

IV. Reconstitutions of Academic Programs and Academic Units

A reconstitution refers to any combination of actions treated as a unified plan and intended to transfer, consolidate, discontinue, disestablish, or change the name of¹⁰ an academic program or academic unit.¹¹ TCDD actions are defined as:

- Transfer: Moving a program or unit into another one that subsumes it;
- Consolidation: Combining two or more programs or units to form a new unified program or unit;
- Disestablishment: Eliminating an academic unit or research unit;
- Discontinuance: Eliminating an academic program.

Ordinarily, a proposed TCDD is initiated in one of three ways: 1) it is included in a *Five-Year Planning Perspective*; 2) it results from a formal Senate review; or 3) it is initiated by the local campus administration. Although establishment of a new academic unit or program may result from a reconstitution, the process for establishments of programs and academic units are addressed in sections II and III respectively.

Reasons for reconstitutions vary, but may include administrative efficiencies, financial exigency, changes in the field, demand, and fund-raising opportunities.

Disestablishments and discontinuances are two actions that are usually interrelated. For example, the reconstitution of an academic unit more often than not results from—or may result in—the discontinuance of one or more academic programs. CCGA is responsible for system-level review of reconstitutions of graduate degree programs and graduate groups.

Schools, colleges, departments, and programs are evaluated not only for their academic achievements but also for the adequacy of their support. The results of the evaluation should help determine whether more or fewer resources are appropriate and may even lead to a recommendation for program termination. The absence of proper funding can lead to the decline of existing programs and/or diminution in the quality of new programs.

One central tenet of program review is that comparable programs should be comparably across the system.