(a) Curriculum Program Approvals. Community colleges shall issue degrees, diplomas, and certificates to individuals who satisfactorily complete course and program requirements.

1. The approval of a college or of a group of colleges in a collaborative arrangement to award the associate degree, diploma, or certificate shall be by individual curriculum program title. Approval by the State Board shall be granted when the college has demonstrated an established need and has provided evidence to the State Board of sufficient instructional faculty, facilities, equipment, and materials required to meet the needs of the communities served without supplanting or duplicating existing programs.

2. The application shall be signed by the college president and the chairman of the college's board of trustees.

3. The System President shall recommend action on the college's curriculum program application to the State Board.

4. Approval to grant degrees, diplomas, and certificates shall be withdrawn if the State Board determines that a college is not maintaining approved programs or graduation requirements.

(b) Curriculum Program Terminations. The college shall terminate a curriculum program when there has been no enrollment for two years; a college may request a one-year extension of a curriculum program upon justification of the potential for employment opportunities and student enrollment. Each college planning to terminate a curriculum program shall inform the System President by submitting a termination notice. The System President shall have the program removed from the college's program approval list. Program terminations shall be reported to the State Board twice a year.

(c) The System President shall approve Associate in General Education and Associate in Applied Science General Occupational Technology curriculum programs for colleges in the system.

(d) On special approval by the State Board, a degree program title or a stand-alone diploma or certificate program title may exceed the maximum length of programs as set by the curriculum standards. Such an exception shall apply to all colleges approved to offer the curriculum program title. A two-thirds majority of colleges approved to offer the program shall agree with the conditions of the request for the exception. A request for an exception shall be justified based on one or more of the following criteria:

1. Additional time in the program is required by law.
2. Additional time in the program is required by an external regulatory, accrediting, or professional agency recognized by the State Board.
3. Additional time in the program is justified by documented extenuating circumstances such as the following:
   (A) Documentation that equivalent programs in other states require additional hours of training to teach the competencies of the curriculum;
   (B) Documentation that the program will not be viable without the exception; or
   (C) Documentation that employers have certified the competencies required for the program and the length of time needed to teach those competencies.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5; 115D-20(6); S.L. 1995, c. 625;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Readopted January 5, 1978;
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History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-1; 115D-3; 115D-5;
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