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ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW HANDBOOK University of South Alabama

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Introduction to the Handbook

This handbook was desiç review (APR) as well as a collec	gned to be both a method o	of setting expectations fo	r academic program

Academic Program Review Guidelines

Introduction

Academic program review (APR) is an opportunity for faculty and staff of programs, without discipline-specific accreditation or approval, to have a clear picture of how their students are doing and what might improve their success. APR is a reflective study that outlines steps that can be taken to bolster a positive $(\bullet, f, ..., \bullet, -..., +..., \bullet, -..., +..., \bullet, -..., \bullet$

Additionally, APR:

- x Assesses student satisfaction
- x Provides a broad view of your program through the eyes of
 - x Students
 - x Faculty
 - x Staff
 - x Administrators
 - x Alumni
- x Allows for the establishment of long-term and short-term program goals
- x Contributes to planning at department and university levels
- x Supports completion of annual assessment reports

These 5 C's will be reviewed as they relate to student achievement in your APR self-study.

- x CHANGES what changes can be made to positively impact student learning, achievement, and performance?
- x CHAMPIONS

Time Frame

The process generally takes about 12 months to completely upload all **final** documents into Nuventive (self- \bullet --† \bullet " \ddagger " \dagger " \dagger

APR Timeline	
Month/Date	Activity
February - March	The Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) meets with programs scheduled for APR after guidelines are distributed.

A. Suggestions for Organizing the Process

- 1. Appoint a committee of 3+ faculty (junior and senior level) from the unit under review. Also include students, advisers, alumni, and recruiters in periodic meetings. This should be at least a group of 5.
- 2. Create a detailed timeline for completing the self-study with responsibilities assigned. The timeline should include continued meeting times as this calls for feedback from faculty, students, advisers, and alumni.
- 3. Worksheets are provided to assist with reflection as you meet routinely. These worksheets are not submitted with the self-study. Review and study topic areas in order (students, faculty, curriculum, learning) but take all worksheets to meetings since all areas are associated with student achievement.
- 4. Recommended length of the narrative is 10 to 15 pages, excluding supporting tables and other relevant documentation.
- 5. If you have an assessment committee, they can coordinate the self-study if approved by the department head.

B. Data for Self-study provided by OIE & IR

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- x Table 1: Student Headcount Enrollment*
- x Table 2: Student Credit Hours
- x Table 3: Number and Percent of Student Credit Hours Taught by Full-Time Faculty
- x Table 4: High Impact Practices template provided but completed by program faculty
- x Table 5: Three-year Program-Level Aggregation of Student Mastery of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for the Last Three Years**
 - x This report will be utilized by faculty to complete the SLO Rubric (Appendix C)
- x Table 6: Cumulative Course Success Rates
- x Table 7: Last Known Major Retention and Graduation Rates (Undergraduate & Graduate)
- x Table 8: Program Level Aggregation of Post-Graduation Outcomes Assessment for the Last Three Years. The program faculty prepares this information. This may include exit surveys, alumni surveys, employment rates, graduate school acceptance rates, etc.
- x Table 9: Annual Average New Enrollment Headcount
- x Table 10: Annual Average Number of Graduates (Degree Completion)
- ${\bf x}$ Student Perceptions of Instruction for the program in comparison to College and University
- x Report of findings from focus groups (if requested)

^{*}Enrollment data is reviewed over a five-year period

^{**}Annual assessment reports should be sufficient to identify three-year trend data

External Review

- x While a site visit is optional, an external review is <u>required</u> for a complete APR.
- x The dean and department chair should meet to determine whether the external reviewer will conduct a site visit. At this meeting, expectations should be clarified for qualifications of the reviewer, for coordination of self-study, and for a site visit (if applicable).
 - x Minimum qualifications for the external reviewer:
 - x Certified reviewer from a professional association or a distinguished colleague in the discipline
 - x Must not have a conflict of interest (e.g., current/former USA faculty, family member, or business partner with any current departmental faculty, etc.).

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Self-Study Template

Outline for Self -Study

Below is the outline for your self-study that can be utilized to structure your writing. Each of these sections will be described in detail throughout this document.

- 1. Program Overview (no more than 2 pages)
- 2.

Expected Content by Section

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CHANGES For this section, think about changes that can be made that would have a positive impact on student learning, achievement, and/or performance. They can be changes that will take an extended period of time to implement or changes that could go into effect immediately.

- x <u>Student Enrollment & Progression:</u> what resources could we dedicate to specific efforts to improve student enrollment and progression?
- x Faculty: is there a change we can make to help faculty further foster student achievement?
- x <u>Curriculum & Instruction:</u> are there changes that can be made to curriculum or instruction that would improve student achievement in our program?
- x <u>Student Learning & Assessment:</u> what are some ways that we can improve the way we capture student performance and assessments?

CHAMPIONS For this section, discuss ideas that you can champion as they are already implemented in your program to positively impact student success. Provide information about the ideas themselves and any improvements you have noticed since they have been implemented.

- x <u>Student Enrollment & Progression:</u> what are the drivers of student enrollment and progression that we have implemented over the past several academic years?
- x <u>Faculty:</u> what efforts have we made in the past to increase the positive impact that faculty have on student achievement?
- x <u>Curriculum & Instruction:</u> what advances have we made in the past several academic years that have improved curriculum and instruction in our program?
- x <u>Student Learning & Assessment:</u> what efforts have we made to improve student learning and assessment in our program over the past several academic years?

CHALLENGES For this section, discuss challenges that you perceive as a barrier to the implementation of changes. These challenges should be **internal** to the program, department, or college and should be something you can exercise some control over.

- x <u>Student Enrollment & Progression:</u> are there any factors related to our program and/or its surrounding department/college that have presented complications related to student enrollment and progression?
- x <u>Faculty:</u> what challenges exist in terms of equipping faculty with the tools/knowledge to foster student achievement?
- x <u>Curriculum & Instruction:</u> what challenges have been identified within our program, department, or college that hinder the improvement of curriculum and instruction?
- x Student Learning & Assessment: what are some factors that hinder our ability to

CONCERNS For this section, discuss concerns that you perceive as a barrier to the implementation of changes. These concerns should be external to the program, department, or college and should be something that you have little to no control over.
9 Office of Institutional Effectivenes

List of Required Data/Evidence as Appendices for APR	
10	Office of Institutional Effectivenes

Data and Utilization by Section

Student Enrollment and Progression

- x Compared to your listed peer institutions, discuss whether student enrollment and credit hours production are adequate to support the program and create an environment of continued success for students. If comparison data is unavailable, make that statement.
 - x Table 1: Student Credit Hours
 - x Table 2: Student Headcount Enrollment
 - x Table 7: Last Known Major Retention & Graduation Rates by program, college, and university
- x Describe results received from surveys and/or focus groups that are associated with student satisfaction with their learning experiences
 - x Quantitative and qualitative results of any student surveys including two of the following: exit surveys, graduating students.

<u>Faculty</u>

- x Table 1: Student Credit Hours
- x Discuss the quality of instruction to include student perceptions of instruction and any other evidence of the quality of teaching. It is important that you discuss how feedback from course evaluations is used.
 - x Student Perceptions of Instruction for Program compared to College and University
 - x Quantitative and qualitative results of any surveys/focus groups if the information provided feedback relative to faculty.
- x If you have been asked to address insufficient full-time faculty ratios in the last three years, include your response here.
 - x Table 3: Number and Percent of Student Credit Hours Taught by Full-Time Faculty

Curriculum & Instruction

- x Compared to peer institutions, evaluate and discuss the currency of the curriculum including inclusion or exclusion of program requirements.
 - x Curriculum plan
 - x Curriculum map (Instructions found in Nuventive).
 - x Table 4: Participation in high impact practices
- x Table 6: Cumulative course Success Rates
- x Quantitative and qualitative results of any surveys/focus groups (distributed by OIE/collected by the program) if the information provided feedback relative to the curriculum or instruction.

Student Learning and Assessment

- x Consider and discuss the quality of assessment of program-level student learning outcomes.
 - x Table 5: Three-year, four-column assessment report created by OIE.
 - x Learning Outcomes Rubric found in Nuventive to be completed by faculty.
- x Quantitative and qualitative results of any surveys/focus groups if the information provided feedback relative to student learning and assessment.

Conclusion: Call to Action

For this portion of your self-study, you must discuss **four** Calls to Action:

- x Two short-term calls that are
 - x More readily implemented
 - x Related to student performance, achievement, and/or learning
 - x Going to be incorporated in your annual assessment planning/reporting
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- x Two long-term calls that are
 - x Implemented after long-term planning
 - x Related to student performance, achievement, and/or learning
 - x Followed-up on in your next APR self-study

For each of your calls to action, be sure to include detailed information about the steps you will be taking as well as a way to determine whether the implementation of your calls to action was successful. In other words, establish a threshold to reach for so that you are able to report data-based evidence of your 1° 1°

Requirement of wide -spread program level participation

During this review of information and practices, it is imperative that the program faculty and staff consider perceptions from faculty, administrators (advisers, recruiters, support staff), students, alumni, and employers. Meeting regularly among faculty and staff, throughout the study, is critical to this process. Collecting information can be in the form of surveys or focus groups. Information from both students and employers is recommended but current student input is essential.

