



Petition for Substantively New Degree Program

for consideration by the ATS/COA Board of Commissioners

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

Commission-accredited schools must petition for approval prior to adding any new degree that is in a new degree category or represents a significant departure for its currently approved degrees (per [Policies and Procedures](#) IV.D).

As noted in [Policies and Procedures](#) IV.D.1, "The Board considers **offering a degree in a new category** to include offering for the first time a master's or doctoral degree in a category in which it does not currently offer an approved degree. Standard 4 lists three categories of master's degrees: MDiv, MA, and ThM; Standard 5 lists three categories of doctoral degrees: DMin, Other Professional Doctorates, and PhD/ThD. Offering a doctoral degree in a new category may also require a focused visit before approval, especially new PhD degrees (see III.D.1). The Board considers **offering a degree representing a significant departure from its approved degrees** to include offering a degree in a field outside of the school's current area(s) of expertise and/or requiring significant additions in faculty, facilities, or finances." Schools are to use this form to petition for each new degree by completing the relevant portion (i.e., submit one petition form for each new degree). In completing this form, please include links to additional documentation as requested or as deemed helpful. Your Commission staff liaison will contact you if there are any questions regarding this petition.

NOTE: As described in [Policies and Procedures](#) IV.D.1, offering new degrees in the same category or changing the name of an already approved degree DOES NOT require prior approval from the Board. However, any such change (including discontinuing an approved degree; see III.L.1) DOES require notification to, and acknowledgement by, the school's Commission staff liaison at least 60 days before being implemented (see notification forms on ATS [petitions and notifications webpage](#)).

i. Name of school: *

Click to select from menu



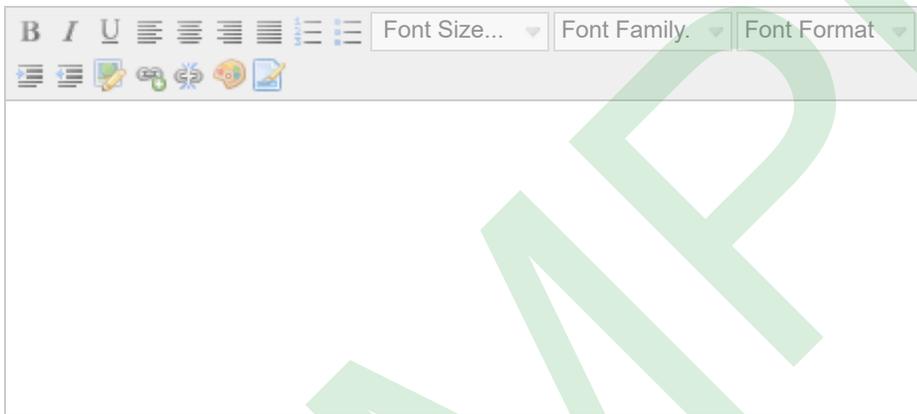
5. Does this new degree represent a significant departure from already-approved degrees in terms of expertise and/or significant additions needed in faculty, facilities, or finances? *

- No*
- Yes**

***If NO, proceed to Prompt #6**

****If YES ("significant departure"), describe the nature and extent of new expertise and/or new resources needed in those areas (5a-5c):**

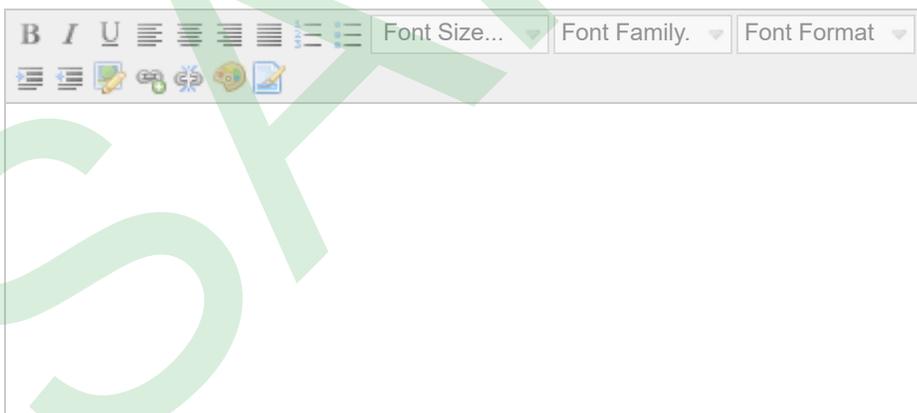
5a. Faculty:



A rich text editor interface for the '5a. Faculty' section. The toolbar includes icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, decrease indent, increase indent, link, unlink, insert link, insert image, insert video, insert audio, and insert document. To the right of the icons are three dropdown menus: 'Font Size...', 'Font Family.', and 'Font Format'. Below the toolbar is a large, empty text area for input.

Provide link to list of faculty teaching in program, with their qualifications

5b. Facilities:



A rich text editor interface for the '5b. Facilities' section. The toolbar includes icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, decrease indent, increase indent, link, unlink, insert link, insert image, insert video, insert audio, and insert document. To the right of the icons are three dropdown menus: 'Font Size...', 'Font Family.', and 'Font Format'. Below the toolbar is a large, empty text area for input.

Include library resources

5c. Finances:

Rich text editor toolbar with options for Bold (B), Italic (I), Underline (U), Bulleted List, Numbered List, Decrease Indent, Increase Indent, Font Size, Font Family, Font Format, and icons for Undo, Redo, Link, Unlink, and Image.

Consider providing link(s) to additional documentation (e.g., curricular requirements and evaluation plan)

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

When finished, please submit this petition to the ATS Director of Commission Information Services by hitting the "submit" button below. You can expect an automated confirmation email within a few minutes. There is no fee for this (or any) Commission petition. Please do not send any paper copies or any emailed attachments; submit only this completed, online form (including any links to additional information requested).

NOTE: Petitions for new degrees are typically decided by the Board of Commissioners within a few months (see submission deadlines on ATS [petitions and notifications webpage](#)). Petitions for a doctoral degree in a new category may require six months or more for approval, since the Board may require a focused evaluation visit before making a final decision, especially for new PhD programs.

ATS Commission Staff Liaison Email *

Click to select from menu ▼

A copy of your form will be sent to this address

CEO Email

(optional)

A copy of your form will be sent to this address

CAO Email

(optional)

A copy of your form will be sent to this address

ALO Email

A copy of your form will be sent to this address

PDF attachment (optional)

No file chosen

If submitting multiple documents, consolidate these as one (bookmarked) PDF file

Additional comments



ACCESSIBILITY
ENABLED FORM

SAMPLE