

16.06 Academic Program Review

In addition to outcomes-based assessment of student learning, all academic programs are subject to comprehensive program review. The primary purpose of program review is to advance the quality of teaching and learning, research, professional/creative activity, and public service/academic outreach functions through a periodic system of review at the unit level (i.e., department or program). To that end, each program assesses its mission, curriculum, operations, and resources relative to the same core effectiveness standards understanding that these standards have varying degrees of relevance and applicability across programs/departments. It is the intent of the program review process that members of each academic program will have the opportunity to articulate their goals and to explain how the program's current curriculum and activities support their aspirations.

The goals of the academic program review process are to:

1. Maintain high-quality programs that are competitive and consistent with the University's mission.
 2. Encourage and support program self-improvement by:
 - highlighting strengths of programs,
 - identifying opportunities for strategic change,
 - validating that programs are meeting the changing needs of stakeholders,
 - identifying areas for improvements and supporting improvement changes
 - providing data necessary in the process of allocating resources
 3. Advance the mission of Western Carolina University by:
 - reaffirming the relationship between the mission of the program and the mission of the University
 - fostering cooperation and collaboration between departments and programs
 - meeting the region's educational and workforce needs.
1. Provide a formative and summative review of academic programs.

See <http://www.wcu.edu/12880.asp> for additional information on academic program review.