

Reimagining and Improving Student Education (RISE)
Negotiated Rulemaking - Session 2, November 3 through 7, 2025
#4 Proposed Draft Regulations
Section 685.102 Definitions

Amend § 685.102 by revising paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 685.102 Definitions.

(b) * * *

Expected time to credential: From July 1, 2026, the expected time for a student to complete a program that is equal to or the lesser of—

(1) three academic years, or its equivalent; or

(2) the period determined by calculating the difference between—

(i) the program length for the program of study in which the individual is enrolled; and

(ii) the period of such program of study that such individual has completed as of the date of the determination under paragraph (2) of this definition.

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Graduate student: A student enrolled in a program of study that is above the baccalaureate level and awards a graduate credential (other than a professional degree) upon completion of the program.

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Professional student: A student enrolled in a program of study that awards a professional degree upon completion of the program;

(1) A professional degree is a degree that signifies both completion of the academic requirements for beginning practice in a given profession and a level of professional skill beyond that normally required for a bachelor's degree, where professional licensure is also generally required, and includes the following degrees: Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.), Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.), Law (L.L.B. or J.D.), Medicine (M.D.), Optometry (O.D.), Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.), Podiatry (D.P.M., D.P., or Pod.D.), and Theology (M.Div., or M.H.L.).

Program length: The minimum amount of time in weeks, months, or years that is specified in the catalog, marketing materials, or other official publications of an institution for a full-time student to complete the requirements for a specific program of study.

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