

## **Academic Program Review (APR) Fact Sheet**

[www.uakron.edu/advance-ua](http://www.uakron.edu/advance-ua)

### **What is APR?**

- A year-long, faculty-led, University-wide exercise launched in fall 2017
- An identification of strengths, weaknesses and potential of virtually all UA academic degrees and degree tracks, including associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees
- A study that became the basis for recommendations made to the Board of Trustees concerning areas of investment, maintenance and phase out

### **Why was APR done?**

- To better position UA to educate students for productive and successful careers, and contribute to the growth of Northeast Ohio
- To better align with expectations of the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission
- To enhance future financial stability of the University
- To use state resources more effectively

### **How was APR done?**

1. This inclusive, faculty-led exercise began at the department level.
2. Input was received from unit-level faculty, department chairs, school directors, deans, a 24-member faculty Academic Program Review Executive Committee and Faculty Senate.
3. Interim President John Green and Provost Rex Ramsier considered the input and prepared a list of faculty hires for fall 2019 in areas of strategic priority for the University and a set of recommendations for phasing out some degree offerings.
4. These recommendations were further discussed with the deans and revisions were made based on those conversations.
5. Final recommendations were submitted to the University's Board of Trustees for action at its August 15, 2018, meeting.

### **Main Findings of APR**

- I. The vast majority of UA's academic programs are performing well and will continue.
- II. Key areas of strength and opportunity have been identified.
- III. Programs with low enrollment and/or degrees earned, or that duplicate heavily invested programs at other regional institutions, were identified and will be phased out.

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### **Majority of UA Programs Performing Well**

- Approximately 81 percent of all 414 degrees and degree tracks currently offered have a strong academic foundation, a healthy enrollment and/or potential for growth.
- About 95 percent of UA students are admitted into these vibrant academic programs.

### **Areas of Investment**

- Polymers, music, dance, cybersecurity, nursing, health and biosciences, communication, engineering and business are among the academic programs and fields identified as areas for initial investment.
- UA plans to hire 31 full-time faculty (23 tenure-track positions) and a contract professional in these key areas, in time for the start of classes in fall 2019.

### **Phased Out Programs**

- These degrees and degree tracks will be phased out and eventually terminated, beginning in fall 2018 with suspension of new admissions to these degrees.
- Students currently admitted to those degrees and degree tracks (including continuing students and those entering in fall 2018) will be able to complete their degrees at UA.
- No elimination of regular faculty, contract professionals, or staff positions is planned due to these actions.

### **Facts**

- UA offers 414 degrees or degree tracks.
- 334 degrees or degree tracks will continue (81%). Currently, 95% of UA students are in these degrees/degree tracks.
- 80 degrees or degree tracks will be phased out (19%).
- Of those degrees or degree tracks scheduled to be phased out:
  - 72 percent had five or fewer degrees earned in FY 2017-2018, including 23 percent that awarded no (O) degrees during FY 2017 – 2018.
- All students in degrees/degree tracks scheduled for phasing out will be able to finish their degrees at UA.
- As of August 13, 2018, it is estimated that the total number of students (both continuing and new students for fall of 2018) who are admitted to degrees or degree tracks that will be phased out is 965. As noted, they will be able to complete their degrees at UA. (For fall 2017, that number was 1,034.)

### **Next Steps**

- The APR will be used to inform future University strategic planning.
- A strategic planning process that will engage the entire University and community will begin this fall to establish the optimal path forward for our University and its students. Details on that process will be forthcoming.