



**Policy Series #: 3000 – Educational  
Policy Manager: Mary Davenport  
Academic Program Approval**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to identify a program or major approval process for Riverland Community College.

**APPLICABILITY:**

A program or major offered by Riverland Community College shall be approved by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees before it is offered by Riverland Community College. Approval by the Board requires that the program or major proposal demonstrates:

- a. need and appropriate location(s) to address unmet student and occupational demand;
- b. resource sufficiency, i.e., capability of the system and institution(s) to provide necessary human, physical, and financial resources to support the program or major; and mission relevance, i.e., contribution to the institutional and system missions.
- c. approval by the Riverland Community College Academic Affairs Standards Council.

**DEFINITIONS:**

Program or major: A combination of courses and experiences for credit leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate and designed to accomplish objectives such as 1) preparation for advanced study, 2) qualification for an occupation or range of occupations, and/or 3) increase of knowledge and understanding in an area.

Accomplishment of program objectives requires a set of defined learning outcomes, approved by the Academic Affairs Standards Committee, which constitutes a major or is certified by a credential.

**DOES THIS POLICY HAVE A PROCEDURE?** Yes - AASC Application Procedures  
MnSCU Policy 3.36: <http://www.mnscu.edu/board/policy/336.html>  
MnSCU Procedure 3.36: <http://www.mnscu.edu/board/procedure/336p1.html>

**LIST RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES OR PLANS HERE: (if any)**

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Date of Initial Review by President's Cabinet: 3/14/2013  
AASC Review (if applicable): 4/23/13  
FSGC Review (if applicable):  
Date of Final Approval / Policy Adoption: 6/13/13  
Date & Subject of Revisions: