, are used by universities to designate degree programs. This document helps institutions determine what a degree program is, what it is not, and how to tell the difference.

The term "degree program" is defined in legislation (Texas Education Code, Section 61.003) and is explicated in the Coordinating Board's 1979 *Guidelines for Recognition and Classification of Courses and Degree Program Offerings*. These guidelines specify use of the taxonomy employed by the Department of Education for its national higher education data system, currently, *A Classification of Instructional Programs* (CIP) adapted for Texas. The Texas CIP taxonomy is used to identify courses, degree programs, declared majors and degrees awarded. Declared majors and degrees awarded must be reported separately for each authorized degree program.

A degree program is "any grouping of subject matter courses which, when satisfactorily completed by a student, will entitle him/her to a degree from a public senior college or University or medical or dental unit."

Course groupings are considered to be degree programs if they are substantially the same as those for a degree in a similar discipline at the institution or in the same discipline specialty (as identified by Texas CIP classification) at similar institutions. Therefore,

- ! It is the grouping of courses within the curriculum that designates a degree program concentration, major, track, option, or specialization.
- ! Authority for a degree program justifies all the courses required for the discipline specialty and some additional courses to provide flexibility within the specialty.
- ! Modification of an existing degree program to the extent that its Texas CIP classification no longer applies constitutes creation of a *new* degree program which must be approved before it is offered or publicized.

A support area is a grouping of courses for which an institution does not have degree authority. The number of courses in a support area is limited to fewer than would provide a degree program in that specialty at that level. Support areas may include a single discipline, a subcategory of an approved degree program, or a component of a multi-disciplinary specialty.

- ! For example, an institution may be authorized to offer a degree program in Psychology, but have only support area authority in Experimental, Counseling, and Clinical Psychology. The number of courses authorized in each of the latter three areas would be less than the semester credit hour requirements for a degree program in one.
- ! To avoid confusion, approved degree programs and support areas should not be described in the same terms.
- ! Curriculum displays provided for support areas, must not suggest authorized degree programs.
- ! An institution may use any term to denote support areas, but must clearly describe the extent of the groupings of courses that may be taken by a student.

A *degree title* is the name of the degree and discipline under which one or more degree programs may be offered.

A degree title usually consists of the degree designation and discipline specialty. For example, an institution may offer degree programs in Experimental Psychology, Counseling Psychology, and Clinical Psychology under the single degree title "Master of Science with major in Psychology."

The degree designation is "Master of Science" or "MS." Each of the three degree programs would require Coordinating Board approval and separate identification in the official degree program inventory before they could be offered or advertised.

- ! Modification of an authorized degree title requires Coordinating Board approval before it may be publicized.
- ! Minor modifications which do not alter the content or nature of degree programs may be approved by the Coordinating Board staff upon application from an institution.

**Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Universities Division**

Timelines for Review of Proposals for New Degree Programs and Administrative Changes

All non-doctoral proposals submitted in complete form and received before a regular quarterly Board meeting will be considered as soon as possible but no later than the third regular, quarterly meeting following that meeting. Doctoral proposals will be considered within four regular quarterly meetings following the first meeting after they are submitted. Consideration may result in approval, denial, or referral of the proposal back to the institution. Table 1 provides the current time lines for Board consideration of non-doctoral and doctoral proposals.

Table 1

If Proposal is received <i>before</i> the Board meeting in:	<i>Non-Doctoral</i> proposals* must be considered on or before the Board meeting in:	Doctoral proposals must* be considered on or before the Board meeting in:
January 2004	October 2004	January 2005
April 2004	January 2005	April 2005
July 2004	April 2005	July 2005
October 2004	July 2005	October 2005
January 2005	October 2005	January 2006
April 2005	January 2006	April 2006
July 2005	April 2006	July 2006
October 2005	July 2006	October 2006
January 2006	October 2006	January 2007
April 2006	January 2007	April 2007
July 2006	April 2007	July 2007
October 2006	July 2007	October 2007

* For these timelines to be effective, proposals must contain all of the information necessary for staff to prepare a thorough analysis.