

Departmental Reviews: Core Domains and Topics

Several months prior to the site visit by the review team [see attached table with recommended timeline], the department should prepare a self-study that includes a preface or introduction as well as a summary and reiteration of issues for discussion. Appendices will likely be included, and the following core domains and topics should be addressed. Of course, each department may select particular issues that are pertinent and timely and on which the department members are particularly eager for guidance and consultation.

Curriculum

- Describe the department's contributions to general education.
 - How have changes in the College curriculum or facilities and resources necessitated changes in the department's contributions to general education?
 - How have new developments in the discipline affected the department's contributions to general education?
- Describe the department's major requirements.
 - How have changes in the College curriculum or facilities and resources necessitated changes to the major?
 - How have new developments in the discipline affected the major requirements or its pedagogy?
 - How do major requirements compare to "model" program requirements?
- For both general education and the major, what new pedagogies or innovations have been adopted to enhance student learning?

Faculty

- Is the departmental faculty as a whole matched well to the curriculum and to the breadth usually recommended for an undergraduate major? Are there gaps in the discipline area coverage given the current faculty?
- To what extent are the faculty resources adequate to the needs of the department?
- Describe anticipated faculty staffing developments such as retirements, resignations, promotions, etc. What are the impacts of these possible changes?
- Are there additional faculty development activities that your department would utilize and that would strengthen the department?

Facilities

- Does an analysis of existing and possible expansion office space indicate likely problems? What strategies might be implemented to solve them?
- Does an analysis of existing and possible classroom, laboratory, and other space necessary for the department's work indicate likely problems? What strategies might be implemented to solve them?
- Are current facilities in good condition? If not, how have their deficiencies influenced the teaching and professional work of the faculty and the preparation of the students?

Other Resources

- What other resources, (e.g., equipment, supplies, staff) are necessary for faculty and student work? To what extent are SMC's adequate? Has the department implemented strategies for acquiring them, beyond internal budget requests? What else might be done?

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

- What assessments of student learning ensure the adequacy of short-term outcomes within general education and the major?
- What happens to majors in your department's programs after they graduate?
 - What proportion of your program graduates obtain graduate or professional degrees?
 - What degrees [both level and field] do they obtain?
 - What kind of careers do your graduates pursue?