Academic Program Review Introduction and Brief Explanation
June 2016

Academic Program Reviews were begun at UW in the Spring of 2016. The review process takes into account demand, quality, and mission centrality. While we have begun by looking at programs with low demand, other factors are taken into account in a holistic review process. Review can result in retention because of critical need, retention with further review down the line, consolidation, or termination. The Higher Learning Commission – our accrediting agency – requires regular, documentable, routine academic program reviews.

Stage One reviews began in the Spring of 2016, and are focused upon undergraduate programs with fewer than 25 graduates over a 5-year period, and masters’ programs with fewer than 15 total graduates over a 5-year period. Recommendations to Pres. Nichols will be made by August of 2016.

Stage Two reviews will be performed on undergraduate programs with 25-50 graduates and masters’ programs with 15-25 total grads over a 5-year period. Those will undergo review in the second round during Academic Year 2016-17.

For further information on program reviews, see the academic program review memo and template released by Academic Affairs in March 2016.