

**SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**POLICY**

**ACADEMIC PROGRAM PLANNING AND REVIEW**

The purpose of conducting reviews of academic programs is to ensure that each unit's activities contribute to and are consistent with the mission of the University. The objectives of program review are three-fold:

**Internal to the Department and Students**

- to improve academic programs
- to improve the quality of the learning experience
- to promote excellence in teaching
- to promote excellence in research and scholarship
- to promote excellence in service to society
- to provide internal accountability

**Internal to the University**

- to provide internal accountability
- to assist University decision making and planning
- to inform students about program quality

**External to the University**

- to inform prospective students
- to provide appropriate performance measures and standards in all areas of academic activity
- to provide external accountability to accrediting bodies, MnSCU, and the State

The two elements of the program review process include *annual collection of data* with a *self-study and external consultant* every five years.

- The *annual process* includes the programmatic collection of data from the Research and Institutional Grants office and other offices on campus in the following program areas: demographics, enrollment, measurable outcomes, effectiveness, and fiscal resources.
- The *actual periodic review* is held on a five-year cycle with exceptions provided for external agency timelines. The review process includes a programmatic self-study that incorporates student input and external consultant evaluation.

Upon completion of the self-study and the external consultant's report, and in consultation with the Dean, the academic program faculty propose a plan for the next five years, incorporating the evidence obtained in the self-study and consultant's evaluation. This plan will be forwarded to the Provost for appropriate inclusion in the University's strategic plan.

*See also:*

*A-004.1 Academic Program Planning and Review Procedures*