

**4.2** The institution's curriculum is directly related and appropriate to the purpose and goals of the institution and the diplomas, certificates, or degrees awarded. **(Program curriculum)**

**Compliance Status:** Compliance

The College of Coastal Georgia maintains a curriculum that is directly related and appropriate to the purpose and goals of the institution and authorized to offer associate through baccalaureate degrees by the USG Board of Regents. Its mission, goals and degree programs are approved by the Board of Regents.

According to USG Board of Regents, all programs are reviewed every seven years following the [Academic Program Review](#) process, which is discussed more fully in [Core Requirement 2.5](#). This self-study review includes outside peer reviews, internal reviews, and an action plan. Additionally, the preservation of the quality of the College's academic programs is further maintained through professional peer review and scrutiny of [discipline-specific accredited programs](#) at the institution.

### **Institutional Purpose and Goals**

As the newest state college in the System, the College set a new course to offer targeted baccalaureate programs of study, continue pre-baccalaureate programs of study for transfer, as well as associate of arts and associate of science degrees, and to serve as a portal to graduate education for students across the region and state.

The curriculum of the College reflects its mission, which is to

- Provide accessible and affordable higher education to a wide spectrum of learners, from recent high school graduates to returning adults
- Foster academic excellence and individual development in a supportive environment that accentuates career preparation and enriches student lives
- Investigate, capture and disseminate 21st century knowledge and skills, blending student-centered education and innovative service learning to promote social responsibility, global awareness, diversity, leadership, engaged entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning
- Engage actively with the community and region through economic development partnerships, public service initiatives, early college outreach, applied scholarship, professional development programs, cultural enrichment experiences, and other activities

The College offers transfer associate of arts and science (pre-baccalaureate), career associate and baccalaureate degree programs.

**Pre-Baccalaureate**

Associate of Arts and Associate of Science transfer degree programs consist of a minimum of 60 semester credit hours of coursework required for graduation. The College awards either the Associate of Arts degree or the Associate of Science degree to the student who successfully completes the requirements of a pre-baccalaureate or college transfer program and requests the degree. The Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees are specifically designed as transfer programs; that is, they constitute the first two years of a four-year program of study leading to a baccalaureate degree.

**Career Associate**

Career associate degree programs range from 69 to 78 semester credit hours of required coursework – see Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Career Associate Credit Hour Distribution**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
Clinical Laboratory Technology	69
Hospitality Management	70
Nursing (RN)	70
Radiologic Science	78

Career programs are designed to prepare graduates to seek employment in the area of their concentration immediately upon graduation. Students pursuing career associate degrees may complete the requirements within five or six semesters.

**Baccalaureate**

As of academic year 2010-2011, the College has progressed forward to offer six baccalaureate degree programs (biological sciences with tracks in biology education, coastal ecology, and pre-professional; business administration in general business; health informatics; early childhood/special education; middle grades education; and nursing with programs for pre-licensure BSN and for RN-to-BSN). These programs range in 122-127 hours with 60-62 hours of Core Curriculum/General Education requirements as required by the Board of Regents. Information regarding programs and curricular offerings can be found in the [2010-2011 College of Coastal Georgia Catalog](#).

In March 2011, the College received approval from the USG Board of Regents for two new baccalaureate degree programs to begin Fall Semester 2011. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness will submit a SACSCOC Substantive Change Prospectus for each program in April 2011.

The new degree programs include:

- Bachelor of Science in Psychology
  - The program will consist of three areas of concentration: 1) an interdisciplinary concentration in the Psychology of Human Services, an emerging field at the intersection of psychology, health, and business; 2) an interdisciplinary concentration in Organizational and Community Leadership, an applied field based in organizational and community psychology and business; and 3) a traditional baccalaureate concentration in General Psychology
- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a Secondary Education in Mathematics track and a Mathematics track
  - The Secondary Education track will prepare future secondary mathematics teachers for the southeastern region of Georgia and beyond
  - The Mathematics track will prepare students to successfully pursue occupations in various industry and government positions requiring bachelor-level proficiency in the mathematical sciences, or graduate education in the mathematical sciences and engineering

### **Curricular Development and Approval**

The USG's degree approval process ensures that each program contributes to the mission of the institution. (See further discussions of degree approval processes in [Comprehensive Standards 3.4.1](#) and [3.4.10](#).)

While it is generally accepted at most institutions of higher education that faculty have responsibility for the development of curriculum and programs, the *2010-2011 College of Coastal Georgia Full-Time & Part-Time Faculty Handbooks* assert that faculty and departments are responsible for recommending new or changes to current courses in the curriculum and that suggestions for the development of new programs should be coordinated by the respective School Dean who has primary responsibility for offering the program. Furthermore, the proposed program must be consistent with the College's mission and strategic plan.

The formal process for adding new courses or changing existing courses includes (1) submission of a "Proposed Curriculum, Policy, or Procedure Change" to the appropriate School Dean for approval; (2) submission to the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) for review of completeness and accuracy; (3) submission to the College's Curriculum Committee for approval; (4) submission to the Faculty Senate for approval; and (5) submission to the President for final approval.

The formal process for adding a new program includes (1) formal needs assessment study as prescribed by the [USG Board of Regents New Academic Program Guidelines](#); (2) submission of the needs assessment to the School Dean for approval; (3) submission to the VPAA for approval; (4) submission to the College's Curriculum Committee for approval; (5) submission to the Faculty Senate for approval; and (6) submission to the President for approval, who then submits the proposal to the Board of Regents for review and final approval.

**Supporting Documentation**

[USG Board of Regents Academic Affairs Handbook, Section 2.3.6](#)

[List of College of Coastal Georgia degree programs holding specialized accreditation](#)

[2010-2011 College of Coastal Georgia Catalog](#)

2010-2011 College of Coastal Georgia [Full-Time](#) and [Part-Time](#) Faculty Handbooks

[USG Board of Regents New Academic Program Guidelines](#)