

Annual Report from the Academic Policy & Curriculum Committee (APCC)

Academic Year 2025-2026

Submitted by: Julie Masura, Chair

University of Washington Tacoma Faculty Assembly

NOTE: This report was initially generated by AI using minutes and agendas. Additions and a number of edits were made by Julie Masura.

Committee Charge

The Academic Policy & Curriculum Committee (APCC) is responsible for matters of policy relating to the academic affairs of UW Tacoma, including new academic programs, majors, minors, certificates, course proposals, scholastic standards, graduation requirements, and recommendations regarding academic regulations and academic excellence initiatives. APCC reviews and forwards recommendations through the Faculty Assembly governance process. Sources: APCC charge and membership information.

Committee Membership (2025-2026)

Voting Faculty Members

- Julie Masura (Chair), School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences
- Jeff Walters, School of Engineering & Technology
- Hengshuo (Winston) Liang, School of Engineering & Technology
- Katie Haerling, School of Nursing & Healthcare Leadership
- Claudia Sellmaier, School of Social Work & Criminal Justice
- Matthew Weinstein, School of Education
- Matthew Kelley, School of Urban Studies
- Loly Alcaide Ramirez, School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences
- Natalie Jolly, School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences
- Shahrokh Saudagaran, Milgard School of Business

Ex Officio Members

Representatives from Academic Affairs, the Registrar, Information Technology, Library, Academic Advising, the Office of Teaching Excellence, and Faculty Assembly Administrative Support.

Summary of the Chair's Work

During the 2025-2026 academic year, the APCC:

- Conducted curriculum review and governance activities across all academic units.
 - Reviewed program modifications, credential changes, new course proposals, and course revisions.
 - Continued implementation of the Academic Planning Policy.
 - Supported development of new academic programs emerging from Academic Plan priorities.
 - Served on campus E-Designation Workgroup.
 - Served on tri-campus University Committee on Undergraduate Education, Natural Sciences Review Board, Undergraduate Learning Outcomes Task Force, Graduate Artificial Intelligences Consulting Workgroup
 - Participated in tri-campus curriculum discussions and governance updates.
 - Reviewed graduation petitions and academic exceptions.
 - Facilitated committee orientation and faculty support regarding curriculum processes.
 - Supported curricular discussions related to undergraduate learning outcomes and core curriculum review.
 - Coordinated curriculum workshop series.
 - Coordinated state of curriculum review with EVCAA unit.
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Major Activities and Accomplishments

Curriculum Review

Throughout the academic year, APCC reviewed proposals from multiple schools and disciplines, including business, healthcare administration, engineering, nursing, biology, information technology, communication, and interdisciplinary programs. See Table 1 for curricular review tally.

Provost Serio initiated an undergraduate curriculum refresh for tri-campus this year. Schools at UWT reviewed content and retired over a hundred courses that were either never offered, hadn't been offered in several years, or were not going to be offered due to recent curriculum refresh. These are among the Course Modifications in Table 1. Next year will focus on updating prerequisite structures, modifying degree paths, and restructuring pathways.

Academic Planning Policy Implementation

APCC continued to serve as a campus leader in implementation of academic planning processes established during previous years. See Table 2. For the state of each curricular proposal received.

Committee discussions focused on:

- Program Notice of Intent (PNOI) development
- Strategic enrollment growth opportunities
- New academic program development
- Resource implications of academic expansion
- Alignment of proposed programs with the university's Academic Plan

Faculty Development and Training

APCC hosted its annual orientation and training session for committee members and curriculum administrators prior to the start of the academic year.

Training topics included:

- APCC charge and responsibilities
- Curriculum review procedures
- Quali curriculum workflow
- Proposal preparation expectations
- Best practices for program and course proposals
- Academic Planning Policy updates

For the second year, Faculty Assembly, the Libraries, and the Office of Digital Learning hosted a series of workshops to help faculty navigate the curriculum review process and plan a course. The core team included Chris Lott, Julie Masura, Melissa Petrich, and Amanda Pirog. The focus this year was the implementation of AI to aid in the process.

Workshops included:

- Design Aligned Learning Objectives with AI
- Critical AI Literacy in the Classroom
- Navigating APCC and Areas of Inquiry

Following the series, the APCC Chair spent the day with the School of Social Work and Criminal Justice guiding faculty through the course development and approval process.

The committee continued to promote consistency and transparency in curriculum governance through ongoing consultation with schools and faculty proposers.

Policy Discussions and Governance

Undergraduate Learning Outcomes

The committee received updates and presentations regarding undergraduate learning outcomes and considered implications for curriculum review and assessment practices.

