

Orientation for Academic Program Reviews

2021-2022



UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & PLANNING

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

The Graduate School

Introduction

- Purpose of this meeting:
 - Program Review Purpose & Scope
 - Program Review Process & Planning
 - Determining site visit dates
 - Unit Defined Questions
 - Selecting the review committee
 - Content of the self-study
 - Site visit
 - Program Review Timeline & Next Steps

Purpose of Program Reviews

- Primary Focus: Evaluating the quality of academic programs
- Emphasis: Planning for the future
- Includes all undergraduate and graduate programs
- Compliance with University mandate and institutional accreditation

Program Review Scope & Focus

Key Questions:

1. Are the unit's degree programs of high quality? Do they meet the university's expectations of quality and reputation?
2. How does the unit compare with that of peer and aspirational institutions in terms of educational programs and scholarship (or professional preparation)?
3. How can the unit improve the quality of its educational programs and scholarship? What does the unit need to do to increase its national (or regional) prominence?

Program Review Scope & Focus (cont'd)

Additional Charge Questions:

1. Do students, faculty and staff find the department a supportive and welcoming environment in which to pursue their degrees and careers as scholars, teachers, and administrators?
2. Are students, faculty and staff from groups that are underrepresented fully included in the intellectual life of the department?
3. To what extent do the unit's current facilities and building space meet their needs?
4. To what extent is the unit preparing students at all levels for careers and future academic pursuits?

Making Program Reviews Productive

- Make process transparent
 - Include all faculty, staff and students in the process and seek their input
- Informed constituents respond more thoroughly during site visits
- Consider timing of accreditation or major changes within unit

Preparing for Program Reviews

- Communicate early on with the Dean or Chancellor/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
 - What does the unit want to accomplish in the review?
 - What stakeholders should be included?
 - How can the program review support the college/school mission?

The Program Review Process

- Notification and initiation of review
- Schedule site visit
- Appoint review committee
- Charge meeting
- Self-Study and site visit agenda
- Site visit
- Review committee report
- Academic unit's response
- Graduate School Council review
- Graduate School Dean's letter to Dean / Chancellor / Vice Chancellor

Program Review Planning

Unit Responsibilities

Autumn Quarter – year before review

- Unit submits Program Review Planning Form:
 - Suggested site visit dates
 - Unit Defined Questions for Review Committee
 - Review Committee Recommendations
 - Due December 11, 2020

Suggested Site Visit Dates

- 2 days for colleges, schools, departments
- 1 -1 ½ days for smaller programs, individual degree programs, or graduate certificates
- Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday
- Priority given in order of completed planning forms
- Site visits are spread across academic year

Unit Defined Questions

- Supplementary Questions for the Review Committee
- Identify key issues not covered in primary charge questions
- Developed in consultation with Dean/Vice Chancellor
- Will be discussed and finalized at the charge meeting
- Part B of the Self Study Document

Review Committee Role

- Provide evaluation of overall health of academic unit
- Offer recommendations for strengthening programs and future directions
- Impartial perspective
 - UW reviewers provide institutional context
 - External reviewers provide field-specific expertise

Review Committee Composition

- School/College/Department:
 - 2 UW review committee members
 - 2 external review committee members

- Individual Degree Program:
 - 2 UW review committee members
 - 1 external review committee member

Review Committee Selection

- Planning Form requires:
 - Ranked list of potential reviewers
 - 8 UW reviewer suggestions
 - Indicate potential committee chairs
 - 8 external reviewer suggestions
 - Consider colleagues regarded as experts in their field
 - Strive for diversity among reviewers
 - Have Dean's Office/Chancellor's Office review

Actively Avoid Conflicts of Interest

- Joint, adjunct, or affiliate position in your unit
- Mentor for or mentee of a faculty member in your unit
- Unit alumni
- Potential hire/applicant within the last five years
- Currently on a visiting or advisory committee
- Previously chaired a review committee or served on a visiting committee in your unit
- History of engagement or research collaboration with a member of your unit
- Significant personal or professional relationship with a unit member

Program Review Planning

OAAP Responsibilities

- Academic year before review
 - Confirm site visit dates
 - Establish review committee
 - Schedule and hold charge meeting
 - Once the committee is established, before summer
 - Serve as liaison between committee and unit
 - Develop and maintain review website
 - Cover all program review related expenses

The Program Review Process

- ✓ Notification and initiation of review
- ✓ Schedule site visit
- ✓ Appoint review committee
 - Charge meeting
 - Self-Study and site visit agenda
 - Site visit
 - Review committee report
 - Academic unit's response
 - Graduate School Council review
 - Graduate School Dean's letter to Dean / Chancellor / Vice Chancellor

The Charge Meeting

- Identify scope of review including unit defined questions
- Finalize Charge Letter
 - To the unit to write the self-study
 - To the review committee to conduct the review
- Includes participation from key stakeholders
 - Review committee
 - Unit leadership
 - School/College/Campus leadership
 - Graduate School
 - Undergraduate Academic Affairs (when applicable)
 - Graduate School Council representatives

The Self-Study

○ Contents:

- Cover Sheet with key stakeholders and department/school/program information
- A: Required background information for review committee
- B: Context for committee as they address unit-defined questions
- C: Required appendices

○ Requirements

- Limit of 25 pages
- One digital copy (pdf) including all appendices
- Deadline established at charge meeting
 - Approximately six weeks before site visit

The Site Visit

Unit Responsibilities

- Develop agenda and schedule participants
- Respond to Review Committee requests
- Secure and manage conference room(s)
- Designate an “on call” staff member for visit

The Site Visit

Agenda Includes

- Review Committee meetings with:
 - Faculty
 - Students
 - Staff
 - Committees, Advisory Boards, Other Stakeholders
 - Exit Discussion
 - Includes unit and institutional leadership

Final Actions

1. Review Committee Report
1. Academic Unit's Response
1. Graduate School Council consideration
1. Graduate School Dean's recommendations to Dean / Chancellor / Vice Chancellor

Timelines by Site Visit Term

	Site Visit	Review Committee Report (4 Weeks)	Academic Unit Response (4 Weeks)	Graduate School Council Final Letter
Autumn Site Visit	Autumn	Winter	Winter	Winter or Spring
Winter Site Visit	Winter	Spring	Spring	Autumn (next year)
Spring Site Visit	Spring	Spring	Spring or Autumn (next year)	Autumn (next year)

Program Review Documents

- Program review planning form
- Review committee charge letter
- Site visit agenda
- Self-study*
- Review committee report*
- Unit's response to report*
- Letter to Dean / Chancellor / Vice Chancellor*

**Published on password protected UW Accreditation website upon completion of the review*

Submit by end of Autumn Quarter:

Program Review Planning Form

1. Suggested site visit dates
2. Unit-defined questions for review
3. Proposed review committee members
 - 8 UW faculty
 - 8 external faculty

Questions? Contact Us!

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