

# Sierra College

## BOARD POLICY

**BP 4021**

### Program Vitality

Date Adopted:	3/9/2004
Date Revised:	1/22/2013
Date Reviewed:	5/9/2023
References:	Accreditation Standard II.A; Education Code Section 78016; Title 5 Section 51022; <i>Program Discontinuance: A Faculty Perspective Revisited</i> , ASCCC, adopted Fall 2012

The purpose of the Program Vitality policy is to provide a process whereby instructional or student services programs undergo a formal and transparent evaluation by a committee composed of constituent groups from across the campus (faculty, classified, managers, and students) to determine the future of the program. Programs go through Program Vitality based upon a formal referral by a relevant individual or group on campus and said referral must be accepted by the Academic Senate. Using quantitative and qualitative evidence, the committee will recommend one of the following:

1. Continue the program
2. Continue the program with qualifications
3. Discontinue the program

The existence of this process should not be construed as an inducement to look for programs to discontinue or as a threat to avoid honest participation in an academic process such as Program Review.

Pursuant to Title 5, Section 51022, “College districts are required by regulation and statute to develop a process for program discontinuance and minimum criteria for the discontinuance of occupational programs.” Additionally, Education Code §78016 stipulates that every vocational and occupational program shall meet certain requirements prior to termination.

As part of a series of position papers on academic and professional matters, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) has recommended that local senates develop a process for program discontinuance not limited to occupational programs that takes into account the following issues:

- Effect on students
- College curriculum balance

- Educational and budget planning
- Regional economics and training issues
- Collective bargaining agreements

The Academic Senate of Sierra College has established a Program Vitality Policy guided by the aforementioned sections of the Education Code, Title 5, and ASCCC recommendations (see Administrative Procedure 4021) as well as the following:

- Mission statement
- Educational Master Plan
- Department's goals and objectives
- Program Review
- Facilities Master Plan
- Other relevant strategic planning documents

Thus, when the Board of Trustees receives a recommendation to discontinue a program based upon the Program Vitality process (Administrative Procedure 4021) at least one of the following will have occurred:

- All intervention strategies recommended by the Program Vitality committee were implemented with little or no success
- A recommendation to discontinue was determined by the Program Vitality committee
- Recommendations were reviewed through the shared governance process and were not feasible (see Administrative Procedure 4021)