



MEMORANDUM

July 24, 2009

To: Stephen Kolison  
UW System Administration Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

From: Jocelyn Milner

Subject: Annual Report on Program Review and Accreditation

Copy: Rae McCormick, Paul DeLuca, Eden Inoway-Ronnie

In response to UW System's annual request for information on program review and accreditation for the annual report on this topic at the December Board of Regents meeting, I am sending you the information you requested, as follows:

1. A list of program reviews that were completed in 2008-09 is provided in Attachment 1. For each of the reviews completed, a one-paragraph summary of the outcome of the review is also provided in Attachment 1. There were 15 program reviews completed in 2008-09.
2. A list of program reviews that are ongoing or scheduled to start in the coming year is provided in Attachment 1.
3. An update on accreditation review activity is provided in Attachment 2.
4. An update on joint reviews is included in Attachment 1. In summary:
  - a. Biotechnology (MS) – Completed
  - b. Master of Engineering – Completed per our memo to you, May 19, 2009. Awaiting your final action.
  - c. Jewish Studies (BS/BA) – Completed
  - d. Religious Studies (BS/BA) – Completed
  - e. Creative Writing (MFA) - In June 2008 the dean was asked to initiate the review (June 2008). The self-study is expected this fall and the review committee will be convened when the self-study is received by the provost.
  - f. Second Language Acquisition (PhD) – The self-study was completed and submitted to the provost's office in spring 2009. A review committee will be convened in early fall semester.
  - g. Engineering Physics (BS) – The College of Engineering has requested that the joint review be conducted at the same time as the departmental review in 2010-11.

5. An update on new program proposals:
  - a. Doctor of Nursing Practice – All of the materials were submitted to your office (June 25, 2009 memo). We anticipate consideration at the September Board of Regents meeting.
  - b. BS – Environmental Sciences: The program faculty are working on the authorization to implement proposal. We anticipate that a proposal will be ready for consideration in late spring 2010 or fall 2010.
  - c. BS – Environmental Studies: Program faculty are working on an entitlement to plan and we anticipate it will be forwarded to you sometime in the 2009-10 academic year.
6. Academic program changes: The provost sends you a notification each time we approve changes to our academic program array. If you'd like to see the full list of the changes that were approved at UW-Madison in the last year, they are posted on-line: <http://apa.wisc.edu/prgchg08-09.htm>.
7. HLC Reaccreditation: Our reaccreditation site visit was April 27-29, 2009. Our self-study report is posted at <http://www.greatu.wisc.edu/>. We anticipate that the report of the site visit team will arrive in August or September and I expect that we will make a report to the Board of Regents at the December 10, 2009 meeting. You will hear more about this directly from Provost Paul DeLuca.
8. General Education Report – We anticipate that we will give our periodic report on general education to the Board of Regents at the December 10, 2009 meeting.
9. Academic Plan – We anticipate that we will present our academic plan at the December 10, 2009 Board of Regents meeting. Again, I expect that we will have more conversation about this before going forward.

As you can see by this report, UW-Madison faculty and staff invest a great deal of time and effort in program review. These reviews present an opportunity to recognize outstanding programs, to make changes that improve the academic experience for students, and to discontinue programs that lack student interest or no longer serve the purpose for which they were developed. We combine program review with an annual review of low-enrollment programs to assure that our program array remains vibrant. More details about the UW-Madison program review and low enrollment activities are available on line ([http://apa.wisc.edu/acad\\_plng\\_ProgramReview.html](http://apa.wisc.edu/acad_plng_ProgramReview.html)).

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

#### Attachments

1. Institutional and Joint Program Review Summary
2. Accreditation information

Institutional and Joint Program Review Summary  
**UW - Madison**  
**2008-09**

Please use this form to list initial program reviews,  
 reviews that were on-going, completed, or deferred in 2008-09,  
 and reviews that are upcoming in 2009-10.

Program or Program Area	Review Status	Outcome of Completed Reviews	One-paragraph Description for Completed Reviews
Institutional or Joint Review	(Initial / On-Going / Completed / Deferred / Upcoming)	(Continuation / Conditional Continuation / Discontinuation)	<b>Or</b> Update on Initial Joint Review Progress
<i>College of Agricultural and Life Sciences</i>			
Biometry, MS	Completed	Continue	See below
Soil Science, BS, MS, PhD.	Completed	Continue	See below
Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics, MS, PhD	Completed	Continue	See below
Urban and Regional Planning, MS. Accreditation Review. Also in Letters and Science	Completed	Continue	See below
Bacteriology, BS, MS and Microbiology, PhD (Bacteriology departmental/CSREES review)	Initiated in 2006-07; Ongoing		
Entomology, BS, MS, PhD (departmental review)	Initiated 2006-07; Ongoing		
Genetics, BS, MS, PhD; Medical Genetics MS, PhD (Genetics departmental/CSREES review)	Initiated 2006-07; Ongoing		
Recreation Resources Management, MS	Scheduled for 2009-10		
Mass Communications, PhD (with L&S)	Scheduled for 2009-10		
<i>School of Education</i>			
Counseling Psychology, PhD, accreditation review	On-going		
Education and Math, MS	On-going (Low-enrollment)		
Curriculum and Instruction, MS/PhD	On-going		

