

Review and Approval Process for Proposals on Academic Programs

Type of Proposal	School Approval	OVPAP (+ Other Offices via APAS)	Deans' Review	Senate Education Committee	Senate Plenary	Trustees	NYSED ^a
Baccalaureate Degree (120 credit hours at minimum)							
New Major	✓	✓	✓				✓
Substantive Change of Existing Major	✓	✓					✓
"4+1" Based on Existing Degrees ^b	✓	✓		✓			✓
Master's Degree (30 credit hours at minimum)							
New Degree Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
New Degree Type ^c	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Substantive Change of Existing Degree Program	✓	✓					✓
"4+1" Based on Existing Degrees ^b	✓	✓		✓			✓
Dual Degrees within Columbia	✓	✓		✓			✓
Add Online Modality to Existing Degree	✓	✓		✓			✓
Doctoral Degree (3 full-time academic years at minimum)							
New PhD Program ^d	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Substantive Change of Existing PhD Degree Program ^d	✓	✓					✓
Dual PhD and Another Degree within Columbia ^d	✓	✓		✓			✓
New Other Doctoral Program ^e	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
New Doctoral Degree Type ^c	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Substantive Change of Existing Other Doctoral Degree Program	✓	✓					✓
Dual Doctoral and Another Degree within Columbia	✓	✓		✓			✓
Add Online Modality to Existing Other Doctoral Degree Program	✓	✓		✓			✓
Other Academic Programs							
New Certificate Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Substantive Change of Existing Certificate Program	✓	✓					✓
Approximate time for review of complete proposal	school discretion	2-3 weeks	2 weeks	Senate's discretion	Senate's discretion	pending trustee meeting schedules	2-6 months or longer for proposals to Office of Professions

* Substantive change for programs at all levels may include but not limited to change in program title/focus/design, change of one-third or more of minimum credits required, adding or eliminating an option or concentration, and eliminating a requirement for completion (e.g. internship, clinical, cooperative education).

- a. If one of the dual degrees is regulated by the [Office of the Professions](#), NYSED approval is needed.
- b. "4+1" generally refers to combined program of baccalaureate and master's degrees, and may include options like 4+0.5, 3+2, etc.

- c. New degree type refers to a type of degree (e.g., Master of Science) that is not explicitly authorized by the Columbia Statutes for a specific school.
- d. Requires GSAS approval after school approval.
- e. Other doctoral degrees may include JD, MD, DDS, DPH, EdD, DSc, etc.