

Contact: Rachel Boon

REPORT ON ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW**Committee 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 the 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.

2024-25 Program Reviews:

The table below lists program reviews conducted at each Regent university in academic year 2024-25. The reviews included the levels of degrees noted in the table below. Placement rates identified for the programs reviewed here were from 85-100% indicating strong program outcomes for both employment and graduate school enrollment. Several programs identified enrollment declines from the pandemic that have started to rebound. In some instances, changes to degree programs or admissions procedures were implemented that contributed to an uptick. Changes in course requirements or curriculum are described as ways to improve career preparation and streamline degree pathways.

Iowa State University	University of Iowa	University of Northern Iowa
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Music (Bachelor's level) Performing Arts/Theatre (Bachelor's level) Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication (Bachelor's level) Food Science and Human Nutrition (All levels)	Orthodontics (Master's level) Counselor Education (All levels) Informatics (Graduate level) School of Social Work (All levels) Geographical and Sustainability Sciences Clinical Nutrition (Master's level) Biostatistics (Graduate level)	Communication Sciences and Disorders (Bachelor's and Master's levels)

Key Findings and Improvements at Iowa State University

- Food Science reviewers recommended structural changes to programs that would help address changes in the industry as well as manage for enrollment declines and reflect faculty alignment.
- Enrollment in DVM has increased since the last review with placements rates staying above 95% after graduation. Vet Med identified no major changes, but will be updating curriculum with additional required large animal experiences and other enhancements in dentistry, imaging and exotic animal medicine.
- Music enrollments and graduates have been consistent with strong placement rates. Expanding efforts to improve facilities and update equipment for music students.
- The Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication has launched two new majors that they anticipate will help rebound undergraduate enrollment (Sports Media & Communication and Digital Storytelling) which has had modest declines that reflect journalism trends nationally.

Key Findings and Improvements at the University of Iowa

- Orthodontics faculty identified the importance of faculty retention and succession planning. Encouraging students in working with new technologies and collaborative research is a priority.
- Counseling Education has very strong growth in an undergraduate minor created in 2020. The department is working to carefully manage growth and ensure efficiency with resources.
- The development of a one-year master's degree in Informatics has been benefited high-performing undergraduate students who wish to go straight into it. Additional recruitment strategies are being developed.
- Due to changes in the admissions process, enrollment in the Bachelor of Social Work has more than doubled in an effort to meet state labor market demand. Similar growth

exists in the master's and doctoral programs. Closing programs in Des Moines and the Quad Cities has allowed more efficient use of resources.

- Biostatistics graduate programs have 100% placement rates in a range of industry, government and research institutions.

Key Findings and Improvements at the University of Northern Iowa

- Communication Sciences and Disorders identified concerns about academic advising and have begun to revise the model used to serve students. In addition, they are making changes to the undergraduate clinical experiences to improve consistency for students and add more training in writing.