



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

2025 Referral Report in Response to  
the Findings for  
Fifth-Year Interim Report 2024

# **Table of Contents**

Principle 9.2 – Program Length.....	3
Principle 10.7 – Policies for Awarding Credit.....	13

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## **Principle 9.2 - Program Length**

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*The institution offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. The institution provides an explanation of equivalencies when using units other than semester credit hours. The institution provides an appropriate justification for all degree programs and combined degree programs that include fewer than the required number of semester credit hours or its equivalent unit. (Program length) [CR]*

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### **Compliance Judgment**

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Compliance

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### **Narrative**

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#### **Letter from the SACSCOC President<sup>[1]</sup>**

#### *Compliance Judgment by the Fifth-Year Interim Report Committee*

Non-compliance

#### **Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee Findings<sup>[1]</sup>**

“The institution provided evidence that program length is at least 60 hours for associate degrees, 120 for baccalaureate degrees, and 30 for post-baccalaureate degrees. However, the institution also has a program called Fast Track. The Fast Track program allows undergraduate students to satisfy some of the requirements for the master’s degree by taking graduate credits while in their undergraduate program. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee was unable to find evidence that the Fast Track program requires students to take a total of 150 credit hours with 120 going toward the bachelor’s degree and a unique set of 30 credit hours going toward the master’s degree, or that the institution had made a compelling academic justification for the granting of both degrees for less than 150 credit hours.”

#### *Narrative*

The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) has enclosed its original eleven-page response from its submitted Fifth-Year Interim Report to Principle 9.2 Program Length.<sup>[2]</sup> To clarify, and which will be detailed later in this response, no UT Dallas Fast Track student over the past five years has graduated with both their bachelor's and master's degree with fewer than 150 total semester credit hours. No master’s degree was awarded with fewer than 30 semester credit hours of graduate coursework. Many of UT Dallas’ STEM undergraduate

programs require more than 120 hours and many graduate programs have required more than 30 SCH. In addition, students elect on their own to take additional coursework when funded.

Still, to recap the Fast Track option, for decades UT Dallas has had a Fast Track program that has been carefully reviewed by multiple SACSCOC review teams, including the visiting committees who followed up on it during the institution's 2008 and 2018 reaffirmation site visits and a special visiting committee who visited campus during a 2013-2015 monitoring period. In preparation for the 2015 removal of monitoring decision, UT Dallas' then-SACSCOC Vice President and then-President Belle Wheelan visited the UT Dallas campus in advance to advise on concerns, including the Fast Track program. In all visits, the Fast Track program was deemed to meet the Principle (in both their prior and existing forms) as evidenced by the removal of monitoring and no referrals regarding this Principle after the 2018 reaffirmation site visit; supporting documentation is referenced in the original fifth-year response.<sup>[3]</sup>

### ***Justification for Program: Fast Track Program Selectivity***

Historically and currently, UT Dallas has had an exceptional undergraduate student body who is committed to completing their studies within four years, averaging 57% for the past nine years. According to the University's Fast Facts webpage, UT Dallas ranks "#3 in Texas among public universities" for undergraduate students' four-year graduation rate of 62%<sup>[4]</sup> for the 2020 cohort and displayed as 61.72% within the University's Student Achievements webpage.<sup>[5]</sup> In comparison, per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, four-year graduation rates averaged 40% to 45% for the 2015-2019 cohorts.<sup>[6]</sup> The 2012 full-time cohort indicated a four-year graduation rate of 55.26% and had a 73.26% six-year graduation rate; the 2018 cohort had a 75.61% six-year graduation rate.<sup>[5]</sup> UT Dallas' average six-year graduation rate is 74%, and ranked higher than the Texas four-year institutions' six-year graduation rate of 66% for entering cohorts in 2015 to 2019.<sup>[6]</sup> UT Dallas' freshmen retention rate is 90% based on the University's Fall 2024 University Profile.<sup>[7]</sup> The University has provided the last 10 years of retention rates for the first-year or freshmen cohort which averaged 88%,<sup>[8]</sup> higher than the overall retention rate of 66% for the same entering cohorts in 2013-2022 according to the National Student Clearinghouse.<sup>[9]</sup> As for the statewide average, UT Dallas' average retention rate of 63% is also higher than those for Texas public universities per the retention table provided by Univstats.<sup>[10]</sup>

