**Professional Curriculum Committee, Professional Subcommittee**

**Draft Recommendations**

**Primary Goal:** Identify shared, defining characteristics of professional programs.

**Background:** As of Fall 2022, the UF Professional Curriculum Committee (PCC) reviews the following items for any program identified as “professional” (post-bachelor programs not certified by the UF Graduate School):

* New programs;
* Modifications to and closures of existing programs;
* New courses; and
* Modifications to and closures of existing courses.

Preliminary benchmarking has shown other large institutions with professional programs take a variety of approaches to professional curriculum review. UF appears to have a unique approach in offering a curriculum review process explicitly for professional programs and courses.

An AI-generated definition of a professional program is: a specialized educational program designed to prepare individuals for a specific profession or career. These programs often focus on practical skills, real-world application, and the requirements for licensure or accreditation in a particular field. They focus on a specific discipline or area of specialization, such as medicine, law, engineering, or education. Much of the curriculum involves hands-on experience, internships, and work placements, bridging the gap between academic study and the professional world. Many professions require graduates to complete a specific professional program and meet the requirements for licensure or accreditation before they can practice in the field.

This definition both affirmed the subcommittee’s previously noted characteristics and aided the elucidation of additional characteristics.

**Observations and Recommendations:** Not all UF professional programs will feature all of the identifying characteristics below, but each program includes most of them. These characteristics are not a checklist for defining a professional program but a description of what these programs will generally feature.

* Clinical experiences are part of the curriculum.
* Credential/licensure is required to work in the field.
* Credentialing/licensure exam is required to work in the field.
* Continuing education is required to work in the field.
* External accrediting body (other than SACSCOC) accredits the program.
* Professionalism is a competency for graduation.
* Programs are generally doctoral level.
* Professional entrance exam other than the GRE is required.
* There is a “specialized curriculum”: programmatic curriculum established with courses that build on each other.
* They are distinct from research-based and/or theoretical programs.