



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

Institutional Program Review
Report to the Board of Regents

Use this form to submit a program review report to the system Chief Academic Officer. Complete this form for all units/programs undergoing an accreditation review, nationally recognized review process, or institutional program review. The report is due 30 days following receipt of the external and internal review reports.

UNIVERSITY:	DSU
DEPARTMENT OR SCHOOL:	College of Arts and Sciences
PROGRAM REVIEWED:	Bachelor of Science in Biology
DATE OF REVIEW:	2/9/2018
TYPE OF REVIEW:	Institutional Program Review

University Approval

To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this report, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.

President of the University

8/30/2018

Date

1. Identify the program reviewers and any external accrediting body:

Dr. Janet Steele, Ph.D., Professor of Biology
Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research
University of Nebraska-Kearney

2. Items A & B should address the following issues: mission centrality, program quality, cost, program productivity, plans for the future, and assessment of progress.

The program's recent redesign with the two options of integrative biology or pre-health curriculum supports a wide variety of students in the region. The well-considered use of technology in the methods courses, laboratories, and lecture meets the University's mission.

2(A). Describe the strengths and weaknesses identified by the reviewers

Strengths:

- The faculty is extremely talented, knowledgeable, and dedicated to their students and the mission of the university

- The faculty teaching support courses in mathematics, chemistry, and physics are also supportive of their biology colleagues in collaboration regarding curriculum, research, and other programmatic issues.
- A surprising amount of high-quality research has been accomplished in the past few years.
- With some exceptions, the facilities are in good shape and provide the necessary space and learning environment for students and faculty.
- Nearly all of the graduates go directly to relevant careers or graduate schools.

Weaknesses:

- Research expectations are unrealistic for most faculty due to their teaching loads. Faculty workload was relieved somewhat from the addition of the lab manager position, but more could be done.
- Institutional support for research equipment is insufficient due to the way the lab fees are used to fund lab and research equipment. Lab fees should be increased.
- Curriculum would be strengthened with appropriate pre-requisite courses for advanced subjects.
- Low enrollments in the major were noted as were the implications on curriculum, course management, as well as fiscal impact. Having funding primarily driven by general education courses is a concern.

2(B). Briefly summarize the review recommendations

- Provide a more predictable funding stream for basic lab equipment and research. Raise the lab fees in order to facilitate this effort.
- Consider course load and course management to provide time to faculty for grant writing and research.
- Market the two emphasis areas within the degree in order to attract students.
- The assessment being done is a good start with more formative assessment to be designed across the program.

2(C). Indicate the present and continuous actions to be taken by the college or department to address the issues raised by the review. What outcomes are anticipated as a result of these actions?

- The support for research funds and faculty travel funds was increased. Institutional funding was provided to purchase a three-year contract to maintain the mass spectrometer, so lab fees were not depleted for this expense.
- The Provost has implemented 100% reimbursement for travel up to \$1,200 per faculty member per year to support professional development and scholarship.
- The Provost, Dean, Registrar, and faculty are implementing the new major program pre-health curriculum and will be seeking to replace the microbiologist in the coming year (Prof. Videau took a position elsewhere just as this reviewer was completing her work). We will work to find a good fit for pre-health curriculum and advising such students.
- The University is currently increasing its marketing capacity and is making plans for marketing and recruiting for the two areas of the new Biology B.S.