

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 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.

2020-21 Program Reviews: Some program reviews were delayed in the past 18 months as departments had to make alternate arrangements for planned external reviewers. For the most part, all are back on schedule.

The table below lists program reviews conducted at each Regent university in academic year 2020-21. Except where noted, reviews included all undergraduate and graduate degrees in the program.

Iowa State University	University of Iowa	University of Northern Iowa
Agricultural Education and Studies Horticulture Statistics English World Languages & Cultures	Accounting Orthodontics Dental Public Health Genetics Immunology Center for the Book (MFA) Art & Art History Health & Human Physiology Journalism & Mass Communication Music Psychological & Brain Sciences Occupational & Environmental Health Master of Public Health	Science Education Philosophy & World Religion Psychology Philanthropy Program (MA)

Key Findings and Improvements at the University of Iowa

- The undergraduate accounting program is evaluating changes in entering student preparation (specifically the increase in AP and college credit hours for incoming students) and is evaluating opportunities to offer undergraduate-to-graduate and 3+1 degree offerings.
- In its first program review since its initial approval, the Center for the Book (offering MFA degrees) indicated they are near completion of a \$5m fundraising campaign that will provide sustainable funding for graduate students and support the faculty needed for the program.
- The Art and Art History department has seen enrollment declines that align with national trends in enrollment in art programs. In response, the department has made changes to the sequence and scope of the curriculum, improved advising and created new internship opportunities for students.
- The College of Nursing recognized a need for a master’s level pathway that includes Registered Nurse training, so is creating a new MSN degree that is planned to start in Fall 2023.

Key Findings and Improvements at the University of Northern Iowa

- The Science Education program made a number of curriculum revisions to align courses with the Next Generation Science Standards adopted by the Iowa Department of Education for all K-12 schools in Iowa.
- External reviews and the self-study for Philosophy and World Religions both noted the importance of building on partnerships with other departments to support student learning. Future efforts to create interdisciplinary certificates could be significant enhancements.
- The Master of Arts in Psychology program has reduced the credits required for graduation and added a non-thesis track to help improve graduation rates and ensure students are prepared for direct entry to the workforce.

Key Findings and Improvements at Iowa State University

- Based on employer feedback, the Agricultural Education and Studies program is exploring development of an agricultural communications major.
- The Department of Statistics is considering formation of an external advisory board to strengthen connections to alumni, increase internship and employment opportunities, and inform the department of emerging industry challenges.
- The Department of English is exploring micro-credentials and certificates as a way to add value to existing majors and to working adults who would benefit from additional communication training.