

Academic Program Review: Instructions for Self-Study Report

The Program Review Process - By mandate of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, all degree-granting programs undergo periodic review. At OU, the review is a 12-18-month, three-step process conducted on a seven-year cycle. In the spring semester preceding the review, the program completes a self-study. In the academic year (AY) following the spring semester, the Academic Program Review Committee (APR) uses the self-study, along with the joint report of the two on-site reviewers, as the basis for further inquiry. The APR Committee then conveys its recommendations to the Provost who then meets with the dean, and the unit faculty. On the basis of those recommendations, the unit develops an action plan, which is approved by the Provost. In the subsequent years, the unit executes the plan. The result of the entire process is reported to the State Regents.

The Self-Study Process - Typically, the chair or director, in consultation with Committee A, will appoint a committee to organize the self-study process. The committee will organize itself and collect information in the spring semester prior to the review. The Office of Institutional Research and Reporting provides data on the department, including enrollment, retention, and other statistics. Faculty scholarly activity/research benchmarking data is now available in Academic Analytics for most units. In addition, the Office of Academic Assessment will provide the results of its online survey of faculty and student satisfaction with the program. The committee should draft, discuss, and finalize the self-study report in the spring and summer, ideally with input from the entire faculty on the final version. The budget dean for the unit reviews the draft and provides comments to the unit. The budget dean will set a deadline for initial submission that will allow timely submission to the Provost's Office for distribution to the APR Committee. **The deadline for submission of the self-studies to the Provost for the units under review in 2025-2026 will be September 8, 2025.**

Overview of the Self-Study Report - The Academic Program Review (APR) is an evaluation process meant to help units assess and improve their teaching and scholarly and creative activity. Academic units are expected to study the data trends regarding comparator units and make projections in accordance with the strategic plan of the unit. Hence, the self-study report should be written with the goal of reflecting on the past and projecting to the future strategically, keeping in mind the mission of the institution, the vision of the college and the potential of the unit. At the conclusion of the review, the APR committee will provide a set of recommendations to the Provost, taking into consideration the input of the faculty, the external reviewers, and the Dean. The Provost finalizes the review process by communicating strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities in the form of a set of recommendations. The unit is expected to develop an action plan to address the opportunities and fully implement the plan before the next review. The APR report should not be shelved at the end of the review cycle. Instead, it should serve as a framework for improvement.

Report miscellanea - **We require that the unit provide an electronic version of the self-study.** Please provide a table of contents for the self-study and some form of pagination for the document. This should include the narrative and most appendices. **The narrative should not exceed 40 pages.** If we need paper copies we will let you know.

External reviewers - Two external reviewers will be chosen to review the self-study and provide an evaluation of the unit's assets, challenges, and needs. The reviews will be based on the self-study (plus any additional material requested) and will involve a site visit. Reviewers should be senior

faculty from comparable units around the country. *You will be asked to provide the names of eight to ten potential reviewers plus contact information (email address, phone numbers, and addresses), a statement about their qualifications, and indication of any personal connection (conflict of interest) to the Vice Provost for Faculty by April 1, 2025.*

The degree programs under review during 2025-2026 will receive access to a Sharepoint folder that contains the following information:

1. Unit related survey results
2. Template for the self-study report
3. APR timeline