In addition, for academic year, 2024-2025, the 25th percentile SAT composite score is 1170 and the 75th percentile is 1390, with an average composite score of 1280.<sup>[11]</sup> Out of this particular cohort, 24.80% is ranked in the 1400-1600 SAT composite score range with another 44.62% in the 1200-1399 score range.<sup>[12]</sup> UT Dallas has also attracted National Merit Scholars; 175 freshman National Merit Scholars enrolled to UT Dallas as part of the fall 2024 cohort.<sup>[13]</sup> UT Dallas offers Academic Excellence Scholarships (AES) to incoming, first-time-in-college

freshmen (FTIC); the scholarship criteria include academic accomplishments, community involvement, leadership and distinction in extracurricular activities, work experiences, and/or national recognition and achievement. Thirty-one percent (31%) of UT Dallas' fall 2024 FTIC cohort received AES scholarships. To give context, UT Dallas enrolled 4,196 FTIC in fall 2024.<sup>[14]</sup>

The Fast Track option at UT Dallas is designed for these exceptional undergraduate students who must then also meet additional discipline-specific criteria and whom the program faculty agree the student has demonstrated the potential to be successful in graduate coursework. Although the requirements may vary slightly for each Fast Track program as provided in the original response, they share a common feature—the judgment by faculty that these Fast Track applicants meet the requirements for admission into the graduate program. As such, Fast Track is extremely selective, and undergraduate students are expected to do all the work that a typical master's student does and to perform at the same level as a master's student. The faculty expects that the Fast Track students will be challenged to perform in the rigorous graduate coursework and the University has added a new guideline on course load to assist with that balance.

#### *Course Load Consideration for Fast Track Students*

Each time a SACSCOC review committee questions UT Dallas' Fast Track program, the institution takes a deeper look at its program to identify further improvements. Upon receiving the Fifth-Year Interim Report Committee's findings and discussing them with the current SACSCOC Vice President assigned to UT Dallas, the institution's liaison discussed with the institution's governing bodies—which include the school associate graduate and undergraduate deans as well as faculty curriculum committees and the Academic Senate—about overload concerns for undergraduate students in Fast Track programs and about further refinements to some disciplines' Fast Track criteria. The results of those discussions are described further below, but first, the institution wishes to provide some data that clarifies the theoretical application of the program versus what happens in practice. Although the “double counting” of the semester credit hours toward an undergraduate degree and master's degree indicates that students could graduate with two degrees with 135 semester credit hours, that is not what happens in practice.

#### *Compliance with 150 Credit Hours*

As evidenced by the enclosed spreadsheet,<sup>[15]</sup> UT Dallas did not have any Fast Track students that did not meet the 150-hour minimum requirement in any major that participates in Fast Track for the last five years. There were 1,945 Fast Track students with a total of 1,369 Fast Track students who graduated with both undergraduate and graduate degrees; 565 current students are working on their graduate degrees and fewer than 20 dropped as shown in the summary.<sup>[15]</sup> Each student's record (extracted from the University's PeopleSoft system) displays the earned undergraduate and graduate SCH as shown in the

“UG\_CREDITS” and the “GR\_CREDITS” columns.<sup>[16]</sup> The records indicate that the students met or exceeded the minimum requirements of 120 undergraduate SCH and 30 graduate SCH respectively.