Core Curriculum Review

APCC discussed development of an Ad Hoc Core Curriculum Review Workgroup and considered future governance and policy implications connected to core curriculum requirements.

Curriculum Designations

The committee continued oversight of designation processes and updates regarding curriculum requirements and academic policy considerations.

E Designation

APCC proposed adoption of a process to identify can review Community-Engaged Learning Courses (E-courses). After review by the committee and units, the proposal was brought to Executive Council for endorsement. Executive Council voted to support the proposal and enact a new review process and policy to UWT courses going forward.

Graduation Petition Reviews

APCC continued to review student graduation petitions and exceptions throughout the year. Petition review remained a regular component of committee business and contributed to the committee's role in maintaining academic standards while addressing individual student circumstances.

Challenges and Emerging Issues

Several themes emerged during 2025-2026:

- Lack of interest in chairing committee. NOTE: Requested nominations or names of potential faculty. Asked 5 faculty and each declined.
 - Missing student representative for committee.
 - Continued growth in academic planning activities.
 - Increased complexity of new degree and credential development.
 - Need for sustainable processes supporting program expansion.
 - Integration of emerging technologies and AI-related curriculum initiatives.
 - Ongoing assessment of core curriculum and learning outcomes.
 - Maintaining efficient review processes while proposal complexity increases.
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Recommendations for 2026-2027

1. Find a new chair for the committee.
 2. Continue annual APCC orientation and training.
 3. Maintain support for Academic Planning Policy implementation.
 4. Strengthen guidance for Program Notices of Intent and new program development.
 5. Continue Core Curriculum Review discussions and governance work.
 6. Support emerging interdisciplinary and workforce-responsive programs.
 7. Evaluate curriculum review workload and committee capacity.
 8. Continue coordination with tri-campus curriculum governance bodies.
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Conclusion

The 2025-2026 academic year represented a period of continued maturation for APCC as both a curriculum review committee and a strategic academic planning partner. The committee provided oversight of program and course changes, supported implementation of institutional planning initiatives, reviewed student petitions, and contributed to discussions about the future direction of academic programs at UW Tacoma.

APCC remains central to faculty governance and academic quality assurance and is well positioned to continue supporting the university's academic mission and strategic priorities in the years ahead.

Table 1. Curricular Review Tallies

Academic Year	New Course Proposals	Course Modifications	PNOs	New Program Proposals	Program Modifications	Diversity Designations	Graduation Petitions
2021-2022	70	67	0	3	27	4	6
2022-2023	76	24	0	0	21	0	3
2023-2024	21	48	5	0	13	3	7
2024-2025	37	70	0	5	12	0	5
2025-2026	49	302	4	1	16	0	14

Table 2. Academic Planning Curriculum State

Proposal	Current Step	Next Step	Notes
Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Visual and Performing Arts (BAIVPA)	EVCAA Review on 1/28/26. DARS Review complete 8/25/26.	UWCO to send out for Tri-Campus Review	Check with unit to see if complete.
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Statistics and Data Science (BSSDS)	APPROVED	Unit needs to complete ICAPP Review	APPROVED
Bachelors of Science in Pharmaceutical Science (BSPS)	Reviewed and supported by COD on 5/5/26.	5/5/26 working with Dustin/Cherie on budget. Needs to be reviewed at September meeting.	Check with unit to follow up.
Doctorate in Educational Leadership Online Cohort	APPROVED	APPROVED	APPROVED
Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence (MSAI)	PNOI approved by APCC on 6/3/26.	8/26/26 - EVCAA unit requested proposers address Chair compensation & new faculty	

		position in proposal. Once received will send to EVCAA for review.	
Master of Science in Civil Engineering (MSCE)	PNOI approved by APCC on 9/26/25.	Awaiting EVCAA decision upon response to questions.	EVCAA returned to unit to address staffing. 10/9/25. Jeff inquired from Raj on 11/20/25. 5/20/26 Created document addressing comments outlining updates to PNOI and budgets 8/31/26 - correspondence with EVCAA office & SET. Need to address budget with Dustin and staffing with Dean.
Master of Science in Environmental Science (MSES)	APPROVED	APPROVED	APPROVED
Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (MSME)	PNOI approved at APCC 9/26/25.	Awaiting EVCAA decision upon response to questions.	Email from EVCAA received 8/29/26 with extensive questions.
SIAS World Language Graduation Requirement (GradWL)	Approved by EVCAA 6/3/26	Awaiting NOP from proposers.	Suggested sending to UWCO to review language 7/31/26.
Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Food Studies Minor (MilFS)	NOP tri-campus review completed 5/19/26	Proposal draft complete. Proposal can be reviewed by stakeholders, once received by APCC.	2 courses will be proposed in Autumn and then move proposal through process.

