

Agenda Item No. 4.1

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Office of the Board of Regents

October 29, 2024

Members, Board of Regents  
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Adoption of a Resolution to Eliminate Certain Low-Producing Minors and Certificate Programs, Texas A&M University

WHEREAS, over the past year Texas A&M University's academic administration has reviewed minors and certificate programs to ensure adequate student interest and demand and to eliminate inefficient and low-producing programs; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has a well-established process for monitoring the productivity of undergraduate and graduate major degree programs, resulting in the review and potential elimination of programs identified by the THECB as "low-producing;" and

WHEREAS, Texas A&M University's process for identifying low-producing minors and certificate programs is consistent with the THECB's criteria for major degree programs, based on student enrollment and completions over a two-year period; and

WHEREAS, Texas A&M University received input from deans, department heads, and other faculty concerning whether the identified low-producing minors and certificate programs should be retained or inactivated; and

WHEREAS, Texas A&M University has determined that **14** minors and **38** certificate programs, for a total of **52** programs, as reflected on the attachment to this resolution, are low-producing programs that should be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate at Texas A&M University was not adequately consulted in advance on the process for identifying the low-producing minors and certificate programs; and

WHEREAS, the Texas A&M president recommends that the current review process be halted and restarted to obtain input from the Faculty Senate on the structure of the review process; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents of the System believes sufficient faculty review of Texas A&M University's process has been present; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents is charged by state law with insisting that System institutions have clarity of focus and mission with respect to each institution's programs; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents believes that it has a duty to enhance efficiency, eliminate waste, and ensure that Texas A&M University's resources are used in the most effective, focused, and strategic manner possible; and

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WHEREAS, the Board of Regents finds that Texas A&M University's review process demonstrates that the attached list of **52** minors and certificate programs are low-performing and should be eliminated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that, the Board of Regents directs Texas A&M University's president to take actions necessary to eliminate the attached list of minors and certificate programs; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, that, the Board of Regents directs the chancellor to take actions necessary to develop revisions of System Policy *11.09, Low-Producing Degree Programs*, to include minors and certificate programs, for Board consideration at the February 2025 Regular Meeting; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, that, the Board of Regents directs the presidents of other System institutions to promptly initiate a review of minors and certificate programs to identify any low-producing programs that may require elimination.

ADOPTED, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024.”

Respectfully submitted,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

William Mahomes, Jr.  
Chairman

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Ray Bonilla  
General Counsel

ATTACHMENT TO ITEM 4.1

LOW-PRODUCING MINORS

College/School	Minor_Desc	Initial Approval	Awarded (AY_21-22)	Awarded (AY_22-23)	AWARDED LAST 2 YEARS	ENROLL F23	ENROLL S24	Enroll F24	College Request - Keep/Inactivate	Justification/ Action to Date	PROVOST DECISION
ARCH	Global Art Design & Constr	Spr 2005	2	1	3	0	0	0	Inactivate		INACTIVATE
ARCH	Global Culture and Society	Fall 2011	1		1	0	0	0	Inactivate		INACTIVATE
Arts & Sci	LGBTQ Studies	Fall 2022	0	0	0	1	3	2	Keep	Retain because approved in Fall 2022	DENIED
Arts & Sci	Archaeology	Fall 2023	0	0	0	0	2	6	Keep	Retain because approved in Fall 2023	KEEP
Arts & Sci	Jewish Studies	Fall 2023	0	0	0	0	2	1	Keep	Retain because approved in Fall 2023	KEEP
Arts & Sci	Medical Anthropology	Fall 2023	0	0	0	0	4	8	Keep	Retain because approved in Fall 2023	KEEP
Arts & Sci	Nautical Archaeology	Fall 2023	0	0	0	3	4	6	Keep	Retain because approved in Fall 2023	KEEP
Arts & Sci	Asian Studies	Fall 2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	Keep	Retain because new investments in faculty are underway	Ref:8/2/24 memo
Arts & Sci	Geophysics	Spr 1998	1	0	1	0	1	1	Keep	Retain because department is making significant revisions and seeks to broaden the appeal of this minor to students.	INACTIVATE Ref:8/2/24 memo
Arts & Sci	Comparative Cultural St-US	Unknown	3	1	4	2	0	1	Inactivate		INACTIVATE
Arts & Sci	Hispanic Studies Comm Engagemt	Fall 1999	5	0	5	3	5	8	Keep	Retain because the department is starting a campaign to increase the visibility of this minor to students.	KEEP
ENG	Info Tech Service Mgmt	Fall 2023	0	0	0	0	0	1	Keep	ITSV (Information Technology Service Management) ; ETID department This is a new minor, so more time is need to promote it and garner enrollment	KEEP
ENG	Chemical Engineering	Spr 2015	0	1	1	0	1	0	Inactivate		INACTIVATE
ENG	Petroleum Engineering	Spr 1999	1	0	1	3	4	4	Inactivate		INACTIVATE
ENG	Design & Simul Mech Systems	Spr 2016	0	2	2	2	12	6	Inactivate		INACTIVATE