Approval from Chair, Dean, and/or Provost/external review	/Sr. VPAA that self -study is ready for

Final Steps

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These worksheets are designed for note taking as you meet to discuss each section (students, faculty, curriculum, and assessment) and the possible changes, champions, challenges, concerns, and call to action. Since a call to action is only requested as conclusion, notes for each section will help with that narrative. These notes are not handed in but are intended to help you take notes and collect your thoughts during the recommended frequent meetings with faculty, staff, advisers, and students.

Challenges

The challenges that you identify should reflect issues that are internal to the program, department, or college that you perceive as a barrier to student enrollment and achievement and/or to implementing changes. Challenges are those things about which you could exercise some control or fix. The following examples help to prompt thinking, but challenges are to be identified by your faculty, advisers, and stakeholders: recruitment processes capturing entering students into the program, scholarship funding, issues identified from student input, competing internal programs/courses, resources, institutional policies and procedures, student affairs related/personal needs (housing, food, counseling), advising, and retention after pandemic.
Concerns
The concerns you identify should focus external issues that may $(\bullet, f),$ $\bullet++\bullet$ $\bullet++\bullet$ implementing changes. Concerns are things about which you have no or little control and are likely unable to fix. The following examples help to prompt thinking: changes in high school graduation rates, preparedness of new students, changes in the field of study and job skills required, labor market need, external competition, availability of realistic training experiences in the community (internships, etc), and any other community/regional/national concerns.

Calls to Action (used for your conclusion)
What could be steps relative to your students to have a positive impact on student achievement from the information gathered? It is recommended that both long-term and short-term actions be considered.

Faculty

Changes

Discuss what changes can be made relative to faculty that may positively impact student learning, achievement, and student performance. Consider this to be an idea-generating section to identify aspirational changes (over next seven years) and realistic changes (rapidly implemented). Examples include improvements and can include faculty development, additional faculty, additional non-instructional high-impact practices, increased use of feedback from course evaluations, and increased training on use of technology. These should be specific changes identified by faculty; rather than list the need for increased training on technology, state the specific technology training needed as indicated by faculty. If faculty development is needed, list specific type. If additional faculty are needed, list the specific area. Reserve changes related to curriculum/instruction and assessment/student learning for the next section.

Calls to Action (used for your conclusion)				
From the information gathered, what are steps for your faculty to take to have a positive impact on student achievement? It is recommended that both long-term and short-term actions be considered.				

Curriculum and Instruction Changes Discuss what changes can be made relative to the curriculum/instruction that are designed to positively

Challenges

The challenges that you identify should reflect issues that are internal to the program, department, or college that you perceive, relative to your curriculum and instruction, as a barrier to improvement in student learning and/or to implementing changes. Challenges are those things about which you could exercise some control or fix. Examples include needing further analysis of specific gatekeeper courses, time between introduction of knowledge/skills and application, adviser training, curriculum approval process issues, or faculty autonomy over course content.	
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Concerns

These concerns should focus on external issues relative to your curriculum plan and/or instruction that

Calls to Action (used for your conclusion)							
From the information gathered, what could be steps relative to your curriculum and instruction to have a positive impact on student achievement? It is recommended that both long-term and short-							

Assessment and Learning

Changes

positively impact student achievement and performance. Consider this to be an idea-generating section to identify aspirational (over the next seven years) changes and realistic changes (rapidly implemented). Examples can include assuring that all faculty and your stakeholders/students are aware of your program level outcomes (buy-in throughout the department), posting program level outcomes online, increasing student awareness of expectations, developing new assessment measures that may better capture weaknesses in learning outcomes, and focusing instruction on intended outcomes with weakest performance. New or additional learning outcomes may be indicated based on evidence collected	
regarding what your students are, or are not, learning well.	
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Challenges

The challenges that you identify should reflect issues that are internal to the program, department, or college that you perceive as a barrier to student learning and assessment and/or to implementing changes. Challenges are those things about which you could exercise some control or fix. Examples can include information from students relative to their learning experience, areas of learning not meeting criteria, obtaining agreement of program level outcomes and instructional differences among faculty, determining meaningful use of results (Is the measurement capturing specific knowledge areas or just overall score?), timely and difficult data capture, action planning not having an impact on specific student learning, and additional training needed on assessment of student learning outcomes.

