

(e) The board shall review periodically the role and mission statements, the table of programs, and all degree and certificate programs offered by the public institutions of higher education to assure that they meet the present and future needs of the state and the counties in which they are located. The board's review shall be performed at least every four years and shall involve the chairperson of the institution's board of regents. The board shall also order the initiation, consolidation, or elimination of degree or certificate programs where that action is in the best interest of the public institutions themselves or the general requirements of the State of Texas, the counties in which they are located, or when that action offers hope of achieving excellence by a concentration of available resources. No new department, school, degree program, or certificate program may be added at any public institution of higher education except with specific prior approval of the board. The board may authorize an institution to continue a doctoral program that is inconsistent with the role and mission of the institution if the program was in existence on September 1, 1987, and the board determines that continuation of the program is warranted.