



UCCS CAMPUS POLICY

Policy Title: Program Discontinuance

Policy Number: 200-014

Policy Functional Area: ACADEMIC

Effective: May 22, 2026

Approved by: Jennifer Sobanet, Chancellor

Responsible Vice Chancellor: Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (EVCAA)

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Provost (719) 255-3700

Policy Primary Contact: Office of the Provost (719) 255-3700

Supersedes: June 20, 2025

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Applies to: Administration and Faculty

Reason for Policy: This policy is required by the Administrative Policy Statement 1015 “Implementing Academic Unit or Degree Program Discontinuance.”

I. INTRODUCTION

Regent Policy 4.B requires that each campus has a process for the discontinuance of academic units and degree programs consistent with the CU System Administrative Policy Statement. This policy defines that process.

As stated in Administrative Policy Statement 1015, Implementing Academic Unit or Degree Program Discontinuance: “Program discontinuance is the formal termination of an academic unit or degree program by the Board of Regents for educational, strategic realignment, resource reallocation, or financial reasons, or a combination of these reasons.” For the purpose of this policy, the term “program” refers to a degree (bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral) program or an academic unit. Academic unit is defined as a school, college, department, or program that offers at least one degree (bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral) or serves as the tenure home of tenured or tenure- track faculty. Tracks, emphases, options, minors, and certificates that do not offer a degree are not considered “programs” for purposes of this policy and are instead addressed through other curricular or policy processes.

This policy has an ancillary Program Discontinuance Procedure. This procedure outlines the specific steps and requirements for initiating, reviewing, and implementing program discontinuance. This document provides detailed guidance on the roles, responsibilities, timelines, and considerations involved in the discontinuance process. All stakeholders are encouraged to review the procedures document in conjunction with this policy.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

A recommendation to discontinue an academic unit or degree program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs campus must follow the process outlined in this campus policy.

The CU System's Vice President of Academic Affairs may approve a chancellor's request to waive certain procedures related to this policy. This may be warranted when program discontinuance has no impact, or negligible impact, on students and faculty.

In all cases, the Board of Regents shall make the final decision with respect to program discontinuance and any subsequent revocation of tenure.

A. General principles for program discontinuance

1. The decision to discontinue an academic program is a decision that should never be taken lightly. Those involved in such a process shall endeavor at all times to assess each program in the context of the mission of the campus and university at large through a process that is highly consultative, transparent, and collegial.
2. In producing their final report and recommendation, the Faculty Program Discontinuance Committee (FPDC) shall be guided by the evidence gathered during the review process outlined in the Program Discontinuance Procedure (linked in Section III.B.1 below).
3. All faculty, staff, and students of the academic unit will have the opportunity to present written evidence or arguments related to a program's potential discontinuance to the FPDC. The faculty members of the academic unit shall have the right of reasonable participation in all phases of the review process. The review process shall be transparent.
4. The FPDC shall submit its report with its recommendation to the chancellor, copying the provost, and the president of Faculty Assembly within 90 days of convening.
5. Program closure considerations are non-exclusive lists of factors that may be considered during review of a program being considered for discontinuance. The most current list may be found in Appendix A: Program closure considerations in APS 1015, and is adopted in its entirety for the purposes of this policy.

B. Implementation of Program Discontinuance Policy

Following a decision by the Board of Regents to discontinue a program, the chancellor will collaborate with a committee comprised of faculty and staff, including representatives from the impacted program, to develop a plan for implementation. Consistent with APS 1015, this plan must include:

1. The timing for phasing out the program.
2. Plans for reassigning faculty to other academic units, if applicable.
 - a. This may include reassignment to other teaching or research commitments as available.
 - b. In accordance with APS 1015, before the one-year notification of termination for tenured and tenure-track faculty members, reasonable efforts shall be made by the chancellor or chancellor's designee to find another suitable position for the faculty member within the

university, subject to the requirement that intercampus or interdepartmental transfers can be made only if they are mutually acceptable to the faculty member, the receiving academic unit (by a vote of its faculty), and the chancellor(s). Tenured/tenure-track faculty who are moved to another department retain their tenure rights. Teaching load expectations can be negotiated with the receiving department.

- c. Instructional, Research and Clinical (IRC) faculty are addressed through the implementation planning process and applicable employment policies.
3. A strategy to allow students in the program to complete the degree in a reasonable time.
 - a. Students will be notified of program discontinuance and timing for phasing out programs.
 - b. Reasonable efforts shall be made to allow students enrolled in the affected program to complete their original degree program in reasonable time. "Reasonable time" is intentionally flexible and determined case-by-case, but would generally align with the amount of time students would have reasonably expected to complete the degree had the program not been discontinued.
 - c. Program or campus transfers shall be permitted if mutually acceptable to the student and the receiving department.
 - d. Students shall be provided advising assistance with respect to their academic program options.
4. Identification of, rationale for, and timing of, all tenured and tenure-track faculty appointments that may be terminated.

In accordance with APS 1015, before the one-year notification of termination for tenured and tenure-track faculty members, reasonable efforts shall be made by the chancellor or chancellor's designee to find another suitable position for the faculty member within the university, subject to the requirement that intercampus or interdepartmental transfers can be made only if they are mutually acceptable to the faculty member, the receiving academic unit (by a vote of its faculty), and the chancellor(s). If tenured faculty are to be terminated due to program discontinuance, the action to terminate is contingent upon the revocation of tenure by the Board of Regents. Tenured/tenure-track faculty who are moved to another department retain their tenure rights.
5. Analysis of other faculty (e.g. Instructional, research, or clinical faculty [IRC]) and staff appointments affected by discontinuance.
6. Any other issues related to discontinuance of the program.

III. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Administrative Policy Statements (APS) and Other Policies

1. APS 1015
2. Regent Policy 4.B
3. Regent Policy 5.F

B. Procedures

1. Program Discontinuance Procedure