Earth Science, BS	Scheduled for 2009-10 (Low enrollment)		
Science Education, MS	Scheduled for 2009-10		
Therapeutic Science, MS	Scheduled for 2009-10 (Low enrollment)		
<i>College of Engineering</i>			
Master of Engineering	Joint Review Completed Waiting for UWSA response	Continue	See joint review report
Computer Engineering, BS (departmental review of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department)	Completed	Continue	See below
Electrical Engineering, BS, MS, PhD (departmental review of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department)	Completed	Continue	See below
Materials Science, MS/PhD	Completed	Continue	See below
Materials Engineering, MS/PhD	On-going		
Materials Science and Engineering, BS	On-going		
Mechanical Engineering, BS, MS/PhD	On-going		
Chemical Engineering, BS, MS, PhD	Scheduled for 2009-10		
Industrial Engineering, BS, MS, PhD	Scheduled for 2009-10		
<i>School of Human Ecology</i>			
Consumer Affairs, BS	Scheduled for 2009-10		
Retailing, BS	Scheduled for 2009-10		
Personal Finance, BS	Accreditation review initiated 2008-09. Ongoing		
<i>Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies</i>			
Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development, MS	Completed	Continue	See below
Environmental Monitoring, MS/PhD	Scheduled for 2009-10		
<i>College of Letters and Science</i>			
Jewish Studies, BS	Joint Review Completed	Continue	See Joint Review Report
Religious Studies, BS	Joint Review Completed	Continue	See Joint Review Report
Creative Writing, MFA	Joint Review On-going		

Second Language Acquisition, PhD	Joint Review On-going		
Asian Studies (BS/BA)	Ongoing		
Urban and Regional Planning, MS. Accreditation review. Also with CALS.	Complete	Continue	See below
South East Asian Studies (MA)	Ongoing		
Economics (departmental review)	Ongoing		
Geology, MS, PhD (departmental review)	Ongoing		
Geology and Geophysics, BS (departmental review)	Ongoing		
Linguistics (departmental review)	Ongoing		
Communicative Disorders (departmental review)	Initiated in 2008-09. Ongoing.		
English (departmental review)	Initiated in 2008-09. Ongoing.		
Political Science (departmental review)	Initiated in 2008-09. Ongoing.		
Portuguese (departmental review)	Initiated in 2008-09. Ongoing.		
Psychology (departmental review)	Initiated in 2008-09. Ongoing.		
Spanish (departmental review)	Initiated in 2008-09. Ongoing.		
Statistics (departmental review)	Initiated in 2008-09. Ongoing.		
Mass Communications, PhD (with CALS)	Scheduled for 2009-10		
<i>School of Medicine and Public Health</i>			
Biotechnology, MS	Joint Review Completed	Continue	See Joint Review Report
Master of Public Health	Accreditation review completed	Continue	See below
Medical Microbiology and Immunology (BS) (with College of Letters and Science)	Ongoing		
Microbiology PhD, with CALS and the Bacteriology Dept review	Ongoing		
Medical Genetics, MS/PhD	Initiated in 2008-09. Ongoing		
Molecular and Cellular Pathology, MS/PhD	Scheduled for 2009-10		
Clinical Lab Sciences, BS	Scheduled for 2009-10		
<i>School of Nursing</i>			
Nursing, BS, MS, Accreditation	Scheduled for 2009-10		

<i>School of Pharmacy</i>			
Pharmaceutical Science, MS/PhD	Ongoing		
Pharmacology and Toxicology, BS	Ongoing		
Social and Admin Sci – Pharmacy, MS/PhD	Ongoing		
<i>School of Veterinary Medicine</i>			
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	Accreditation review completed	Continue	See below
Comparative Biomedical Sciences, MS/PhD	Initiated in 2008-09. Ongoing		

Biometry, MS. The program benefits students and faculty through its strong contribution to interdisciplinary learning and research. Most of the faculty associated with the program have taken up administrative positions and so the program is currently short of faculty. Recommendations include broadening faculty participation, strengthening the role of the executive committee, and providing administrative support to the program.

Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics, MS/PhD. The graduate program in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics is an interdisciplinary program drawing on faculty in eight departments; the prominence and research diversity of the faculty and effective leadership are areas of strength. A \$1M gift from Monsanto and other important gifts contribute to graduate student support. The review committee recommended that: the supporting infrastructure and administrative support be strengthened; the program establish clear performance standards for student progress, including more clearly defined expectations for the thesis, and checkpoints or milestones as benchmarks for progress; the web site be kept up to date; the program continue efforts to develop internships for students and increase student exposure to different work environments.

Soil Science, BS, MS, PhD. The comprehensive departmental review examined the undergraduate and graduate program, faculty research, extension, facilities, and staffing. The faculty has a vision for maintaining the five core areas of soil science. However, the faculty need to develop clear goals and focus related to the strategic support and development of the five traditional disciplines of soil science and emerging areas of research and scholarship, especially emerging areas related to the environment. Undergraduates are enthusiastic about the quality of the program and their experience; the review committee recommended on-going attention to curriculum development. The graduate program cultivates a strong atmosphere of scientific inquiry and integrity among the faculty, staff and students.

Urban and Regional Planning, MS. The accreditation review examined the MS program and issues related to the entire department. A strength of the program is its leadership on planning for sustainability with linkages between natural resource planning, infrastructure, and economic development. The policy focus and physical planning focus are both strong. While the program's impact is mostly regional and state in scope and related to environmental planning, land use, and policy, it could raise its profile to become a national leader. Areas requiring improvement relate to diversity of the faculty and students and how the range of faculty and students are recruited and served by the program. Enhanced recruiting initiatives, and stronger internship programs and career services are important future directions.

BS-Computer Engineering; BS, MS, PhD Electrical Engineering. These programs were reviewed in the context of the departmental review for Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). The departmental review complements the ABET accreditation review, which focuses most heavily on student learning outcomes. The review included both a College of Engineering review committee and external reviewers. The department faces issues of faculty retention and a steadily decreasing number of undergraduates. The high quality of students was lauded. Nearly all undergraduates secure employment before they graduate and the department has taken steps to improve recruiting opportunities. Concerns about the imbalance between resources and strategic ambitions, mentoring of junior faculty, and leadership structure are being addressed in the context of a three-year timeline for improvement.

Materials Science, MS/PhD. The review committee found that the program's success can be attributed to a large interdisciplinary faculty who approach material science from a variety of perspectives. Students graduate from the program in large numbers and have a range of employment opportunities. The review committee recommended the program improve communication and community among the participating faculty, reduce variability in research-readiness exam for PhD applicants, require a common core competency, and examine its relationship with the Material Science and Engineering department and graduate program. The program is developing a strategic plan, which will be completed in 2009-10.

Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development, MS. The review was based on a self-study and work of a review committee. The review committee recommended that recruiting efforts focus on rebuilding the international student cohort and on recruiting a more diverse student body. The program should diversify funding sources for graduate students. Better communication to students and faculty through an updated website and advising handbook were recommended. A number of suggestions were offered to enhance the curriculum including a clearer articulation of learning goals for the core courses and attention to balance between biological aspects (population genetics, modeling, ecology) and social science aspects (public policy, environmental economics, risk assessment, community based conservation). The review committee found that the program has achieved a strong national and international reputation and will be well served to focus on key strengths in interdisciplinary training across the boundaries of social and natural sciences.

Urban and Regional Planning, MS. Accreditation review. Summary report not provided by accrediting agency.

Master of Public Health, School of Medicine and Public Health. Accreditation review. The MPH was reviewed by the Council on Education for Public Health for the first time for this new program, established three years ago. The program met the criteria for accreditation. The review report noted several success of the program, for example: the program has strong interdisciplinary faculty, effective governance and management, and sufficient resources; the capstone projects were rigorously conducted and the field and capstone courses are effective curricular elements. The report also documented some areas for improvement: more attention to methods for evaluating learning outcomes and using that information in program evaluation and program improvement; stronger alignment of electives with program objectives; more professional development offerings to the public health workforce.

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. School of Veterinary Medicine. Accreditation review. The accreditation review team's report was based on a self-study and a site visit. The report commended the School for: providing a collegial environment for students; success in obtaining gifts and grants and an entrepreneurial culture; allocating space to promote educational opportunities; the clinical resources for both large and small animal care; implementing the Personal and Wellness Support Services office for students; recruiting and admission practices; quality of instruction; strong links between outcomes assessment and the evaluation and improvement of the curriculum. Recommended improvements included a placement of the isolation area of the hospital in a lower traffic area, long-term planning to alleviate space constraints, a review of the library acquisition budget, and attention to faculty salaries and faculty retention. Overall, the accreditation review provided an extraordinarily strong positive review of the program.