Low Producing - Minors

ENG	Aerospace Engineering	Fall 1998	2	1	3	2	4	2	Inactivate		INACTIVATE
ENG	Nuclear Engineering	Spr 1999	1	2	3	5	5	4	Keep	The NUEN Department requests more time to develop and grow the NUEN minor, especially with the growth of the nuclear industry and need for a nuclear-related workforce. The department has made significant efforts to advertise and promote the minor more effectively in recent years, with tangible progress, as enrollment was 0 prior to 2021.	KEEP
ENG	Analy Design Mgmt Energy Conv	Spr 2016	1	2	3	4	3	3	Inactivate		INACTIVATE
ENG	Engineering Concepts	Fall 2020	4	4	8	18	12	5	Inactivate		INACTIVATE
GV	Marine Fisheries	Fall 2023	0	0	0	4	6	9	Keep	New Program in Progress (Fall 2023)	KEEP
GV	Marine Engineering Technology	Fall 2023	0	0	0	0	0	1	Keep	New Program in Progress (Fall 2023)	KEEP
GV	Maritime Environ Law & Policy	Fall 2023	0	0	0	3	4	5	Keep	New Program in Progress (Fall 2023)	KEEP
GV	Marine Electro- Technology	Fall 2023	0	0	0	0	3	4	Keep	New Program in Progress (Fall 2023)	KEEP

Low Producing - Minors

GV	Clinical Laboratory Sciences	Spr 2018	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	Keep	<p>THE CLBS MINOR IS IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE B.S. USGA-OOH/M.S. Clinical Laboratory Science, UTMB Program (see attached 2023 Articulation Agreement), which is structured as a 5-year program. The CLBS minor is only available to USGA-OOH students who intend to pursue the Clinical Laboratory Science M.S. at UTMB through the partnership program. This pathway requires application and acceptance into the master's program at UTMB. Due to these restrictions, the CLBS minor is expected to have relatively low enrollment compared to typical minors.</p> <p>We anticipate growth of this program based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•UTMB is still committed to this program, as evidenced by their initiation of the renewal of our MOU this past year. The new agreement also included modified requirements and curricular changes, which are intended to increase the pool of students who will qualify for the program.</li> <li>•The planned revision of the OOH degree program and the recruitment of a faculty member to support it will facilitate enrollment growth in that major, and ultimately also in the CLBS minor.</li> <li>•Anecdotally (based on advising data), we have an increase in the number of students who expressed interest in the program. In fact, we just had one student accepted at UTMB to start Fall 2024. We had other OOH students interested in the program but later decided to pursue other opportunities.</li> <li>•We will continue to facilitate activities that would help students understand the CLS program.</li> </ul> <p>*See additional MOU and email for future explanation ☺</p>	KEEP
GV	Maritime Studies	Spr 2016	1	3	4	1	1	3	3	Inactivate		INACTIVATE



