



POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Name	External Review of Degree Programs		
Policy #	# 107	Category	Academic
Policy Sponsor	Associate Vice-President, Learning and Teaching	Previous Revision Date	September 12, 2013
Policy Approved by	President & CEO	Issue or Revision Date	June 4, 2019
Procedures Approved by	Provost and Vice-President, Academic	Review Date	June 2024

See the related [PROCEDURES](#).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to affirm Saskatchewan Polytechnic's commitment to perform external reviews of degree programs in order to ensure degree programs meets appropriate quality standards. The external review also provides the program and institution with an objective view of the viability and sustainability of the degree program.

SCOPE

This policy is applicable only to stand-alone degree programs within Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

External review of degree programs is a part of the overall academic quality assurance process at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Academic quality assurance includes the following principles:

1. be fair, transparent and non-arbitrary;
2. provide evidence-based recommendations;
3. provide direction to serve the interests of employers and the needs of students in developing skills and knowledge;
4. integrate input that reflects the broad needs and interests of students and the labour market that the program serves;
5. complement accreditation and degree authorization review requirements and/or standards or other requirements of provincial or national bodies and regulatory bodies;
6. involve consultation with external stakeholders; and
7. result in the highest standards of quality assurance being reached.

POLICY

1. All degree programs will undergo an external third-party program review in addition to the program review requirements detailed in Policy #115 *Program Review*.
2. Degree programs will undergo an external third-party review at a minimum of every six years.

DEFINITIONS

Degree: as defined in Policy #114 Credentials and in the Credential Qualification Framework.

External Review: a program review conducted by subject matter expert(s) in the same field of study as the degree under review, but who is/are at arm's length and will not be in a conflict-of-interest position in regards to Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

Program: A program is a defined set of credit courses and other requirements leading to a credential in a specific field of study. Definitions and requirements of credentials are contained in the Credential Qualification Framework.

RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

Policy #115 Program Review
Policy #114 Credentials
Policy #704 Conflict of Interest
Credential Qualification Framework

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION OR REGULATIONS

The Degree Authorization Act
The Degree Authorization Regulations
The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act