

Portfolio Optimization & Fiscal Sustainability

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April 6th, 2024, Cornell, 197th UFS Plenary



Definitions

Academic Portfolio Optimization*: Meet student demand, deliver on the promise of upward mobility, and invest students with the broad knowledge and skills to be leaders, innovators, problem-solvers, and citizens...requires campuses to specialize and grow in their particular areas of comparative advantage; that high-cost programs are developed collaboratively and regionally rather than individually and inefficiently; and that students can benefit from an incredibly diverse range of System-wide programs and courses. [Optimizing the mix of programs within institutions (near term) and throughout the system (longer term) to ensure optimal use of resources and to better align offerings to workforce and other mission-aligned needs.]

Financial Sustainability*: Ongoing revenue generation and continuous attention to operational efficiency, along with a commitment to the difficult decisions necessary to ensure financial health.

*SUNY Report on Long-Term Enrollment and Financial Sustainability January 2024 ([SUNY-Report-on-Enrollment-and-Financial-Sustainability_January2024.pdf](#))

Deactivation:** When a State University of New York (University) campus makes a decision not to admit any more students to a program but to maintain the program registration. (Up to 3 years)

Discontinuance:** When a campus decides to remove a program from its complement of registered programs so that credentials will no longer be awarded for its completion.

**Policy Title: Program Deactivation and Discontinuance Document Number: 1701 - Effective Date: August 26, 1983 ([Program Deactivation and Discontinuance \(suny.edu\)](#))

A request for deactivation or discontinuance of a registered academic program is submitted in the form of a letter from the campus president to the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs containing the following information:

1. the program name and degree, certificate, or diploma designation;
2. a brief description or explanation of the reason for requesting the deactivation or discontinuance of the program;
3. when appropriate, a statement of how enrollment of incumbent students and the credentials granted to them in the future will be accommodated and reported;
4. the proposed effective deactivation or discontinuance date—the date for deactivation of a program should be coordinated with the campus admissions process so that admission to the program will be closed in sufficient time. In setting a discontinuance date, the campus should be sensitive to the interests of students already enrolled in the program and honor the University's intention to give enrolled students the opportunity to complete their programs unless unusual circumstances make it impossible or inappropriate to do so;
5. the information requested will enable the office of the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs to coordinate with other offices of system administration. Appropriate offices in system administration will then review the impact of the proposal on (1) University-wide offerings, (2) campus mission, (3) campus budget, (4) campus staff and students, and (5) desirable state and public services. Special attention will be given to the proposed discontinuance of a program unique within the University. The office of the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs will provide a reaction to the campus president as soon as possible after a request has been reviewed. A minimum of 60 days lead time is required for system administration review of the proposal. In the event of a fiscal emergency, a shorter time frame may be accommodated;
6. in the case of program discontinuances, the campus recommendation, when reviewed by system administration staff and approved by the chancellor, will be presented to the University Board of Trustees for formal action. No programs may be discontinued without formal approval by the University Board of Trustees. Campus presidents will be notified promptly of the board's action; and
7. in cases where a campus wishes to reactivate a program which has been deactivated, the proposal to do so should be sent by the campus president to the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs and will be reviewed by appropriate system administration offices. Reactivation of a doctoral program that was deactivated by the University does not require master plan amendment approval.