### *Academic Course Load for Fast Track Students*

Beginning in late spring 2024, after receiving feedback from the Fifth-Year Interim Report Committee, the unit leader and SACSCOC liaison in the Office of Institutional Success and Decision Support (OISDS) held multiple meetings with each school’s leadership to review its current practices regarding Fast Track protocols. She also held meetings with key campus stakeholders in the Office of the Provost, Office of the Registrar, Office of Admission and Enrollment, and internal governance committees. She and her office gathered the necessary data, such as analyzing the Fast Track requirements for each school,<sup>[17]</sup> to confirm again that the University’s Fast Track protocols and policies complied with SACSCOC Principle 9.2.

OISDS staff conducted best-practices research investigating other Texas public institutions that also offer Fast Track or similarly named programs to learn how these institutions handle their local academic course load guidelines in their Fast Track programs. The findings indicated that only one Texas public university had such language and it was a college of engineering in Texas A&M University who recommended that students balance their academic course loads by taking a certain number of graduate-level courses each semester.<sup>[18]</sup>

These findings were shared with the Council for Undergraduate Education (CUE) whose voting members include undergraduate associate deans from each of the seven schools at UT Dallas along with guest members, such as the OISDS unit leader and SACSCOC liaison, the University Registrar, and Assistant Provost from the Office of Admission and Enrollment. The voting members reviewed the course load language and determined that UT Dallas Fast Track students should enroll in a maximum of two graduate courses per semester for their academic course load. The Office of the Registrar drafted the language to update the 2024 current undergraduate catalog to address the academic course load for Fast Track students<sup>[19]</sup> by inserting bullet 5 to the existing language.<sup>[20]</sup>

This inserted bullet “recommends that fast-track students take no more than two graduate courses per semester, unless prescribed by the graduate program, when enrolled in a combination of graduate and undergraduate courses.” Additional language also states that Fast Track students need to be advised by their undergraduate and graduate advisors who need to consider the student’s academic course load based on the University’s course load guidelines outlined in both the undergraduate and graduate catalogs respectively.<sup>[21][22]</sup>

Additionally, each “academic program also establishes the maximum number of credit hours allowed for fast-track.”<sup>[23]</sup>

At CUE's October 22, 2024 meeting, the CUE chair brought forth the proposed catalog language (item 13.c).<sup>[24][25]</sup> The proposed language was reviewed and approved by CUE voting members, specifically associate deans of undergraduate education, as shown in its November 24, 2024 agenda where the October minutes were recorded<sup>[26]</sup> under bullet c.

Upon CUE approval, the same request was put forth to the Graduate Council for placement on its agenda. Identical language with the inserted bullet 5<sup>[27]</sup> was added to the existing catalog.<sup>[28]</sup> At Graduate Council's November 21, 2024 meeting, associate deans of graduate education reviewed and approved the catalog language as shown in its agenda items (item IV.b)<sup>[29][30]</sup> and recorded in its minutes under bullet b.<sup>[31]</sup> That way, academic programs can have the flexibility if Fast Track students want to enroll into more than two graduate courses during their last semester; these students will need to acknowledge their course overload going beyond the standard course load.

The Graduate Council documents were forwarded to the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) whose members discussed and approved the proposed language during its December 3, 2024 meeting under item 3.b.<sup>[32][33]</sup> The CEP chair noted the catalog language was applicable to both the undergraduate and graduate catalogs. Upon approval, the CEP chair routed the materials to the Academic Senate for its consideration at its January 15, 2025 meeting. The CEP minutes from the December meeting are included in the February 4, 2025 agenda packet under bullet b.<sup>[34]</sup>

The following evidence is provided to indicate the final governance approval by the Academic Senate, at the university-wide level, within its agenda packet, under item 10 CEP Recommendations<sup>[35]</sup> and referenced as item 1.b<sup>[36]</sup> along with the specific catalog page<sup>[37]</sup> even though the specific item only addressed the graduate catalog language. However, during the Academic Senate meeting, the CEP chair stressed that the catalog language was also applicable towards the undergraduate catalog and, upon approval, it would be included in the current and upcoming undergraduate and graduate catalogs as shown in the approved Academic Senate minutes, under item 10.1.b within the February 19, 2025 agenda packet.<sup>[38]</sup>

