

Definitions

Academic Program Inventory

The Classification of Instructional Programs Edition 2020 (CIP) is used to classify all degree programs into major discipline divisions. Currently, there are 33 CIP codes used within the System's Academic Program Inventory (API).

Within the API, the discipline divisions are specified at the two-digit CIP code level and the degree programs are represented at the six-digit CIP code level. The API includes all degree programs which have been approved by the Board for implementation at the respective universities.

A degree program is a course of study with a prescribed set of requirements which a student must complete. It is identified by a specific degree title and a specific major subject matter area. The name of the major must reflect accurately the skills, competencies, and knowledge to be attained in the course of studies.

Distance Learning

Distance learning may be defined as “institutionally based formal education where the learning group is separated and where interactive communications systems are used to connect instructors, learners, and resources” (*The Quarterly Review of Distance Education*) or “the acquisition of knowledge and skills through mediated information and instruction, encompassing all technologies and other forms of learning at a distance” (*United States Distance Learning Association*).

A synchronous learning environment supports live, two-way oral and/or visual communications between the instructor and the student (constrained by time but not place) while an asynchronous learning environment is when communication between the instructor and the student is not real-time (constrained by neither time nor place).

Presently, a course is considered a distance learning course when at least 50% of the course is available via technology-based instruction while a program is considered to be a distance learning program when at least 50% of the program is available via technology-based instruction.

Academic Organizational Structure

Colleges and Schools are the “macro” organizational entity for collections of academic units. Their budgets are generally large, and the academic head of a college is generally a dean.

Departments are the primary academic, operational, and administrative organizational units. Departments are organized around common and similar academic areas, and generally command notable budgets. Faculty numbers could range from small to large (twenty or more faculty).