4.4

Program length

Program length is appropriate for each of the institution’s educational programs.

Judgment

☑ Compliant ☐ Non-Compliant ☐ Not Applicable

Narrative

Angelo State University (ASU) is in compliance with Federal Requirement 4.4.

According to Operating Policy OP_10.09_Degree_Requirements #1, all bachelor's degrees must meet general degree requirements including completion of a minimum of 130 semester credit hours, including a minimum of 39 advanced (junior and senior level) semester credit hours, a minimum of 33 semester credit hours in residence (24 of which must be at the advanced level), core curriculum requirements, Texas Success Initiative, called TSI, requirements, and applicable GPA requirements.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, however, ASU worked to decrease total semester credit hours for each undergraduate degree from 130 credit hours to 120 credit hours in response to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) mandate that undergraduate programs be reduced to 120 hours in order to help students earn degrees in a shorter period of time. Many programs at ASU have decreased total semester credit hours, and the other departments are working to decrease the total credit hours required for undergraduate degrees. The following memo from Provost Don Coers indicates the current changes to the semester credit hours required for bachelor's degrees at Angelo State University (THECB 120 sch). The following chart shows the current required semester credit hours for degrees at Angelo State University (Table 4.1). Operating Procedure OP10.09, referenced above, is currently on the list to be rewritten to reflect the THECB-mandated changes.

According to Chapter 7 of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Rules in Effect Tac3 (Page 8) section 14 B, the curriculum for a bachelor's degree shall be at least one hundred twenty hours (120) and not more than one hundred thirty-nine (139) semester credit hours. Associate degree programs (also section B) shall consist of between 60 and 66 semester credit hours. Finally, a master's degree (also section B) must consist of at least thirty (30) semester credit hours and not more than thirty-six (36) semester credit hours.

For graduate education, the Angelo State University Policy OP_10.09_Degree_Requirements #2 states that a student must complete a minimum of 30 to 48 semester credit hours of graduate work (103 semester credit hours for the Master of Physical Therapy degree) depending upon the degree being sought. In each degree program, the student must earn a 3.00, or better, grade point average overall and in the major field and in all course work taken at ASU. In programs requiring course work outside the major field, the student must earn a 3.00, or better, grade point average in each of these areas. Grades lower than C will not apply toward any degree. The student may apply toward the degree.

The THECB also stipulates in section 14A Tac3 (Page 8) that quality is a chief consideration and that content shall be appropriate to the mission of the institution. For ASU that means providing a sound educational base from which students can build successful futures; see Angelo State University Mission Statement (Page 1).

All online and off-campus programs require the same courses and semester credit hours for the appropriate degree programs as programs offered on site.
Table 4.1 indicates which associate and bachelor's degrees are currently being offered at Angelo State University. The table is first broken out by colleges then by departments.

Table 4.2 indicates which master's degrees are currently being offered at Angelo State University. The table is once again divided first by colleges then by departments.

Sources

- OP_10.09_Degree_Requirements
- Table 4.1_Undergraduate Programs
- Table 4.2_Graduate Programs
- Tac3
- THECB 120 sch
- TSI
- ANGEO STATE UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT (Page 1)
- Tac3 (Page 8)