The 2024 undergraduate catalog language was updated immediately following the Academic Senate approval on January 15, 2025 with the date timestamp displayed on the very last page with the language "Updated: 2025-01-15 16:08:43 v5.d7f1dd"<sup>[39]</sup> with bullet 5 inserted on the first page.<sup>[40]</sup> The graduate catalog also displays the bullet 5 language.<sup>[41]</sup>

### ***Reporting Requirements for Fast Track Students***

While the evaluation and admissions processes into Fast Track remain at the unit level, the University will now collect that information centrally so that accurate university-wide Fast Track reporting can be documented. The internal reporting will be under the purview of the Office of the Registrar. On January 28, 2025, the Interim Dean of Undergraduate Education and chair of CUE reminded the associate deans to route all option B forms to the University Registrar, item 1.a under Announcements/Updates.<sup>[42]</sup>

The University Registrar provided additional information that staff in the Office of the Registrar would meet with advising directors to share with them the steps to take for this improved process and gain their feedback as shown in the February 25, 2025 CUE agenda packet under item 1.a.<sup>[43]</sup> The Office of the Registrar staff attended the advising directors' meeting<sup>[44]</sup> to discuss the new workflow.<sup>[45]</sup>

### ***Continuous Improvements to Internal Fast Track Processes***

UT Dallas shares some examples to illustrate the ongoing improvements made to some schools' internal Fast Track processes. The Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences shared its standards for its eligible undergraduate students who major in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences B.S. to fast track into the M.S. in Speech Language-Pathology.<sup>[46]</sup> The Biology Department in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics updated their Fast Track policies for the B.A. and B.S. degrees in Biology<sup>[47]</sup> and the B.S. degree in Molecular Biology<sup>[48]</sup> for its undergraduate students who are eligible to fast track into the M.S. in Molecular and Cell Biology program. The catalog changes were submitted through the governance process with final approval secured by the Academic Senate during its February 19, 2025 meeting under the CEP agenda item, 2.b,<sup>[49]</sup> with additional information listed by the Office of the Registrar.<sup>[50]</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

To reiterate: UT Dallas' Fast Track program is selective at the institution level as well as at the major level with additional major-specific criteria. The undergraduate programs require 120 SCH; the graduate programs require at least 30 SCH, and although the Fast Track program allows for the application of graduate courses toward the undergraduate degree, no student in the Fast Track program has graduated with fewer than 150 combined SCH over the past five years. In 2025, UT Dallas added a provision for course load management, and it will continue to monitor the Fast Track program for further policy modifications, such as reducing the number of hours when master's programs drop from 36 or 33 SCH to 30 SCH. UT Dallas reaffirms its current compliance with this Principle and its commitment to ongoing compliance.

## Supporting Documents

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- [1] Letter from SACSCOC President Belle Wheelan to UT Dallas President Richard Benson regarding UT Dallas' 2024 Fifth-Year Interim Report Findings, May 22, 2024  
**PDF Document, 3 Pages, 229.97 KB (letter119201)**
- [2] UT Dallas 2024 Fifth-Year Interim Report - Principle 9.2 Program Length  
**PDF Document, 11 Pages, 338.00 KB (report44062)**
- [3] UT Dallas 2024 Fifth-Year Interim Report - Principle 9.2 Program Length (Page 3)  
**PDF Document, 11 Pages, 338.00 KB (report44062)**
- [4] UT Dallas Fast Facts, 2024 (Page 2)  
**PDF Document, 5 Pages, 217.11 KB (web2952)**
- [5] Student Achievements - Office of Institutional Success and Decision Support (Page 2)  
**PDF Document, 10 Pages, 1.94 MB (web2951)**
- [6] Helping More Students Reach Graduation: THECB Data Bridge, published on January 28, 2025 (Page 3)  
**PDF Document, 7 Pages, 4.41 MB (web2956)**
- [7] UT Dallas University Profile Website: Office of Institutional Success and Decision Support (OISDS)  
**PDF Document, 4 Pages, 215.26 KB (web2949)**
- [8] UT Dallas OISDS FTIC Graduation and Retention Rates Dashboard Chart  
**PDF Document, 1 Page, 220.75 KB (chart1460)**
- [9] Persistence and Retention Fall 2022 Beginning Postsecondary Student Cohort: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, June 27, 2024 (Page 8)  
**PDF Document, 10 Pages, 630.65 KB (report44616)**
- [10] Texas Colleges Graduation and Retention Rates Statistics: Univstats Website (Page 4)  
**PDF Document, 7 Pages, 264.70 KB (web2958)**
- [11] Report: UT Dallas Common Data Set 2024-2025 (Page 11)  
**PDF Document, 36 Pages, 658.29 KB (report44595)**

