

Academic Program Reviews

2008-2009

Board of Regents Policy 303.3 – Program Review <http://mus.edu/borpol/bor300/303-3.pdf>

All campuses must review all academic programs at least once during a seven-year cycle. Review schedules are listed on the MUS website. <http://mus.edu/che/arsa/ProgramReview/ProgramReview.asp>

The review process is primarily a departmental self-study that often is enhanced by external reviews and/or accreditation reviews. The review is used principally for program improvement. Campuses assume the responsibility for the results of the review, including the future of programs that are under-subscribed.

UM Campuses:

The University of Montana – Missoula:

1 college, 3 programs, and 1 minor were reviewed. The campus decision is to retain all programs. To reduce fragmentation, several options within programs were eliminated.

UM – Missoula College of Technology:

2 Programs were reviewed; the campus decision is to retain both.

Montana Tech of the University of Montana:

16 programs were reviewed; the campus decision is to retain all programs. Several recommendations were made to enhance aspects of courses and/or to make adjustments to faculty staffing. It was refreshing to see strong placement data for MT Tech graduates in these programs.

UM – Helena College of Technology

4 programs were reviewed; the campus decision is to retain all four programs. The campus is looking at ways to increase the graduation rate for AA/AS degrees.

MSU Campuses:

Montana State University – Bozeman:

2 colleges, 3 departments, 1 certificate program, and 1 minor were reviewed. The campus decision was to retain all programs. However, enrollment challenges in certain areas are being monitored, and some programs will be up for review again in a shorter time frame to assess progress.

Montana State University – Billings:

12 programs (some with several components), 6 minors, and the College of Education were reviewed. With so many programs reviewed, the campus was able to note interdependencies among programs and to track where some programs were providing service courses for others.

The campus decision was to retain nearly all programs. In Education, the campus will cease enrollment in the Master of Education in Early Childhood Studies until a cohort group can be recruited. [Current students will be directed to the graduate program in Reading Education with an emphasis in early literacy.]

MSU-Billings College of Technology:

7 programs were reviewed. The campus decision was to retain all programs. Several recommendations emerged relative to ways to increase enrollments and resources, especially in partnership with industry and the community.

MSU-Northern:

3 programs were reviewed, and the campus decision is to retain all three. The campus made good use of an advisory group for input into the review process.

MSU – Great Falls College of Technology:

5 programs were reviewed. The campus decision is to retain all five, but one program that offers both an AAS and a CAS was directed to consider discontinuing the CAS. Other recommendations looked at ways to strengthen program quality, reduce fragmentation, and improve transfer.