

Major vs. minor changes to an existing program

Type of change	Major changes	Minor changes
Resource requirements	Additional resources are required at a cost	Additional resource costs are covered by the associated academic unit
Courses	Change to the majority of courses in an approved program	Addition of new course options, or deletion or substitution of a required course
Duration, philosophy, or direction	Change to the duration, philosophy, or direction of a program*	
Specialization	Addition or removal of a specialization (e.g. concentration under a major)**	
Admission requirements	Change in requirements for admission	
Residency requirements	Change in requirements for residency	
Continuance requirements	Change in requirements for continuance	
Admission quotas	Change in admission quotas	
External review	Change which triggers an external review	

* The Ministry includes in its definition of “new program” revision of a program’s major objectives resulting in significant change and a significant revision of a program that warrants credential renaming. Please consult PDQA if the revision may fall under this definition.

** If not considered a new program or covered under the Program Suspension and Discontinuance policy (222). Addition of a minor or major is considered a new program, not a major program change. Degree programs that refer to their main areas of specialization as “options” or “concentrations” must consult PDQA to determine whether addition of a new specialization is considered a major program change or a new program.