- [12] [Report: UT Dallas Common Data Set 2024-2025 \(Page 12\)](#)  
*PDF Document, 36 Pages, 658.29 KB (report44595)*
- [13] [UT Dallas Fast Facts, 2024](#)  
*PDF Document, 5 Pages, 217.11 KB (web2952)*
- [14] [Report: UT Dallas Common Data Set 2024-2025 \(Page 4\)](#)  
*PDF Document, 36 Pages, 658.29 KB (report44595)*
- [15] [Fast Track Graduation Analysis, Final report, March 25, 2025](#)  
*PDF Document, 21 Pages, 662.04 KB (spreadsheet1066)*
- [16] [Fast Track Graduation Analysis, Final report, March 25, 2025 \(Page 2\)](#)  
*PDF Document, 21 Pages, 662.04 KB (spreadsheet1066)*
- [17] [Detail of Fast Track Requirements for Each UT Dallas School, AY 2024-2025](#)  
*PDF Document, 2 Pages, 161.76 KB (spreadsheet1058)*
- [18] [Fast Track at Texas A&M University College of Engineering](#)  
*PDF Document, 2 Pages, 118.51 KB (web2941)*
- [19] [Revised 2024 Undergraduate Catalog - Fast Track Option](#)  
*PDF Document, 3 Pages, 103.23 KB (catalog1308)*
- [20] [Current 2024 Undergraduate Catalog - Fast Track Policies and Procedures](#)  
*PDF Document, 2 Pages, 102.77 KB (catalog1310)*
- [21] [UT Dallas Undergraduate Catalog, 2024-2025 \(Page 912\)](#)  
*PDF Document, 1012 Pages, 21.87 MB (catalog1306)*
- [22] [UT Dallas Graduate Catalog, 2024-2025 \(Page 782\)](#)  
*PDF Document, 842 Pages, 13.69 MB (catalog1307)*
- [23] [Revised 2024 Undergraduate Catalog - Fast Track Option \(Page 2\)](#)  
*PDF Document, 3 Pages, 103.23 KB (catalog1308)*
- [24] [Council of Undergraduate Education \(CUE\) Agenda Packet, October 22, 2024 \(Page 1\)](#)  
*PDF Document, 144 Pages, 4.06 MB (agenda1460)*

