

REPORT ON ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW

Action Requested: Receive the report on Academic Program Review.

Background: Board Policy 3.6 requires review of all academic programs on a seven-year cycle. The Office of the Provost at each institution leads this process and annually reports enrollment, completions, placement and planned program changes to the Board office for each reviewed program. Based upon these reviews and any other information available, the Board office can periodically select programs for on-site audits to assess the need for future Board reviews or actions.

Program Review Process: At the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, and Iowa State University, departmental or program reviews occur at a minimum of every seven years. Departmental or program reviews consist of a self-study and an external review. The external review committee of faculty from peer or aspirational institutions will meet with faculty, staff, students and administrators that can provide additional context for the team. The external team provides a report of observations and recommendations for program improvement. At UNI, departments prepare an action plan in response to the self-study and external report. For all Regent Universities, after consultation with provost, the dean prepares a final letter summarizing findings of the review and setting out recommendations and required actions for the department. The chair, faculty in the department/program, and the provost receive the final letter. In the spirit of continuous improvement, ISU also requires programs to submit a brief status report to the Office of the Provost at the mid-point of the seven-year review cycle. Programs accredited by external bodies can request that the accreditation reviews serve the role of the program review process. In those cases, the accrediting agency conducts the external review.

2023-24 Program Reviews:

The table below lists program reviews conducted at each Regent university in academic year 2023-24. Except where noted, reviews included all levels of degrees in the program. Placement rates identified for the programs reviewed here were from 85-100% indicating strong program outcomes for both employment and graduate school enrollment. Programs seeing decreased enrollment often note efforts to review curriculum and ensure pathways to graduation are clear and efficient, as well as ways the program is connecting with other disciplines to increase opportunities for students to double major, minor or add skill-based certificates that enhance workforce preparation. Multiple departments also noted that decreases in international student enrollment had a particular impact on master's and doctoral degree enrollment.

Iowa State University	University of Iowa	University of Northern Iowa
Animal Ecology (BS) Fisheries Biology (MS, PhD) Forestry (BS, MS, PhD) Wildlife Ecology (MS, PhD) Mathematics (BS, MS, PhD) Apparel, Merchandising and Design (BS, MS, PhD) Hospitality Management (BS, MS, PhD) Event Management (BS, MS)	Oral Science (MS, PhD) Human Toxicology (MS, PhD) Law (LLM, MSL, ASJD) Communication Sciences and Disorders (BA, MA, AuD, PhD) History (BA, MA, PhD) Physics and Astronomy (BA, BS, MS, PhD) Statistics and Actuarial Science (BS, MS, PhD) Interdepartmental Studies (BA) Neuroscience and Pharmacology (MS, PhD) Molecular Physiology Biophysics (PhD) Radiation Sciences (BS) Health Management and Policy (MHA, EMHA, MPH, MS, PhD)	Art (BFA, BA) Art History (BA) Graphic Design (BA) Art Education (BA, MA) Mathematics (BA, MA) Political Communication (BA) Political Science (BA) Public Administration (BA)

Key Findings and Improvements at Iowa State University

- Apparel, Merchandising and Design has changed its name to Fashion Design and Merchandising to better align with student expectations and industry norms.
- Event Management and Hospitality Management programs are looking at curricular changes that will take advantage of unique resources at the Student Innovation Center and in the renovated LeBaron and McKay Halls.
- The Mathematics department is reviewing the current math placement exam (ALEKS) is effectively placing students into the level of math where they can be successful.
- Animal Ecology has had steady enrollments and strong placement rates of graduates (above 95%) but is considering a name change to ensure alignment with industry needs.

Key Findings and Improvements at the University of Iowa

- This was the first program review for the MSL and ASJD in Law since the programs were initiated. Enrollments in those and the LLM are low, and the programs may be sunset pending consideration in the next College of Law strategic planning process.
- In Communication Sciences and Disorders, 80% of BA completers go directly on to a graduate program. The majority of the remaining portion go into employment and the program is working to improve support for this segment of students.

- Physics and Astronomy have had consistent enrollment in the past 5 years and expect growth in graduate programs due to increased federal funding and growth in applications.
- Statistics has decreased enrollment primarily due to the large decline in international student enrollment at bachelor's and PhD levels. There is growth in the MS in Data Science program, and the undergraduate program will change the admission policy for BS in Actuarial Science from selective admission to direct admission which should increase majors in that program.
- Undergraduate programs in Radiation Sciences have grown to help address the workforce shortage in Iowa, with most students receiving job offers prior to graduation. They hope to further expand the program if resources to do so can be identified.
- The recent approval of the online Executive Master of Health Administration program is likely to expand the reach of that program. The face-to-face program has been stable since the pandemic.

Key Findings and Improvements at the University of Northern Iowa

- The Art department has very strong alumni outcomes at the undergraduate and graduate levels and hopes to enhance degree options to include Expressive Arts Therapy tracks in Art and Art Education programs as many alums are teachers, counselors or enter art therapy training programs.
- Mathematics plans to develop an undergraduate-graduate pathway of "4+1" for both the math and actuarial science programs to provide a faster, less costly option for those seeking advanced training for STEM careers. Lack of funding to support graduate students is an identified barrier to recruitment for the master's degree.
- In Political Communication and in Political Science they are redesigning the curriculum to improve alignment with workforce skills and manage changes in UNI's general education curriculum. The redesign for Political Communication was completed in Fall 2024 and the work in Political Science is underway in 2024-25.
- The Public Administration program hopes to improve connections with other complimentary programs to encourage students to double major, as well as leverage connections with the new UNI Center for Civic Education.