

## 4.4

### Program length

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

### Judgment

Compliance    Partial Compliance    Non-Compliance    Not Applicable

### Narrative

Tennessee Technological University (TTU) follows Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) guidelines in requirements for program lengths.

#### Undergraduate Programs

According to the TBR, all baccalaureate degrees must require a minimum of 120 semester credit hours. Degree requirements for each undergraduate program are presented in the Undergraduate Catalog (Pages 34-39) [1]. The TBR requires a justification for any undergraduate program that exceeds 120 semester hours. Policy 260 [1a] further details undergraduate program length specifications. All post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree programs at TTU require at least 30 semester credit hours. Degree requirements for each program are presented in the Graduate Catalog (Pages 33-38) [2]. Policy 271 [2a] details graduate program length specifications.

Additional hours are required in some programs due to accreditation requirements and/or licensure requirements. The following baccalaureate programs require 128 semester credit hours:

Bachelor of Science, Chemical Engineering [3]  
Bachelor of Science, Chemical Engineering with Bio-Molecular Concentration [4]  
Bachelor of Science, Civil and Environmental Engineering [5]  
Bachelor of Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering with Computer Engineering Concentration [6]  
Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering [7]  
Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering with Mechatronics Concentration [8]  
Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering [9]  
Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering with Mechatronics Concentration [10]  
Bachelor of Music, Instrumental Music Education Licensure [11]  
Bachelor of Music, Vocal/General Music Education Licensure [12]

In addition, within the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, the Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Sustainability Studies with the Chemistry Concentration and the Society, Culture, and Communications Concentration require 121 semester credit hours. The table below lists baccalaureate degrees offered at TTU.

Table 1. Baccalaureate Degrees Offered at TTU.

| <b>College</b>                         | <b>Department / School</b>        | <b>Degrees Offered</b>                   | <b>Concentrations / Options</b> | <b>Credit Hours</b> |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Agriculture &amp; Human Ecology</b> | Agriculture                       | BSAG                                     | 12                              | 120                 |
|  | Human Ecology                     | BSHE                                     | 7                               | 120                 |
| <b>Arts &amp; Sciences</b>             | Biology                           | BS (Biology)                             | 7                               | 120                 |
|  |                                   | BS (Wildlife and Fisheries Science)      | 3                               | 120                 |
|  | Chemistry                         | BS                                       | 3                               | 120                 |
|  |                                   | Non-degree Pre-Professional Program      | 10                              | 120                 |
|  | Communication                     | BS                                       | 2                               | 120                 |
|  | Earth Sciences                    | BS (Geosciences)                         | 4                               | 120                 |
|  | English                           | BA                                       | 4                               | 120                 |
|  | Foreign Languages                 | BA                                       | 3                               | 120                 |
|  |                                   | BS (International Business and Cultures) |                                 | 120                 |
|  | History                           | BA                                       |                                 | 120                 |
|  |                                   | BS                                       |                                 | 120                 |
|  | Mathematics                       | BS                                       |                                 | 120                 |
|  | Physics                           | BS                                       | 2                               | 120                 |
|  | Sociology and Political Science   | BS (Sociology)                           | 3                               | 120                 |
|  |                                   | BS (Political Science)                   | 2                               | 120                 |
|  |                                   | BS (Psychology)                          |                                 | 120                 |
| <b>Business</b>                        | Accounting                        | BSBA                                     |                                 | 120                 |
|  | Decision Sciences and Management  | BSBA                                     | 5                               | 120                 |
|  | Economics, Finance, and Marketing | BSBA (Economics)                         |                                 | 120                 |
|  |                                   | BSBA (Finance)                           |                                 | 120                 |
|  |                                   | BSBA (Marketing)                         |                                 | 120                 |
|  |                                   | BS (International Business and Cultures) |                                 | 120                 |
| <b>Education</b>                       | Art                               | BFA                                      | 8                               | 120                 |