- [25] Council of Undergraduate Education (CUE) Agenda Packet, October 22, 2024 (Page 144)  
**PDF Document, 144 Pages, 4.06 MB (agenda1460)**
- [26] Council of Undergraduate Education (CUE) Agenda Packet, November 24, 2024 (Page 9)  
**PDF Document, 186 Pages, 5.21 MB (agenda1461)**
- [27] Revised 2024 Graduate Catalog - Fast Track Option  
**PDF Document, 3 Pages, 102.79 KB (catalog1309)**
- [28] Current 2024 Graduate Catalog - Fast Track Policies and Procedures  
**PDF Document, 2 Pages, 102.32 KB (catalog1311)**
- [29] Graduate Council Meeting Agenda Packet and Minutes, November 21, 2024  
**PDF Document, 157 Pages, 9.28 MB (agenda1462)**
- [30] Graduate Council Meeting Agenda Packet and Minutes, November 21, 2024 (Page 82)  
**PDF Document, 157 Pages, 9.28 MB (agenda1462)**
- [31] Meeting Minutes of the Graduate Council, November 21, 2024 (Page 3)  
**PDF Document, 14 Pages, 205.04 KB (minutes1484)**
- [32] Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) Meeting Agenda Packet, December 3, 2024  
**PDF Document, 306 Pages, 3.28 MB (agenda1459)**
- [33] Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) Meeting Agenda Packet, December 3, 2024 (Page 9)  
**PDF Document, 306 Pages, 3.28 MB (agenda1459)**
- [34] Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) Meeting Agenda Packet, February 4, 2025 (Page 3)  
**PDF Document, 341 Pages, 5.49 MB (agenda1464)**
- [35] Academic Senate Meeting Agenda Packet, January 15, 2025 (Page 2)  
**PDF Document, 826 Pages, 21.87 MB (agenda1463)**
- [36] Academic Senate Meeting Agenda Packet, January 15, 2025 (Page 463)  
**PDF Document, 826 Pages, 21.87 MB (agenda1463)**
- [37] Academic Senate Meeting Agenda Packet, January 15, 2025 (Page 467)  
**PDF Document, 826 Pages, 21.87 MB (agenda1463)**

- [38] [Academic Senate Meeting Agenda Packet, February 19 2025 \(Page 5\)](#)  
**PDF Document, 740 Pages, 13.63 MB (agenda1466)**
- [39] [Undergraduate Catalog for 2024-25 Updated Fast Track Policies, January 15, 2025 \(Page 3\)](#)  
**PDF Document, 3 Pages, 31.56 KB (catalog1313)**
- [40] [Undergraduate Catalog for 2024-25 Updated Fast Track Policies, January 15, 2025](#)  
**PDF Document, 3 Pages, 31.56 KB (catalog1313)**
- [41] [Graduate Catalog for 2024-25 Updated Fast Track Policies, January 15, 2025](#)  
**PDF Document, 3 Pages, 31.33 KB (catalog1314)**
- [42] [Council of Undergraduate Education \(CUE\) Agenda Packet, January 28 2025](#)  
**PDF Document, 184 Pages, 5.93 MB (agenda1465)**
- [43] [Council for Undergraduate Education \(CUE\) Agenda Packet, February 25, 2025 \(Page 2\)](#)  
**PDF Document, 241 Pages, 4.12 MB (agenda1467)**
- [44] [Fast Track Option B Follow-Up, February 21, 2025](#)  
**PDF Document, 2 Pages, 47.17 KB (email1698)**
- [45] [Fast Track Option B Registrar Intranet, The University of Texas at Dallas \(Page 2\)](#)  
**PDF Document, 3 Pages, 253.53 KB (web2943)**
- [46] [School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences Fast Track Program Standards for Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences](#)  
**PDF Document, 3 Pages, 193.11 KB (policy1401)**
- [47] [Fast Track Catalog Changes to BA and BS Biology Programs, 2025 \(Page 11\)](#)  
**PDF Document, 15 Pages, 125.73 KB (catalog1315)**
- [48] [Fast Track Catalog Changes to BS Molecular Biology Program, 2025 \(Page 6\)](#)  
**PDF Document, 7 Pages, 70.99 KB (catalog1316)**
- [49] [Academic Senate Meeting Agenda Packet, February 19 2025 \(Page 354\)](#)  
**PDF Document, 740 Pages, 13.63 MB (agenda1466)**
- [50] [Academic Senate Meeting Agenda Packet, February 19 2025 \(Page 496\)](#)  
**PDF Document, 740 Pages, 13.63 MB (agenda1466)**

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## **Principle 10.7 - Policies for Awarding Credit**

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*The institution publishes and implements policies for determining the amount and level of credit awarded for its courses, regardless of format or mode of delivery. These policies require oversight by persons academically qualified to make the necessary judgments. In educational programs not based on credit hours (e.g., direct assessment programs), the institution has a sound means for determining credit equivalencies. (Policies for awarding credit)*

