

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

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1.2 APPLICATION OF THE CRITERIA (Recommendation 1)

Recommendation 1: The Committee recommends that the institution report all existing or planned activities according to the policies, procedures, and guidelines of the Commission on Colleges.

Concern: The Committee found no indication that Virginia Tech has submitted reports of newly established distance learning sites or programs since notification via the annual Institutional Profile ceased in 1994.

Response 8/17/98: The University is compiling a complete listing of all degree programs being offered through its extended campus and distance learning programs, and a list of all existing and proposed distance learning sites - the only areas of procedure (of which we are aware) that has not been followed completely. These lists will fill in any missing programs and sites that have not been reported on since 1994 in the yearly Institutional Profile. The lists will be forwarded by separate correspondence after all college deans have been given an opportunity for final review.

The Provost implemented in March 1998 a new directive specifying the creation and maintenance of a "Roster of Distance Delivered Programs." The final stage of the directive will have the Office of the Provost corresponding with the Commission on all planned "substantive changes" as outlined in the policies, procedures and guidelines of the Commission on Colleges.

Documentation: Copy of Provost's directive

Recommendation 1, 1/4/99: Confirm that notification of all new programs has been submitted to the Commission on Colleges.

Response 10/1/99: The Senior Vice President and Provost submitted a Roster of Distance and Distributed Learning Programs on November 11, 1998. The Associate Provost for Academic Administration in consultation with the Director of the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning will submit each fall to the Commission on Colleges an updated list of planned "substantive changes" including a complete roster of distance delivered courses. Listed below are changes to the Roster since last reported. A full Roster and the annual substantive change memo accompany this document as appendices 1A and 1B.

- Engels Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi, was added fall semester 1999 as a site for receiving ocean engineering courses, which could lead to a M.S. in Ocean Engineering. Instructional delivery methods are the same as for the other existing sites where the program is delivered – the Virginia Consortium of Engineering and Science University Center in Hampton, Virginia, the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Carterock, Maryland, and the Blacksburg campus of Virginia Tech. Student support and resources are also provided in the same manner as with the existing sites.
- The Center for European Studies and Architecture had been omitted from the original roster and is now included. Programs have been offered there since 1992.

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- The College of Forestry was re-named the College of Natural Resources and appears as such on the new Roster.
- Clinch Valley College was renamed the University of Virginia at Wise and has been so modified in the roster.
- The Ph.D. in Computer Science was added as a program delivered to extended campuses (Northern Virginia Center). Previous to 1998, students had not enrolled because of residency requirements even though the program had been available at the Center since 1987 when the M.S. degree was first offered. Student support and resources are provided in the same manner as with the other extended campus sites and are equivalent to on-campus services.
- The HRD program was renamed the ALHRD (Adult Learning and Human Resource Development and is so noted on the new Roster). The M.A. and Ed.D are no longer offered.
- Educational Specialist had been omitted from the EDAD, EDCI, and EDVT degrees on the previous roster and has been added.
- EDCO and EDSE were omitted from the previous roster and are now added. Both programs were initiated pre- 1987.
- The M.A. in Hospitality & Tourism Management is no longer proposed but is now in place.
- Longwood College Continuing Education Center in Halifax/South Boston is referred to as the Halifax/South Boston Continuing Education Center and has been so modified.
- The Reynolds Homestead in Critz, Virginia was connected to Net.Work.Virginia, the broadband ATM network that the university uses to deliver distance learning courses via interactive video conferencing. The Virginia Tech site may be used as a receive site for currently delivered educational programs. It has been added to the roster.
- New contact names on certain programs have been added.

Documentation:

1. Roster of Distance Delivered Programs (Appendix 1A)
2. Degree Program Changes to SACS, Fall 1999 (Appendix 1B)

Recommendation 1, 3/9/2000: Submit notification of all new programs to the Commission on Colleges and include notification responses.

Response 5/15/2000: Included with the response are Appendices 1C and 1D, a Roster of Degree Changes Since 1994, and a Roster of Distance Delivered Programs Added Since 1994. Both rosters provide further clarification of materials appended to Recommendation 1, Section 1.2 of the university's First Follow-up Report which covered the period from 1998 to the present. It is Virginia Tech's intent that the materials submitted in the First Follow-up Report plus these subsequent rosters and supporting materials will serve as official notification to the Commission on Colleges regarding program changes.

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1. The Virginia Tech Roster of Degree Changes Since 1994 (Appendix 1C) contains three sections:

a. New Degrees: The five new degree programs initiated since 1994 are fully consistent with the long standing mission and curriculum of the university. The new degree programs are extensions of comparable offerings within the respective colleges utilizing existing basic core courses and new course offerings as appropriate to the degree program.

The materials in Appendix 1E–1I are documents submitted to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to seek degree approval and the letters from SCHEV verifying program approval.

b. Merged and/or Restructured Academic Programs: This listing of programs indicates the initiation date of the program merger, the programs being merged and the new degree title. All of the programs being merged have long been in place. The restructuring (merger) is simply an attempt to maintain program identity for small enrollment programs and remain in compliance with SCHEV guidelines.

c. Programs Closed or Discontinued: This listing is included to provide a complete accounting of all program changes since 1994.

2. The Virginia Tech Roster of Distance Delivered Programs Added Since 1994 (Appendix 1D) is an update of the Roster of Distance Delivered Courses included as Appendix 1A in the university's First Follow-up Report. Please know that this listing of distance delivered courses was reviewed by the SACS review committee in March of 1998 during their site visit with the exception of the new degree program Master of Information Technology referenced earlier in this report. These programs currently exist at the university but are now being offered in a distance delivery format. All except for the Masters in Information Technology and the proposed Masters in Natural Resources are offered on the Blacksburg main campus. The SACS committee also reviewed the formats for distance delivery during their 1998 site visit and those basic delivery formats have not changed.

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Appendices to be attached to May 15 submission:

- 1A, Roster of Distance Delivered Programs (October 1, 1999 report)
- 1B, Degree Program Changes to SACS, Fall 1999 (October 1, 1999 report)
- 1C, Virginia Tech Roster of Degree Changes Since 1994
- 1D, Virginia Tech Roster of Distance Delivered Programs Added since 1994
- 1E, SCHEV materials for B.S. Industrial Design, 1994
- 1F, SCHEV materials for Ph.D. Hospitality and Tourism Management, 1995
- 1G, SCHEV materials for B.S. Environmental Policy and Planning, 1997
- 1H, SCHEV materials for M.S. and Ph.D. Computer Engineering, 1998
- 1I, SCHEV materials for Master of Information Technology, 1999