

CAMPUS ALBERTA QUALITY COUNCIL PRINCIPLES

CORE PRINCIPLES

Principle 1 – The **best interests of learners** are at the core of Council's activities as it assesses proposed degree programs and monitors the quality of existing degree programs.

Principle 2 – Council's **standards** are appropriate to the nature and degree level of programs and are comparable to national and international standards. Council encourages innovation and creativity in degree programming when there is a demonstrated benefit to learners.

Principle 3 – Council recognizes that the **primary responsibility** for academic and institutional quality assurance rests with degree granting institutions themselves.

Principle 4 – Council respects the foundational role of **academic freedom** in the provision of high quality degree programs.

Principle 5 – **Peer evaluation** is an essential component of Council's evaluation of degree programs.

Principle 6 – **Consultation with stakeholders** is an integral part of degree program development, appraisal, and monitoring.

Principle 7 – Council exhibits and promotes appreciation of **institutional diversity** and respect for **institutional autonomy**.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Principle 8 – Council exhibits and promotes **equity, openness, transparency, and efficiency** in all its practices and policies.

Principle 9 – Where appropriate, Council applies **iterative processes** in discussions with institutions to clarify and improve degree programs.

Principle 10 – Members and peer reviewers act in ways that build **trust** in Council's processes and decisions.

Principle 11 – Members and peer reviewers act **autonomously** and in accordance with **ethical standards**, and abide by Council's code of conduct, which includes provisions on conflict of interest.

Principle 12 – Council is committed to the **quality assurance review** of its own activities and to sharing effective practices in degree program quality assessment.