### **Compliance Judgment**

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Compliance

### **Narrative**

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**Letter from the SACSCOC President<sup>[1]</sup>**

*Compliance Judgment by the Fifth-Year Interim Report Committee*

Non-compliance

***Fifth-Year Committee Findings<sup>[2]</sup>***

“This institution provided credit hour policies for both graduate and undergraduate level courses. These policies are published in both the graduate and undergraduate student bulletins. The institution also provided documentation from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter A, Rule 4.6, policies from which the institutional policies are derived. These documents provide information on amount and level of credit awarded as well as a description of the course numbering system. Additionally, the State governing board THECB’s TAC, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter N, Rule 4.228,[6] requires that all course information must be made available to the public from the institution’s website.

The institution stated in the narrative that: 1) it has a robust curriculum approval and review process that ensures all courses have the appropriate semester credit hour values by type of instruction, and 2) the semester credit hour values are reviewed by the curriculum committees in each school/department/program before being routed to the Council for Undergraduate Education (CUE), the Committee on the Core Curriculum (CCC), Council on Graduate Education (Graduate Council), Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), and the Academic Senate as part of the catalog review process. However, the institution did not provide evidence that these actions are overseen by persons academically qualified to make the necessary judgments.”

### *Narrative*

The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) has enclosed its four-page response from its submitted Fifth-Year Report to Principle 10.7 Policies for Awarding Credit.<sup>[3]</sup> The committee's response referred to the process as "robust" and reiterates the comprehensiveness of the various committee steps. The one issue identified by the committee's statement "However, the institution did not provide evidence that these actions are overseen by persons academically qualified to make the necessary judgments" seems to indicate a lack of a citation back to our two Principles regarding qualifications. Both Principles—Principle 5.4 Qualified Administrative and Academic Officers<sup>[4]</sup> and Principle 6.2.c Program Coordination<sup>[5]</sup> are now referenced. The Fifth-Year Interim Report Committee found UT Dallas to be in compliance with both Principles.

To briefly reiterate the original response, each school has associate deans in undergraduate and graduate education; these associate deans provide overall support for each school's curricula among other duties, including the determination of awarding credit as appropriate.

This was provided in the original Principle 5.4 response and is provided here again for ease of reference: "Further, each dean oversees the associate deans who provide overall support of each school's curricula among other duties. Their associate dean job descriptions are detailed in the following; (1) BAHT Associate Dean of Graduate Studies<sup>[6]</sup> and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies<sup>[7]</sup>; (2) BBS Associate Dean of Graduate Studies<sup>[8]</sup> and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education<sup>[9]</sup>; (3) ECS Vice Dean and Associate Deans<sup>[10]</sup>; (4) EPPS Associate Dean of Graduate Education<sup>[11]</sup> and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education<sup>[12]</sup>; (5) IS Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education<sup>[13]</sup>; (6) JSOM Vice Dean and Associate Deans<sup>[14]</sup>; and (7) NSM Associate Dean of Graduate Studies<sup>[15]</sup> and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education."<sup>[16]</sup>

The particular school leadership roster is also enclosed and specifies the qualifications and links for each undergraduate and graduate associate dean's curriculum vita in each of UT Dallas' seven schools: (1) BAHT<sup>[17]</sup>; (2) BBS<sup>[18]</sup>; (3) ECS<sup>[19]</sup>; (4) EPPS<sup>[20]</sup>; (5) IS<sup>[21]</sup>; (6) JSOM<sup>[21]</sup>; and (7) NSM.<sup>[22]</sup>

Additionally, faculty who are appointed to serve on the Committee on Educational Policy have been deemed to meet credentials to teach in their programs. Finally, the department and/or program heads' qualifications roster with their earned degrees was included in the Principle 6.2.c Program Coordination response.<sup>[23][24]</sup>

In conclusion, UT Dallas justifies and documents the qualifications of its faculty members who oversee the awarding of credit and who participate in our robust curriculum development, review, and approval processes.