|                                  |  |   |    |     |
|----------------------------------|--|---|----|-----|
|                                  | Curriculum and Instruction                         | BS  | 5  | 120 |
|                                  |  | BSED  | 14 | 120 |
|                                  |  | BSED (Science)                              | 4  | 120 |
|                                  |  | BSED (Social Studies)                       | 4  | 120 |
|                                  |  | BS (Special Education)                      | 7  | 120 |
|                                  |  | BS (Multidisciplinary Studies)              | 4  | 120 |
|                                  |  | BS (Child and Family Studies)               | 2  | 120 |
|                                  | Exercise Science, Physical Education, and Wellness | BS  | 7  | 120 |
|                                  | Music  | BM  | 2  | 120 |
| <b>Engineering</b>               | Chemical Engineering                               | BSCHE                                       |    | 128 |
|                                  |  | BSCHE (Bio-Molecular)                       | 1  | 128 |
|                                  | Civil and Environmental Engineering                | BSCE  |    | 128 |
|                                  | Computer Science                                   | BS  | 2  | 120 |
|                                  | Electrical and Computer Engineering                | BSCMPE (Computer Engineering)               |    | 128 |
|                                  |  | BSEE (Electrical Engineering)               |    | 128 |
|                                  |  | BSEE (Electrical Engineering, Mechatronics) |    | 128 |
|                                  | Mechanical Engineering                             | BSME  |    | 128 |
|                                  |  | BSME (Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronics) | 1  | 128 |
|                                  | Manufacturing and Engineering Technology           | BSET  |    | 120 |
| <b>Interdisciplinary Studies</b> | Professional Studies                               | BS  | 4  | 120 |

|                |  |        |   |     |
|----------------|--|--------|---|-----|
|                | Professional Studies (RODP)              | BS     |   | 120 |
|                | Environmental and Sustainability Studies | BS     | 5 | 121 |
|                | Interdisciplinary Studies                | BS     |   | 120 |
| <b>Nursing</b> |  | BSN    |   | 120 |
|                |  | RN/BSN |   | 120 |

## Master's Programs

Graduate programs of study are individually planned for each student based on educational background and career objective. Students must complete a minimum of 30 semester credit hours for master's degree programs requiring completion of a thesis, or a minimum of 33 semester credit hours for non-thesis master's degrees. However, the non-thesis Master of Business Administration requires only 30 semester credit hours, and the Master of Art program in Exercise Science, Physical Education, and Wellness requires only 30 semester credit hours for both thesis and nonthesis options. The Master's Program in Educational Psychology within the Department of Counseling and Psychology requires 30 semester credit hours for the nonthesis option and 33 semester credit hours for the thesis option. At least 70 percent of the semester credit hours to be counted toward a master's degree must consist of credit for courses at the 6000 level or above. Remaining courses that are listed as 4000 (5000) may only be taken at the 5000 level for graduate credit, with graduate credit earned on the basis of additional work required by the instructor. The table below lists all graduate degrees offered by TTU.

Table 2. Graduate Degrees Offered at TTU.

| College                      | Department/<br>School        | Degrees<br>Offered   | Concentrations/<br>Options                                    | Credit<br>Hours |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|-----------------|
| <b>Arts and<br/>Sciences</b> | Biology                      | MS   |   | 30              |
|                              | Chemistry                    | MS   |   | 30              |
|                              | English                      | MA   |   | 30              |
|                              | Mathematics                  | MS   | 2   | 30/33*          |
| <b>Business</b>              | Business<br>Administration   | MBA (on-<br>campus and<br>distance-based)                        | 5   | 30              |
| <b>Education</b>             |                              | PhD<br>(Exceptional<br>Learning)                                 | 4   | 78-79           |
|                              | Counseling and<br>Psychology | MA (Educational<br>Psychology and<br>Counselor<br>Education)     | School Psychology<br>depending on optional<br>thesis          | 30-33           |
|                              |                              | MA (Educational<br>Psychology and<br>Counselor<br>Education)     | School Guidance<br>Counseling depending<br>on optional thesis | 48-51           |
|                              |                              | MA (Educational<br>Psychology and<br>Counselor<br>Education)     | Educational Psychology<br>depending on optional<br>thesis     | 30-33           |
|                              |                              | MA (Educational<br>Psychology and<br>Counselor<br>Education)     | Mental Health<br>Counseling                                   | 60              |
|                              |                              | MA (Educational<br>Psychology and<br>Counselor<br>Education)     | Case Management and<br>Supervision                            | 42              |
|                              |                              | EdS<br>(Educational<br>Psychology and<br>Counselor<br>Education) | Agency Counseling   | 30              |
|                              |                              | EdS<br>(Educational  |   |                 |