LOW-PRODUCING CERTIFICATES												
College/ School	LEVL	MAJR_DESC	Initial Approval	AWARDED AY21-22	AWARDED AY22-23	AWARDED LAST 2 YRS	ENROLL F23	ENROLL S24	Enroll F24	College Request - Keep / Inactivate	Justification/Action to Date	PROVOST DECISION
AGLS	GR	Regulatory Sci in Food Sys	Fall 2012	0	1	1	0	0	6	Keep	1) encourage students to register for the Regulatory Science in Food Systems graduate certificate at the time they first enroll in one of the regulatory science courses. Many students have completed two or more regulatory science courses but have not registered for the certification. 2) Expend additional resources on revising two existing courses (SCSC 635 and SCSC 636) to align with the FDA-IPPTI national standards and offer as a stacked course making it available to undergraduate and graduate students. 3) Expend additional resources communicating to other departments/advisors that align with the Regulatory Science curriculum to increase awareness of the certificate program. 4) Benchmarking past participation in the Regulatory Science in Food Systems graduate certificate as a guide to future program enhancements. 5) Meet the certificate performance standard within the prescribed timeline should be achieved. 6) Expand curriculum to include other courses that meet Regulatory Science Graduate Certificate content requirements.	Denied
AGLS	UG	Cultural Competency	Fall 2021	0	0	0	2	1	2	Keep	1) Our first justification involves increasing our efforts to encourage students to register for the Cultural Competency undergraduate certificate program as freshmen and sophomores or to declare the certificate if they are pursuing it, but don't yet have it on their degree plan. 2) Expend additional resources on revising the curriculum to increase the number of lower-level and core curriculum courses that can be applied to the certificate program. 3) Take advantage of resources in the Department of Multicultural Services to increase opportunities for students in the certificate program to complete the capstone activity and extracurricular requirements. 4) Begin to Benchmark participation in the courses students take to complete the curricular requirements of the certificate program. With these data, we will refine the menu of courses for the certificate program. 5) Meet the new certificate performance standard within two years. 6) Revise the curriculum to include popular courses that support the development of cultural competency skills.	Denied

Low Producing - CERTIFICATES

AGLS	UG	Landscape Management	Fall 2021	0	0	0	2	10	Keep	<p>We conducted polls and informal interviews with our horticulture students to determine why more students were not enrolling or completing the certification. We learned that the program had an issue with students completing the HORT 306 and HORT 308 requirements, interest in more flexibility in course selection related to materials on the TNLA-TCLA exam, and the availability of some classes. Our proposed curriculum changes should provide additional flexibility in subject matter and course availability needed.</p> <p>We found that although the Certificate was mentioned in all landscape classes, the students were not cognizant of the importance of the certificate or how close they were to completing it. Marketing in the classroom now includes visits from industry professionals who provide perspective on the value of the certificate. The provision of extra study materials to prepare for the exam has raised interest and enrollment. The opportunity to take the exam for free while still as a student is a huge savings and we are grateful to our industry for this opportunity.</p> <p>Previously we did not market extensively outside horticulture due to the program being new and potential limitations in course availability. Now that we have had time to test the program, we can market the certificate more extensively.</p>	Denied
AGLS	UG	Food Diversity	Fall 2019	0	1	1	3	4	Keep	<p>The Undergraduate Certificate Program in Food Diversity holds a crucial position within the Food Diversity Innovation Program (FDIP), which initially secured funding through a \$5 million endowment from the Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA). This grant aimed to establish a permanent educational model focusing on specialized areas such as ethnic and faith-based foods, alongside offering an undergraduate seminar course or more intensive, lab-based exploration of food complexities. Recently, an additional \$300K endowment was acquired by the program, with the primary goal of enhancing recruitment efforts and providing scholarships. This certificate program serves as an integral component of the FDIP framework, actively contributing to innovation and diversity within the food industry. Moreover, these funds are allocated towards scholarships for students pursuing studies in Food Diversity.</p>	Keep
AGLS	UG	Watershed	Fall 2003	1	2	3	2	2	Inactivate		Inactivate



Low Producing - CERTIFICATES

ARCH	GR	Facility Asset Management	Fall 2003	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Keep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Reorganize/restructure: The facility asset management certificate will be moved to the department of Construction Science.</li> <li>•Beverage faculty expertise: The department of Construction Science recently hired faculty who have both passion and expertise for Facility Asset Management in addition to the senior faculty who work in this area. We expect that Construction Science faculty will take ownership of the certificate to revise the curriculum and actively lead as the point of contact for students interested in the certificate.</li> <li>•Market more effectively: In years past faculty turnover meant that the certificate did not have a clear champion. With clear leadership, we will be able to market more effectively, using the school's website and social media pages. The department and school also hosts events where the certificate can be advertised, including new graduate student orientations, monthly colloquium presentations. Faculty will also announce the certificate in their courses.</li> </ul>	Denied
ARCH	GR	Transportation Planning	Fall 2009	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	Keep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Beverage faculty expertise: Dr. Tom Sanchez, a transportation expert, joined the department in 2024, and we expect another T/TT hire with expertise in transportation in the next year. These faculty will increase our capacity for offerings, and we will feature them in lectures to highlight their research and draw attention to the certificate.</li> <li>•Collaborate with Texas Transportation Institute: We recently held a workshop with TTI and will continue to collaborate with them through research projects and internships the certificate students can participate in.</li> <li>•Market more effectively: Use the department's website and social media pages to feature the certificate and its students' work; we have also identified events where we can announce the certificate &amp;/or host a Q&amp;A, such as at the school's open house, graduate orientation, colloquium, and in PLAN 612, the certificate's required core course.</li> </ul>	Denied
ARCH	GR	Community Development	Fall 2005	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	Inactivate	Inactivate	
ARCH	UG	Diversity (AR)	Fall 2015	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	Keep	<p>To be renamed and restructured to become the Cultural Competence Certificate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rename the certificate and update curriculum</li> <li>• Market more effectively: The proposed name gives a stronger sense of what students will actually learn in the certificate, which will allow us to market more effectively. We will continue our partnership with the Department of Multicultural Services to improve marketing efforts and manage the service-learning components of the certificate.</li> </ul>	Denied
Arts & Sci	GR	Petroleum Geoscience	Fall 2009	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	Keep	Retain, PETG is associated with the Berg-Hughes Center, for which a new directly will be hired shortly, with revisions and marketing for PETG to follow in aims of reviving student interest.	Denied

