LAMAR UNIVERSITY
MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: Academic Affairs **MAPP 02.06.06**
AREA: Accreditation, Licensure, and Regulation

Stacked Course Usage

I. POLICY

A. Lamar University's (LU) stacked courses must display adequate academic rigor per Standard 9.6 of the Accrediting Standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC):

> **Standard 9.6.** Post-baccalaureate professional degree programs and graduate degree programs are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs and are structured (a) to include knowledge of the literature of the discipline, and (b) to ensure engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training.

II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

A. The practice of simultaneously teaching students of varying levels (undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral) in the same classroom setting has raised concerns from SACSCOC regarding how rigor is maintained and documented for all levels. This policy has been developed to provide LU with a method for assessing whether its stacked courses maintain academic rigor suited to each level of a course.

B. This policy falls under the authority of the Accrediting Standards of the SACSCOC. In addition, this policy falls under the authority of all applicable federal, state, and Texas State University System (TSUS) statutes, rules, and regulations, including, but not limited to, the TSUS *Rules & Regulations*; Texas Education Code, Title 3, Higher Education; and Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Education.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. **Stacked Courses.** Courses in which multiple sections of varying levels are taught simultaneously using the same classroom/course shell and instructor. For example, a course may be offered at the 4000-level for undergraduates and 5000-level for graduate students.

B. **Cross Listing.** The means by which stacked courses are combined in LU's Student Information System (SIS).

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Department Chair

1. Submits requested stacked courses for scheduling.
2. Ensures all submitted stacked courses have unique syllabi clearly displaying differences in course content, requirements, and rigor between levels.

B. Registrar's Office

1. Reviews stacked course submissions.
2. Forwards requested stacked-course combinations to the Assistant Provost for Accreditation and Assessment for review.

C. Assistant Provost for Accreditation and Assessment

1. Reviews syllabi of requested stacked courses and verifies compliance with SACSCOC Standard 9.6.
2. When compliance is determined, sends approval to Registrar to add courses to schedule.
3. If rigor is inadequately defined/courses are found to be noncompliant, returns course request to Department Chair for revision.

V. REVIEW AND RESPONSIBILITY

Responsible Party: Academic Policy Advisory Council

Review Schedule: Every three years on or before the date the policy was last revised and/or approved.

VI. APPROVAL

Dr. Daniel A. Brown	05/08/2024
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs	Date

Dr. Jaime R. Taylor	05/08/2024
Lamar University President	Date

POLICY LOG

Version	Date	Description of Changes
1	01/31/2024	Policy draft completed.
	02/19/24 - 04/04/24	Reviews by constituency groups completed.
	03/25/24 - 04/25/24	Review by campus community completed.
	05/08/2024	Policy approved by President.