|                                  |  |  |                                 |        |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--------|
|                                  |  | Psychology and Counselor Education)                  | School Psychology               | 30     |
|                                  |  | EdS (Educational Psychology and Counselor Education) | Educational Psychology          | 30     |
|                                  |  | EdS (Educational Psychology and Counselor Education) | School Counseling               | 30     |
|                                  | Curriculum and Instruction                         | MA   | 10 depending on optional thesis | 30-33  |
|                                  |  | MA (Instructional Leadership)                        |                                 | 30     |
|                                  |  | EdS  | 9                               | 30     |
|                                  |  | EdS (Instructional Leadership)                       |                                 | 30     |
|                                  | Exercise Science, Physical Education, and Wellness | MA   | 5                               | 30     |
| <b>Engineering</b>               |  | PhD  |                                 | 72     |
|                                  | Chemical Engineering                               | MS   |                                 | 30     |
|                                  | Civil Engineering                                  | MS   | 3                               | 31/34* |
|                                  | Computer Science                                   | MS   | 2                               | 31/34* |
|                                  | Electrical and Computer Engineering                | MS   | 6                               | 30/34* |
|                                  | Mechanical Engineering                             | MS   | 5                               | 30/33* |
| <b>Interdisciplinary Studies</b> | Environmental Studies                              | PSM (Professional Science)                           | 2                               | 33     |
|                                  |  | PhD (Environmental Sciences)                         | 2                               | 61     |
|                                  | Professional                                       |  |                                 |        |

|                     |   |            |                                    |       |
|---------------------|---|------------|------------------------------------|-------|
|                     | Professional Studies                    | MPS (RODP) | 3                                  | 33    |
|                     | Advanced Studies in Teaching & Learning | Med        | 1                                  | 33    |
| <b>Nursing</b>      |   | MSN (RODP) | 4<br>depending on<br>concentration | 34-46 |
| * thesis/non-thesis |   |            |                                    |       |

## Specialist Programs

The Specialist in Education degree requires an additional 30 semester credit hours beyond the master's degree in approved upper-level courses. At least 15 semester credit hours must be from 7000 level courses, and no courses below the 6000 level will count toward the degree unless permission is granted by the student's advisory committee, the department chairperson with the student's major department, and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The table above lists all graduate degrees offered by TTU.

## Doctoral Programs

The number of semester credit hours for a doctoral degree varies by degree program. The PhD degree in Engineering requires a minimum of 48 credits but a total of 72 credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree [13]. The PhD in Environmental Sciences requires a minimum of 61 semester credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree but a total of 43 credit hours beyond the master's degree [14]. The PhD degree in Exceptional Learning requires a minimum of 51 credits beyond the baccalaureate degree but a total of 78/79 credit hours [15]. The table above lists all graduate degrees offered by TTU.

## Distance and Accelerated Programs

The same number of semester credit hours is required for distance education programs and accelerated programs. Accelerated programs offer three short terms within a regular semester so students can earn credit at an accelerated pace [16]. Deans, departmental chairpersons, and University faculty members participate in the off-campus advisory and instructional program to ensure that courses offered are of the same quality as those taught on the main campus. Partnering with academic and administrative units, highly qualified personnel from business, industry, and various educational agencies provide direction and instruction for conferences, seminars, workshops, and special events.

## Program Development and Approval Process

New programs are developed by faculty at the department level in response to a perceived need. Departments then make proposals to a college-level committee. Proposals approved by the college-level committee are then reviewed by the University Curriculum Committee (if undergraduate level) or the Graduate School Executive Committee (if graduate level). Approved proposals are submitted to the Academic Council and then to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Finally, proposals approved by this Office are submitted to the TBR for final approval [17]. At each stage of the review of proposed new programs, the length of the program is reviewed.

## Conclusion

TTU's educational programs are of sufficient length to include appropriate course work adhering to the TBR guidelines for program lengths. Therefore, TTU is in compliance with Federal Requirement 4.4.

## Sources

-  [01] 2014-2015 Undergraduate Catalog
-  [01a] Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree and Graduation Policy 260
-  [02] 2014-2015 Graduate Catalog
-  [02a] General Graduate Degree Requirements Policy 271
-  [03] Bachelor of Science Chemical Engineering
-  [04] Bachelor of Science Chemical Engineering with Biomolecular Concentration
-  [05] Bachelor of Science Civil Engineering
-  [06] Bachelor of Science Computer Engineering
-  [07] Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering
-  [08] Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering with Mechatronics Concentration
-  [09] Bachelor of Science Mechanical Engineering
-  [10] Bachelor of Science Mechanical Engineering with Mechatronics Concentration
-  [11] Bachelor of Music Instrumental Music Education Licensure
-  [12] Bachelor of Music Vocal\_General Music Education Licensure
-  [13] PhD in Engineering Requirements
-  [14] PhD in Environmental Sciences Requirements
-  [15] PhD in Exceptional Learning Requirements
-  [16] Accelerated Degree Programs
-  [17] Approval of Academic Programs, Units, and Modifications Policy 224