

Academic Programs Subject to Review

An academic program is defined as a unit or group of units dedicated to achieving research, educational, or service goals that advance the university mission. The unit of analysis for program review is typically the supporting infrastructure such as the department or college but could include clusters of programs across colleges.

Programs to be reviewed include:

- Degree programs, including bachelor's, master's, and doctoral
- Concentrations or majors within degree programs
- Interdisciplinary majors and minors
- Centers, service activities or outreach initiatives associated with research or educational programs

Program reviews for units that are accredited by external bodies can vary in their scope and depth. For example, units may ask that for a program review that uses the approach and format established by its accrediting body, or may request a focused internal or external study on a more narrowly defined area of concern. At a minimum, the unit will be asked to participate in a Provost Summit, share its self-study, and will receive feedback from the Program Review Council and the Provost. The Provost reserves the right to ask for a fuller internal or external review if deemed necessary.

Some accredited programs may wish to use a Provost Summit to raise issues that they believe need to be addressed before their accreditation visit. They may wish to schedule a Provost Summit that gives them sufficient time to make changes before the accreditation visit. Others may wish to use the Provost Summit to prepare for their accreditation visit. The dean and the Provost can determine what strategy works best for the unit. In this case, the Provost Summit will be scheduled to accommodate the program need.

All non-accredited programs will be asked to participate in periodic program reviews. Those reviews can treat a college, department, center, or program as the relevant unit of analysis. The Office of the Provost publishes a calendar of required college and academic department program reviews to be completed within a 7- to 8-year cycle, or about two reviews per semester.

At any time, the Provost, dean or department chair may request a separate Provost Summit outside of the regular review cycle, in order to address an immediate challenge, discuss an opportunity for collaboration, or explore a cluster of related programs or interests.