Low Producing - CERTIFICATES

Arts & Sci	GR	Geoscience Data Mgmt	Fall 2022	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	5	Keep	Retain, GEOG is integral to the online Master of Geosciences, managed by GEOG. Dept is improving their marketing strategy.	Denied
Arts & Sci	GR	Computational Sciences	Fall 2003	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Keep	Retain, Dept. views CMSC as adding value to graduate training because of workforce need for machine learning and AI. Dept. has recruitment plan aiming to make CMSC more visible to student.	Denied
Arts & Sci	UG	Environ & Engr Geology	Fall 2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	Keep	Retain, Dept. has plan for increasing visibility to students involving curriculum committee and academic advisor.	Denied
Arts & Sci	UG	Business Economics	Fall 2015	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	Keep	Retain, Dept. leadership will work with academic advisors to ensure this certificate is added through the UAS.	Denied
Arts & Sci	UG	Quantitative Econ Methods	Fall 2015	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Keep	Retain, Dept. leadership will work with academic advisors to ensure this certificate is added through the UAS.	Denied
Arts & Sci	UG	Commun & Global Media	Fall 2012	1	2	3	4	3	2	2	2	Inactivate	Inactivate. CMJR voted to inactivate this certificate in May 2024. Inactivation of COGM initiated in CARS.	Inactivate
Bush	GR	Cybersecurity Policy	Fall 2020	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	Inactivate	Decided not to keep. Down the road the Public Service and Admin will consider moving it to their department.	Inactivate
Dentistry	GR	Dental Public Health	Fall 2019	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	Keep	The certificate programs meet the enrollment levels required by CODA.	Keep
EHD	GR	Latino Mental Health	Fall 2018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Inactivate	Initiated in CARS 4/16/24	Inactivate
EHD	GR	Individual Group Team Coaching	Fall 2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Keep	New Program in Progress	Denied
EHD	GR	Post-Secondary Sci Teaching	Fall 2021	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	Keep	New Program in Progress	Denied
ENG	GR	Cybersecurity Engineering	Fall 2019	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	Inactivate		Inactivate
ENG	GR	Electric Energy Systems	Fall 2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Inactivate	Initiated in CARS 5/3/24	Inactivate
ENG	GR	Energy Tech Law & Policy	Fall 2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Inactivate	Initiated in CARS 4/12/24	Inactivate

Low Producing - CERTIFICATES

ENG	GR	Subsea Engineering	Fall 2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Inactivate	Inactivate
ENG	GR	Analog & Mixed-Signal	Fall 2019	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	Keep	Keep
ENG	GR	Engr Concept Creation & Comm	Fall 2019	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	Inactivate	Inactivate
ENG	GR	Engr Therapeutics Manuf	Fall 2015	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	Inactivate	Inactivate
ENG	GR	Intl Petroleum Mgmt	Fall 2009	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	Keep	Denied

Four new graduate certificates will be starting in Fall 2024 as part of the new academic initiatives related to the semiconductor institute. These are DICD (Digital Integ Circuit Design),SCMF (Semiconductor Manufacturing), and SSCP (Safety Semicond Processing). These new certificates are expected to gain robust enrollment as demand for graduates grows strongly due to current trends in the semiconductor industry. The AMIC (Analog and Mixed-Signal Integrated Circuit Design) certificate is also part of the academic credentials of interest to the semiconductor industry, and it is expected to grow in interest and enrollment accordingly.

1. The graduate program enrollment in the department has declined over the last five plus years due to a variety of reasons (primarily economic) and this has directly affected enrollment in the IPM certificate program.  
 2. Under new leadership both at the Department level and in the Graduate Programs Office, all programs are being overhauled and a recruiting campaign has already been initiated and includes the IPM certificate option.  
 3. The Graduate Programs Office will enhance its websites, branding, and social media presence as part of this renovation of our graduate program. The IPM certificate option will be advertised and advocated.

Low Producing - CERTIFICATES

ENG	GR	Corrosion Science & Engr	Fall 2019	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	Keep	<p>1. The course enrollment for the certificate courses has been quite healthy. We found out that the graduate advisor was not informing the students that they could get a CSIE certificate if they took the 3 courses below and how they needed to register for it. Many students took these 3 courses but did not register for the certificate. The faculty communicated with the students and some of the students will register for the certificate and will get the certificate already since they have already taken the courses.</p> <p>2. The MSEN department hired a new faculty (Dr. Bilal Mansoor) who will help revamp the certificate program</p> <p>3. The MSEN department is converting the certificate to the online form and will offer both in-person and online versions of the courses to increase enrollment to the program. We are starting the online offering this summer.</p> <p>4. The MSEN department signed an agreement with the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) that if the students get our certificate, then they don't need to take NACE courses to be certified Corrosion Engineers. For industry standards, NACE certification is required. We do not want our students to lose this privilege (and cost savings) by canceling the certificate program.</p>	Denied
ENG	UG	Energy Engineering	Fall 2006	2	2	4	0	1	1	1	Inactivate	Inactivate	
Galveston	GR	Maritime Business Admin	Fall 2021	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	Keep	Denied	
Mays	GR	Analytics	Fall 2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Inactivate	Inactivate	
Mays	GR	Intl Business	Fall 2004	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	Keep	Denied	
Mays	GR	Business Intell & Analytics	Fall 2017	0	3	3	0	2	2	2	Keep	<p>Keep</p> <p>Reassess 1 year ref: 8/2/24 memo</p>	

Low Producing - CERTIFICATES

Mays	UG	Capital Markets & Investments	Fall 2018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Inactivate	Inactivate certificate in fall 2024, with teach out plan through spring 2025	Inactivate
Mays	UG	Investment Banking	Fall 2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Inactivate	Inactivate certificate in fall 2024	Inactivate
Mays	UG	Invest Bank & Private Equity	Fall 2018	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Inactivate	Inactivate certificate in fall 2024	Inactivate
Mays	UG	Trading Risk & Investments	Fall 2014	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	Keep	The program has changed the way certificates will be added to student's degree plans. The certificate is awarded to students in the Trading Risk & Investments Program and the Commercial Banking Program, who do not pursue a graduate degree. More students will be included in this going forward.	Keep
Mays	UG	Banking Services	Fall 2022	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	Keep	This is a relatively new certificate and the program is actively recruiting at this time to build enrollment.	Denied
Mays	UG	Commercial Banking	Fall 2014	6	2	8	4	7	4	4	4	Keep	The program has changed the way certificates will be added to student's degree plans. The certificate is awarded to students in the Trading Risk & Investments Program and the Commercial Banking Program, who do not pursue a graduate degree. More students will be included in this going forward.	Keep
PHLT	GR	Health Systems Mgmt	Unknown	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	Keep	Plans to improve enrollment which include: 1. Marketing the certificate program to students in schools and colleges who often take health policy & management courses such as those enrolled at the Bush School, the Mays Business School, and the College of Engineering (specifically Industrial Engineering), and including our own DrPH students. 2. Annually assessing the curriculum and course evaluations to ensure that all students, regardless of college affiliation, are receiving instruction and demonstrating competencies in ways that align with the goals of the certificate program 3. Annually reviewing course availability to ensure that the required courses are available for students to enroll in.	Denied
PVFA	GR	Popular Culture	Fall 2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Keep	This graduate certificate has underperformed due to receiving little exposure when only associated with the MA in Performance Studies in the former Department of Performance Studies. Given a wider audience on the near horizon, we expect the numbers to improve. This is particularly with respect to the larger size of the graduate programs in Visualization and the addition of graduate programs in Dance (approved) and upcoming programs in Music Technology and Interarts, we expect to have in PVFA.	Denied

Low Producing - CERTIFICATES

PVFA	UG	Performing Social Activism	Fall 2021	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	Inactivate	we plan to <b>close</b> this certificate. When we move forward it will be with a new minor. We don't need to keep the certificate open to pursue the new minor.	Inactivate
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