



Program Review at Western Carolina University (WCU)..... 3

Roles and Responsibilities of the Program Reviewers.....3

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WCU's program/unit review process involves a self-study document and virtual visit by a review team. All program reviews will be conducted online. In specific instances, the Office of Institutional Assessment can make exceptions to the online process if a department/office makes a compelling case that an in-person review would be more appropriate for their particular circumstances (having significant physical resources associated with the program, for instance).

Ideally, the review team consists of two disciplinary experts external to WCU who provide feedback and recommendations for quality enhancement and one reviewer internal to WCU who provides institutional context. Especially large offices/programs may have an additional internal reviewer assigned.

The review visit is designed to accommodate several key activities including interviews with faculty, administrators, program constituents and stakeholders. The final schedule for your virtual visit will be sent to you prior to the review dates.

Determination of the quality in any academic unit is a complex undertaking and must be considered not only in terms of national or professional standards, but also in light of the institutional context and unit-specific mission and goals. To assist you in your evaluation, we will provide you as much information as possible about WCU, the UNC System, and the program under review.

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(bullet points or short paragraphs are appropriate for this section)

- a. Brief outline of program's strengths
  - b. Brief outline of reviewer recommendations
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- a. Description of visit length and conditions (for example, was the visit virtual or in-person, etc.)
  - b. A brief summary and description of meetings conducted by the review team.
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- a. The importance of the program within both the University and its respective College - In what ways does the program's curriculum and mission align with the University's [current strategic plan](#)?
  - b. Does the program's curriculum support any other programs on campus (for example, Liberal Studies)?
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- a. Undergraduate curriculum (if applicable): Provide a brief description of each of the following:
    - i. The coherence of the program's curriculum, amount of time needed to complete the curriculum, the efficacy of its various course modalities (online, hybrid, and/or in-person), and its alignment with disciplinary standards
    - ii. The program's planning and assessment strategies (can the program document its effects on student learning? Is the program routinely evaluated and the results used to make improvements? Do all faculty have an opportunity to participate in planning and assessment activities?)
    - iii. Please identify strengths of the curriculum and potential areas of improvement.
  - b. Graduate curriculum (if applicable): Provide a brief description of each of the following:
    - i. The coherence of the program's curriculum, amount of time needed to complete the curriculum, the efficacy of its various course modalities (online, hybrid, and/or in-person), and its alignment with disciplinary standards
    - ii. The program's planning and assessment strategies (can the program document its effects on student learning? Is the program routinely evaluated and the results used to make improvements? Do all faculty have an opportunity to participate in planning and assessment activities?)
    - iii. Please identify strengths of the curriculum and potential areas of improvement.
      - Please include your observations on the following topics (including information on both undergraduate and graduate student populations, if applicable):
        - a. Student enrollment patterns and recruitment/retention strategies
        - b. Efficacy of student advising efforts/structure
        - c. Student opportunities for relevant co and extra-curricular activities
- ); Please include your observations on the following topics:
- a. Adequacy of faculty numbers and expertise to cover all areas of the curriculum

- b. Evidence of a positive, productive work environment for all faculty in the program (adjuncts, instructors, tenure-track, and post-tenure).
- c. Rational and coherent performance standards for faculty review, tenure, and promotion.



*Academic programs:* Approximately 110 degree programs, with more than 220 majors and concentrations for undergraduates in addition to over 42 graduate-level programs of study. Residential programs enroll approximately 80% of students, with the remainder enrolled in online programs.

*Calendar:* Two semesters (August to December and January to May) and multiple summer sessions.

*Class size:* More than 75% of classes have fewer than 30 students; the average freshman class size is 23; the student/faculty ratio is 17 to 1.

*Accreditations:* Western Carolina University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; telephone number 404-679-4501; [www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)) to award bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees. Last SACSCOC reaffirmation: December 2017. The university holds 21 special program accreditations and is a member of more than 30 state and national associations and organizations to which its professional programs are related.

*Enrollment:* The most up-to-date enrollment data can be accessed by using the links below to view our

This dashboard shows Course Enrollments or Student Credit Hours for the applicable time period.

[Retention, Graduation and Persistence Trends by Cohort](#)

This dashboard shows the first-time, full-time freshmen cohorts 1-year retention and 4-year graduation rates by the year and term the student cohort matriculated at the institution. This dashboard reflects the official IPEDS reported methodology for tracking first-time students' persistence and success. Filtering is available for a number of student attributes as described above. 11

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Our office is here to assist you, as needed. Please feel free to contact us with questions about the assessment process, travel arrangements, scheduling, or any other topic.

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