Concerns

Calls to Action (used for your conclusion)

From the information gathered, what could be steps relative to your program assessment and student learning to have a positive impact on student achievement? It is recommended that both long-term and short-term actions be considered.	
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Other notes:	

Appendix B: Suggested Response from Reviewer (Provided to Reviewer)

Academic Program Review Student Achievement

This outline is provided as a guide to you as a reviewer but is not considered a template. For instance, you may have found opportunities for improvement that were not addressed in this study through your interviews and contacts across campus. Additionally, you may wish to organize your response differently and integrate all areas of enrollment, faculty, curriculum, and assessment across your response.

1. <u>General Comments</u> brief description and impression of the program, meetings held

	urriculum and Instruction
x	Review and discuss participation in high-impact practices, cumulative course success rates,

Appendix C:

Intended Outcome

Undeveloped 1	Developing 2	Good 3	Exemplary 4	Score with notes	
A. Student-centered and Measurable					
The outcome is not reported in terms of what students will know, be able to do, or demonstrate at the end of the degree program. It is not student-centered (i.e. to enhance research skills and does not appear to be measurable (too broad and intangible).	The outcome is reported in terms of what students will know, be able to do, or demonstrate upon completion of the degree program. It is not student-centered (i.e. to enhance research skills and does not appear to be measurable (too broad and intangible).	The outcome adequately identifies what students will know, be able to do, or demonstrate upon completion of the degree program. It is a student-centered statement but does not appear to be measurable (too broad and intangible).	The outcomes adequately identify what students will know, be able to do, or demonstrate upon completion of the degree program. It is a student-centered statement. The outcome appears to be measurable.		

Assessment Method, Criterion for Success, Schedule

Undeveloped	Developing	Good	Exemplary	Score and notes
1	2	3	4	

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Undeveloped Developing Good Exemplary Score 1 2 3 4

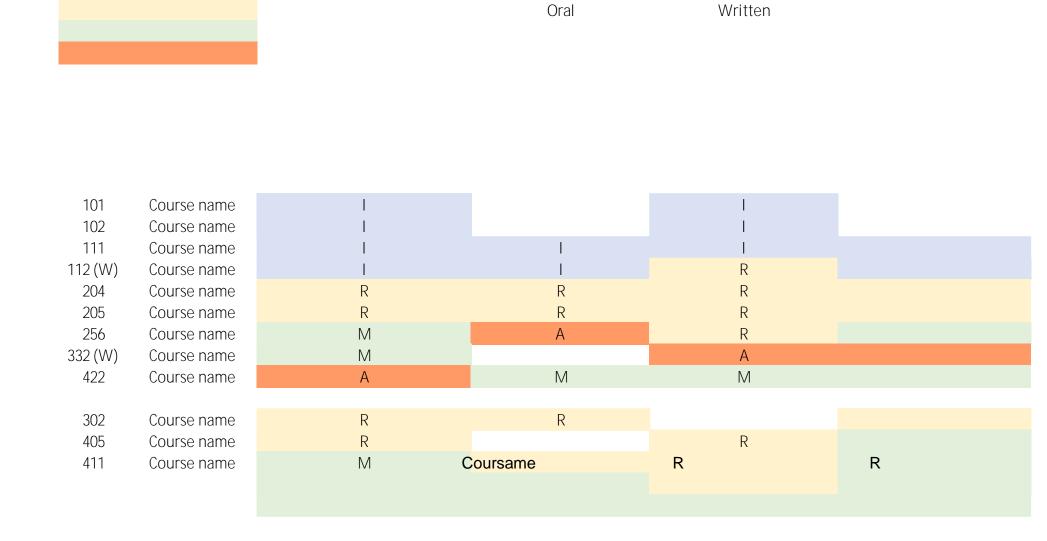
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Appendix D: Curriculum Mapping

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To start, you need to compile a list of core and elective courses associated with your program as well as the key learning outcomes that you aim for your students to achieve. From there, you should be able to map, in relation to each course, whether each outcome is being introduced, reinforced, mastered, or assessed. An example of what a curriculum map can look like is provided below.

Example Curriculum Map



Appendix E: Academic Program Review Checklist

Please utilize this checklist as a guide for submitting a complete APR self-study.

Conclusion

At least two short-term calls to action At least two long-term calls to action

Appendices

Chair and program coordinator/chair curriculum vitae

Curriculum map

Degree plan

Table 1: Student Headcount Enrollment

Table 2: Student Credit Hours

Table 3: Number and Percent of Student Credit Hours Taught by Full-Time Faculty

Table 4: Participation in high-impact practices