

Contact: Rachel Boon

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.

2018-19 Program Reviews

The table below lists program reviews conducted at each Regent university in academic year 2018-19. Except where noted, reviews included all undergraduate and graduate degrees in the program.

Iowa State University	University of Iowa	University of Northern Iowa
Agronomy Department Communications Studies Human Development and Family Studies Department Physics and Astronomy Department	Educational Policy and Leadership Studies Psychological and Quantitative Foundations Rehabilitation and Counselor Education Teaching and Learning Informatics African American Studies Asian and Slavic Languages and Literature French and Italian German	Anthropology Criminology Family Services General Studies Gerontology Industrial Technology Liberal Studies Sociology Technology MS Textiles & Apparel

Iowa State University	University of Iowa	University of Northern Iowa
	Rhetoric Theatre Arts Biochemistry Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science Radiation Oncology Neurosurgery* Obstetrics and Gynecology*	

* Due to reorganization and hiring a new Dean for Carver college of Medicine, the review of Neurosurgery and Obstetrics & Gynecology are moved to 2018-19.

Key Findings and Improvements at Iowa State University

- The Agronomy program increased doctoral student enrollment due to hiring new faculty and increased grant funding. Graduation rates on all levels (bachelor to doctoral) have significantly increased.
- Communication Studies program proposed establishing a new Department of Communication & Leadership to enhance student experience, faculty research and efficiency. This new department would combine resources from Communication Studies, Speech Communication and Leadership Studies.
- Human Development and Family Studies program will focus on increasing enrollment in financial counseling & planning and early childhood.
- Physics and Astronomy program follows the national trend of increasing undergraduate enrollment in the Physics major.

Key Findings and Improvements at the University of Iowa

- Educational Policy and Leadership Studies master’s program enrollment and graduations have declined at least 20% due to decrease in paid graduate student assistantships and department/staff leadership changes which drew focus away from recruitment.
- Educational Psychology program master’s program enrollment and graduations have declined at least 20% due to faculty retirements/resignations. These changes in faculty affected advising and the ability to enroll new students. Additionally, the program moved to an online format and found it was not successful in attracting MA students.
- Rehabilitation and Counselor Education program enrollment increased in the master’s program by at least 20%. Accreditation required splitting the MA program in Rehabilitation Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling to specialize training in both areas.
- 95% of graduating Teacher Education Program students find placements as teachers in schools. Most of these placements are in Iowa.
- African American Studies program may develop a graduate certificate in the near future.
- French and Italian program has hired a new faculty member in French to increase recruitment and mentorship opportunities for graduate students.
- Theatre Arts program had a 50% increase in master’s graduates and has a newly approved major in Screenwriting Arts.
- Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science program has 100% placement.
- Radiation Oncology program focuses on doctoral students only since fall 2018 and had 100% placement.

Key Findings and Improvements at the University of Northern Iowa

- Based on 5-year trend of decreasing enrollment, Anthropology faculty are in process of restructuring the major.
- Family Services faculty proposed restructuring the curriculum along with adding 3 courses and deleting 2 courses.
- General Studies program enrollment has declined in the past 7 years due to a competitive job market and lack of information about the major. In the next 2-3 years, the faculty will consider restructuring the General Studies major.
- Gerontology program has seen an increase in the past 2 years which compensated for the decrease in the 2 years prior. An in-depth evaluation of the program has been proposed to determine curriculum restructuring needs.
- Liberal Studies program has over 200 enrolled students and continues to grow through online and distance education. Additionally, 81% of BLS graduates are employed.
- Sociology program continues curriculum revision, which may include adding a capstone course and increasing collaboration opportunities within UNI and the larger region.
- Technology MS program has begun implementation of a new curriculum structure to place programs under one degree umbrella. This restructuring allows for emphasis on filling regional employer needs and support recruitment of students.
- Textiles & Apparel program continues its partnership with national industries and working to increase enrollment. In addition, the faculty are considering program accreditation along with ensuring facilities and equipment are maintained and updated for optimal training/learning opportunities.