



## POLICY 9.12

### POSITION POLICY

#### *Academics: Course and Program Development and Maintenance*

#### **POLICY INTENT**

To outline the position of AUSU regarding the need for continual course and program development and review.

#### **POLICY RESPONSIBILITY**

AUSU Council

#### **POLICY RESEARCH**

A robust academic environment requires continuous course and program review and development. New courses and programs, such as interdisciplinary cross-faculty undergraduate program credentials, will help to attract new students to Athabasca University and will add additional value and flexibility for current students. Additionally, up-to-date course content will help to ensure that students receive the best education possible. In recognition of this, the university has undergone a course and program review and has implemented program review requirements in conjunction with university resource planning. While students appreciate this work, there needs to be a continuation that ensures that courses are regularly and uniformly reviewed across all faculties.

Some courses are required for programs at AU but are consistently under review when students try to enrol in them. Some of these courses are core program requirements, and they may be under revision for years. AU must develop a strategy to ensure that all courses, especially courses that are required for a program, are reviewed regularly.

Athabasca University is embarking on a course review process as part of their development of a new Integrated Learning Environment, as per the Learning Framework. When these programs and courses are reviewed, the university must ensure that there is a breadth of course and program offerings to choose from. Athabasca University should also consider the pacing of all courses and ensure they are paced appropriately for those enrolled in 3 credit (4 month) or 6 credit (8 month) course contract periods. Athabasca University should also look into possibilities for micro-credentials as demand for such learning pathways is increasing among learners.

**Be it resolved that the Athabasca University Students' Union will advocate that Athabasca University maintain a wide range of courses across all faculties, including micro-credentials, and that a review process be developed so that every course is regularly reviewed and updated as needed.**

#### **POLICY HISTORY**

Original Approval Date:	July 27, 2005
Last Review Date:	September 2020
Review by Date:	August 2021