## Supporting Documents

[1] Letter from SACSCOC President Belle Wheelan to UT Dallas President Richard Benson regarding UT Dallas' 2024 Fifth-Year Interim Report Findings, May 22, 2024  
**PDF Document, 3 Pages, 229.97 KB (letter119201)**

[2] Letter from SACSCOC President Belle Wheelan to UT Dallas President Richard Benson regarding UT Dallas' 2024 Fifth-Year Interim Report Findings, May 22, 2024 (Page 2)  
**PDF Document, 3 Pages, 229.97 KB (letter119201)**

[3] UT Dallas 2024 Fifth-Year Interim Report - Principle 10.7 Policies for Awarding Credit  
**PDF Document, 4 Pages, 171.87 KB (report44063)**

[4] UT Dallas 2024 Fifth-Year Interim Report - Principle 5.4 Qualified Administrative and Academic Officers  
**PDF Document, 23 Pages, 559.77 KB (report44060)**

[5] UT Dallas 2024 Fifth-Year Interim Report - Principle 6.2.c Program Coordination  
**PDF Document, 10 Pages, 290.61 KB (report44061)**

[6] Bass School of Arts Humanities and Technology Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Job Description (2023)  
**PDF Document, 1 Page, 74.30 KB (job1451)**

[7] 2023 Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies Job Description  
**PDF Document, 1 Page, 140.72 KB (job1461)**

[8] School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Job Description (2023)  
**PDF Document, 1 Page, 74.63 KB (job1450)**

[9] 2023 School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education Job Description  
**PDF Document, 2 Pages, 165.33 KB (job1460)**

[10] Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science Vice Dean and Associate Dean Job Descriptions (2023)  
**PDF Document, 1 Page, 159.36 KB (job1448)**

[11] School of Economic, Political, and Public Sciences Associate Dean of Graduate Education Job Description (2023)

**PDF Document, 1 Page, 48.11 KB (job1455)**

[12] School of Economic, Political, and Public Sciences Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education Job Description (2023)

**PDF Document, 1 Page, 50.81 KB (job1462)**

[13] School of Interdisciplinary Studies Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education Job Description (2023)

**PDF Document, 1 Page, 113.79 KB (job1458)**

[14] Jindal School of Management Vice Dean and Associate Dean Job Descriptions (2023)

**PDF Document, 2 Pages, 103.57 KB (job1452)**

[15] School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Job Description (2023)

**PDF Document, 1 Page, 62.84 KB (job1449)**

[16] School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education Job Description (2023)

**PDF Document, 1 Page, 47.34 KB (job1456)**

[17] UT Dallas Academic School Leadership with Qualifications as of February 5, 2024 (Page 2)

**PDF Document, 8 Pages, 292.33 KB (report40720)**

[18] UT Dallas Academic School Leadership with Qualifications as of February 5, 2024 (Page 3)

**PDF Document, 8 Pages, 292.33 KB (report40720)**

[19] UT Dallas Academic School Leadership with Qualifications as of February 5, 2024 (Page 4)

**PDF Document, 8 Pages, 292.33 KB (report40720)**

[20] UT Dallas Academic School Leadership with Qualifications as of February 5, 2024 (Page 5)

**PDF Document, 8 Pages, 292.33 KB (report40720)**

[21] UT Dallas Academic School Leadership with Qualifications as of February 5, 2024 (Page 6)

**PDF Document, 8 Pages, 292.33 KB (report40720)**

[22] [UT Dallas Academic School Leadership with Qualifications as of February 5, 2024 \(Page 8\)](#)

**PDF Document, 8 Pages, 292.33 KB (report40720)**

[23] [UT Dallas 2024 Fifth-Year Interim Report - Principle 6.2.c Program Coordination \(Page 3\)](#)

**PDF Document, 10 Pages, 290.61 KB (report44061)**

[24] [UT Dallas Academic Program Leadership with Qualifications as of February 13, 2024 \(Page 5\)](#)

**PDF Document, 67 Pages, 838.23 KB (report40828)**