

Fayetteville State University

Academic Program Discontinuation

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are degree programs discontinued at FSU?

Decisions to discontinue programs are based on several factors:

1. The program has not met the UNC Board of Governors requirements for the number of graduates and or students enrolled in majors.
2. Recruitment efforts to improve numbers of majors/graduates have not enabled the program to meet the productivity requirements.
3. There is little evidence of significant potential for future growth in the degree program.
4. The program does not serve an essential need of the region.

Which program have been discontinued at FSU?

These programs and the dates of their discontinuation are listed below:

B.S., Business Education (2009)
B.S., Health Education (2009)
B.S., Marketing Education (2009)
B.S., Social Science Education (2011)
B.S., Spanish Education (2011)
M.A., English (2011)
M.A., Political Science (2011)
M.S., Biology (2013)
M.S., Mathematics (2013)
B.S., English Language and Literature, Secondary Education* (2013)
B.S., Mathematics, Secondary Education* (2013)
B.S., Biology, Secondary Education* (2013)
B.S., Art Education* (2015)
B.S., Music Education* (2015)
B.S., Biotechnology (2015)

* Teacher licensure remains available as concentration.

What happens to students enrolled in discontinued programs?

For undergraduate students with 60 or more credits who are officially declared majors in a discontinued program, the university will provide courses needed for a student to complete his/her degree in a reasonable length of time. Students with fewer than 60 credits will be advised to pursue another degree program.

For graduate students who have been officially admitted into a discontinued degree program, the university will provide the courses needed for the student to complete his or her degree in a reasonable length of time.

Two years is generally considered “a reasonable length of time” for completing a degree, though exception can be made on a case-by-case basis.

All students in affected programs should meet with their advisor or department chair as soon as possible to develop a plan for degree completion so that the department can plan future course offerings.

If I am currently enrolled in a program that has been discontinued and must drop out of FSU for a semester or more, can I complete the program when I return to the university?

No, students must maintain continuous enrollment to be assured to have the courses they need to complete their degrees.

What are the productivity standards that programs must meet?

To avoid possible discontinuation:

Undergraduate program must meet at least one of the following standards:

- At least 21 graduates over the past two years;
- At least 11 graduates in the most recent year;
- At least 26 declared majors in the most recent year.

Master’s programs must meet at least one of the following standards:

- At least 16 graduates over the past two years;
- At least 10 graduates in the most recent year;
- At least 23 declared majors in the most recent year.

Are the numbers listed above the only factor considered in discontinuing the program?

No. Other factors considered include potential for future growth, improvement in productivity even if the standards are not met, and the program’s relationship to strategic priorities of the university. Faculty members in the program have the opportunity to develop a plan for improving productivity. Usually programs are not discontinued unless they have fallen below the standards for two or more years and plans for improvement have not been effective.

Recently-approved programs are permitted time to build their programs before being required to meet the productivity standards. Bachelor’s degree programs have at least eight years of operation, master’s degree programs must have at least six years of operation, and doctoral programs must have at least ten years of operation.

Have any faculty members lost their jobs because of program discontinuation?

No, all faculty members in affected programs have been or will be assigned other courses to teach.

How do program discontinuations save money?

Since the university must enable currently enrolled students to complete the degrees, the university will realize no immediate savings from program discontinuations. When all currently enrolled students complete their degrees, faculty members formerly assigned major courses can be assigned to teach general education classes, thus reducing the overall demand for faculty resources. As faculty members in discontinued program resign or retire, their faculty positions may either be eliminated, which saves money, or reallocated to another program that is growing, thereby using faculty resources more efficiently.