Online Program Approval & Administration Rubric

This rubric is designed to facilitate decision making for new academic degree and certificate programs offered by CU Boulder. (Exceptions are noted.)

There are three options for academic programs. Based on the program components, the academic program will be assigned to Boulder Main Campus, Boulder Continuing Education or Boulder on Coursera. It is possible for degree programs to be offered on more than one of the three campuses, but the curricular requirements and credentials are expected to be largely the same.

Program Approval Components	Boulder Main Campus (B1) BLDR	Boulder Continuing Education (B2) BLDR Programs "Administered by CE"	Boulder on Coursera (B3) BLD3
Student Type(s)	**Degree-seeking undergraduate, graduate and law students.**	**Degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students; select programs only.** *Note*: Students may take classes before or without declaring a credential program, including through ACCESS.	**Degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students.** *Note*: Students may take classes before or without declaring a credential program.
Credential Type	**Degrees and academic certificates.** Certificates must be embedded in or taken concurrent with a degree program.	**Academic certificates & select Main Campus degree programs administered by CE (online and extraordinary programs).** Certificates may be standalone or embedded in degree programs.	**Degrees and academic certificates.**
Admissions Standards	**Formal** admission standards and processes. University and program-specific requirements.	**Formal** admissions standards and processes for Main Campus degree programs administered by Continuing Education. Open admission standards for nondegree students enrolling in CE classes through ACCESS, Boulder Evening or Online Credit.	**Flexible** admission standards and processes. May include performance-based admissions. Students often start in nondegree status.

Program Approval Components	Boulder Main Campus (B1) BLDR	Boulder Continuing Education (B2) BLDR Programs "Administered by CE"	Boulder on Coursera (B3) BLD3
Term/Calendar Structure	**Standard term-based**: Fall, Spring and Summer.	**Standard term-based with flexible entry/exit points** based on special sessions within standard terms (every 7.5–8 weeks).	Structured on **standard terms, with flexible entry/exit points** based on half-term special sessions (every 7.5–8 weeks).
Delivery Method	Predominantly **in-person** with some online and hybrid programs and class offerings	Predominantly **online** with some in-person or hybrid classes	**Online/correspondence or MOOC-based** (i.e., Coursera-based programs)
High- vs. Low-Touch Instruction	High-touch instruction with substantive interaction; based on strategic enrollment and growth plans.	High-touch instruction with substantive interaction.	Low-touch instruction without regular substantive interaction; scalable.