ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS
POLICY MANUAL

2-222 Descriptions and Definitions of Academic Units (formerly 2-302)

Revision Dates

11/20/2025, 11/17/2022, 2/8/2013 (adopted)

The following descriptions and definitions will be used by the universities to obtain consistency in function and in terminology for new and existing organizational units, which encompass teaching, research, and public service programs. An academic unit at a university constitutes one of the below definitions regardless of its working title.

A. Department

1. Offers degrees and course work in a field of study;
2. Has assigned faculty and staff;
3. Is responsible for major teaching, research, and public service in a field of study;
4. Has separate identification in university operating budget.

B. Center or Institute

1. Emphasizes research and/or public service;
2. Includes faculty or staff from several disciplines to coordinate research or public service;
3. Disseminates new knowledge or provides technical assistance;
4. Has separate identification in university operating budget;
5. Has assigned faculty and staff;
6. Is recognized by federal agencies providing budgetary support on a temporary basis;
7. May offer course work and continuing education.

C. Laboratory or Bureau

Laboratory: Primarily for research

Bureau: Primarily for public service

1. Does not offer courses or degrees;

2. Is usually found within a single discipline and established for a specific purpose;

3. Has separate identification in university operating budget;

4. Has assigned faculty and staff.

D. Other Academic Units (Including, but not limited to office, agency, or unit)

1. Is not necessarily budgeted separately in university operating budget;

2. Coordinates course offerings, research efforts, or public service activities within other approved academic units.

E. College

1. Has separate identification in university operating budget;

2. Is led by a dean or equivalent senior administrator;

3. Meets the definition of a department or is comprised of multiple academic units, but is above a department in the university organizational hierarchy.

Policy History

2/8/2013 The Board repealed 2-302 and adopted 2-222 in its place.

11/17/2022 Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading.

11/20/2025 Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading.

Related Information